

Bay Mills Indian Community
Brimley, Michigan 49715

**Grand Traverse Band
of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians**
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682

Hannahville Indian Community
Wilson, Michigan 49896

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

**Little Traverse Bay
Bands of Odawa Indians**
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740

**Nottawaseppi Huron
Band of The Potawatomi**
Fulton, Michigan 49502



Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Baraga, Michigan 49908

**Lac Vieux Desert Band
of Lake Superior Chippewa**
Watersmeet, Michigan 49969

**Sault Ste. Marie
Tribe of Chippewa Indians**
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

**Pokagon Band of
Potawatomi Indians**
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

**Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish
(Gun Lake Tribe)**
Dorr, Michigan 49323

ITC is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

2956 Ashmun Street, Suite A, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
Phone: (906) 632-6896 Main Fax: 906-632-1810

For Immediate Release

Tribal Home Visiting and Healthy Start Programs Host Quarterly Meeting

MT. PLEASANT, Mich. – The Healthy Start & Tribal Home Visiting Program, administered by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. held their quarterly in-person meeting on June 14th and 15th at the Ziibiwing Center located on the reservation of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe near Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Home Visitors and administrators from 12 tribal communities attended.

The two-day meeting opened with introductions and an overview of program goals and updates, performance, evaluation, and staff competency, lead by Amanda Leonard, Tribal Home Visiting Program Coordinator of Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.

A peer sharing and talking circle was lead by Michelle Schulte, Honoring Our Children Project Director of Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.

During the second half of the first day, a break out session featured a training on suicide prevention titled safeTALK. The event was presented by staff from American Indian Health and Family Services (Detroit) including: Nickole Fox, Darius Watkins, Shiloh Maples, Elizabeth K. Fried and evaluated by Lauren Lockhart and Karen Marshall.

safeTalk is a half-day suicide alertness training that prepares anyone over the age of 15 to become a suicide-alert helper. Most people with thoughts of suicide don't truly want to die, but are struggling with the pain in their lives. Through their words and actions, they invite help to stay alive. safeTalk-trained helpers can recognize these invitations and take action by connecting them with life-saving intervention resources.

On the second day, the Asabike Coalition held its quarterly meeting. Conducted within the Healthy Start program, Asabike Coalition focuses on reducing infant mortality and morbidity while improving women's health in tribal communities. Several guest speakers attended this meeting to help staff learn about important health issues. Patti Kelly from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) gave a presentation called "Safe Sleep Beyond the Brochure." The presentation provided guidance for home visitors to promote safe sleep in real-life settings while taking into account the diverse and often challenging factors that influence safe sleep messaging and practices.

Shirley Cain of the Minnesota Department of Human Services and several guests from the Native American Equity Project lead a discussion on Substance-Exposed Infants. The Native American Equity Project is a consortium of state, tribal, and University partners in Minnesota who are focused on the health and welfare of Native children and

Bay Mills Indian Community
Brimley, Michigan 49715
**Grand Traverse Band
of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians**
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682
Hannahville Indian Community
Wilson, Michigan 49896
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858
**Little Traverse Bay
Bands of Odawa Indians**
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740
**Nottawaseppi Huron
Band of The Potawatomi**
Fulton, Michigan 49502



Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Baraga, Michigan 49908
**Lac Vieux Desert Band
of Lake Superior Chippewa**
Watersmeet, Michigan 49969
**Sault Ste. Marie
Tribe of Chippewa Indians**
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
**Pokagon Band of
Potawatomi Indians**
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047
**Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish
(Gun Lake Tribe)**
Dorr, Michigan 49323

ITC is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

2956 Ashmun Street, Suite A, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
Phone: (906) 632-6896 Main Fax: 906-632-1810

families. With a specific interest on preventing substance-exposed pregnancies the Substance-Exposed Infant workgroup hopes to document and address the factors that potentially contribute to high rates of foster care placement among tribal communities. The SEI Workgroup joined Asabike Coalition for an exchange of ideas which included a discussion of available resources and needs for child welfare, drug and alcohol prevention, and case management of high-risk home visiting families.

The meeting closed with Tony Davis, Odawa Traditional Helper, who provided a cultural teaching. Davis gave a cultural teaching on pregnancy, birth, and the importance of living by the Seven Grandfathers teachings to have a better life for ourselves, our families, and the families we work with.

###

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. (ITCM) is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation duly organized under a State Charter filed April 16, 1968. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. is located at 2956 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. It represents eleven of the twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan. Those being; Bay Mills Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Saginaw Chippewa Inidan Tribe, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish (Gun Lake Tribe), Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi.

Our Agency is divided into several different divisions, which include Health Services, Behavioral Health, Environmental Services, Child, Family, and Education Services, and Administration. The Agency employs approximately 160 employees, 35 of these employees are based in the Agency's central office in Sault Ste. Marie, while member tribes have offices and staff on site.

Media Contact:

Mike Willette
Communications Specialist
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
906-632-6896 x.110
mwillette@itcmi.org