

ITCMI Health Education and Chronic Disease Division

QUARTERLY UPDATES (OCT. – DEC. 2025)



Jenna Calder, Health Education and Chronic Disease Director



Health Education and Chronic Disease Director's Summary

During the final quarter of 2025, ITC's Health Education and Chronic Disease Department experienced several staffing transitions. Jenna Calder began in her new role on January 20, 2026. As a result of these staffing changes, Jenna currently serves as the primary point of contact for the following programs: **Tobacco Control Program (TCP)**, **RMTLHC**, **BC3NP**, and the **Tribal Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Project**.

Upcoming Programs and Project updates

- **RMTLC** - Began year 3 of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, Good Medicine Keepers funding to promote mass media efforts, as well as assisting with tobacco and cancer related projects.
- **BC3NP** - A program that offers women that are at or below the 250% poverty level, and without commercial insurance, access to mammograms, Pap tests and follow up care for breast and cervical cancer. BC3NP is continuing to offer services to individuals for breast and cervical cancer screenings. Planning for our mobile mammogram events have begun.
- **Tribal Colon Cancer (CRC)** - Began working on the new Tribal Colon Cancer Project and have identified the 5 tribal communities with navigation and CRC screening QI work.
- **TCP**:
 - Training: continues to assist tribal communities with Tobacco Cessation training efforts
 - Adult Tobacco Survey: working with 5 Tribal communities. This survey enables tribes, tribal organizations, and other organizations to assess knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes of tribal members regarding commercial tobacco use in their communities.
 - Youth Summit: Planning has begun, this will be held June 2026 at MSU multi-cultural center.

Program Manager, Hannah Swartz – REACH and Food Farmacy



- **Food Farmacy** – ITCM supports six Tribal communities in the administration of Food Farmacy programs—culturally tailored produce prescription initiatives aimed at improving nutrition and access to healthy and traditional foods while improving health outcomes. Year 2 of 2 began on October 1, 2025.

Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) is currently analyzing participant data to provide year 1 outcomes by the end of April. ITCM plans to submit a six-month no-cost extension to enable Tribal partners to implement programming during the growing season and allow MPHI to complete program evaluation activities. ITCM continues to provide technical assistance to support program implementation and ongoing updates to process maps.

- REACH Journey to Wellness - Year 3 of 5 began on October 1, 2025. Tribal partners are identifying short- and long-term goals for increasing access to physical activity based on community walk audits. ITCM and MPHI are continuing to assist in enhancing food insecurity screening and referral pathways for produce prescription and other food access programs. Tribal partners continue to build relationships with food service managers and vendors to create healthy food environments. REACH Tribal partners will convene at Bay Mills Community College on June 2–3 for the annual in-person meeting focused on training and preparation for Year 4.

Program Manager, Ashley Young – Menthol/Our Breath is Sacred and Smoke Free Homes



- Menthol - The Menthol Tobacco Project works to reduce the use of menthol and flavored tobacco products in Native communities. These products are often heavily marketed and can make it easier to start using tobacco and harder to quit. Our focus is on education, culturally grounded support, and increasing access to cessation services.
- Menthol - Began planning the annual in-person meeting for June 2026.
- Menthol - Continue to facilitate the collaboration between sub-awardees and Colin Welker at the Public Health Law Center.
- Menthol - All local sub awardees have promoted Quitting/EX programs via community outreach and school outreach.
 - Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) has been drafting policies with Colin to change students' environments to help include nicotine products like vapes.
 - Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (LVD) presented general wellness presentation to 5th graders.
 - Leelanau Investing for Teens (LIFT) is working with students to create an educational video on traditional tobacco and the dangers of smoking commercial tobacco.

Project Coordinator, Chelby Archambeau – REACH, Food Farmacy, Tobacco Cessation Project and Mentol/Our Breath is Sacred



- **Earned certification as a GONA (Gathering of Native Americans) Facilitator**
In October, Chelby completed certification as a GONA facilitator, strengthening ITC's internal capacity to deliver culturally grounded healing, leadership, and community-based programming. This credential allows ITC to expand facilitation, prevention, and wellness efforts within Tribal communities using a trusted, culturally relevant framework.
- **Supported planning and coordination of ITC programs and events**
She contributed to the planning, coordination, and logistical support of ITC-led meetings, trainings, and events. This included organizing materials, supporting communication with partners, and ensuring smooth execution of program activities aligned with ITC priorities.
- **Provided continuity and operational support during staffing transitions**
During a period of staffing changes, Chelby took on additional responsibilities to support daily operations and ongoing projects. Her flexibility and reliability helped maintain momentum on programs and ensured continuity of services and communications.
- **Strengthened ITC's relationships with Tribal and partner organizations**
Through consistent communication, follow-up, and participation in meetings, Chelby supported relationship-building with Tribal communities and partner organizations. This engagement helped reinforce trust and collaboration in support of ITC's mission.

Communications Specialist, Mike Willete



- Mike works across Maternal health, Behavioral Health and Health Education to assist with mass media campaigns, social media posts, press releases, etc. Mike has also been leading efforts on the Rogel Cancer Center project mass media campaign
- With funding and support from the University of Michigan's Rogel Cancer Center, the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan identified two regions of focus, Central Upper Peninsula and South Western Lower Michigan to execute a mass reach health communication campaign centered on commercial tobacco and E-Cigarette cessation.
- The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan then contracted with a video producer, Lamphere Visuals, LLC to develop a :30 PSA, a 3:00 digital story, still images which were used with billboards.
- Then the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan reached out to Spectrum Reach and Lamar Outdoor Advertising to identify, negotiate, schedule, and place visuals in regions identified from the survey data.
- The call to action on the campaign is to text SACREDBREATH to 88709 to seek culturally tailored free quit coaching.

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