



Maternal and Early Childhood Services

Department Manager

Amanda Bahrou

Amanda@itcmi.org

Administrative Assistant

Sandy Thompson

sthompson@itcmi.org

phone:906-632-6896 ext 120

Tribal Home Visiting (TMIECHV)

**Amanda Bahrou, Program Director*

**Josie Babcock, Data and Reporting Manager*

**Madison Thompson, Program Coordinator*



Partnering Sites: (8) Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Bay Mills Indian Community, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, American Indian Health and Family Services - Detroit, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

- Annual reports (PMR, DSUR, and narrative) were submitted in December
- THV Q1 Quarterly Report was submitted in January
 - Newly Enrolled Households: 33
 - Continuing Households: 240
 - Households that Completed Program: 5
 - Households that Stopped Services: 26
 - Inactive Households: 39
- We will be reviewing this year's performance measures and feedback we received during our February performance review call at our March HV Network meeting
- UPCOMING: ITCM to submit NCC in May
- One time Supplemental Funding to promote Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles. More information forthcoming.

CIRCLE-HV (All HV Tribal Partners)

- 2021-2023: MPHI and ITCM, in collaboration with the HV Network, developed a on caregiver resilience and stress measure called Journey with Mino Bimaadiziwin as part of a evaluation requirement with the TMIECHV project
- 2024-2027: We will be building on this study through a Research Practice Partnership grant from CIRCLE-HV (Center for Indigenous Research Collaborations and Learning from Home Visiting). Study will seek to refine and validate the resilience measure using Indigenous research methodology.
- The CIRCLE-HV project wrapped up data collection efforts in January, which included 11 cognitive interviews with home visiting clients, 3 key informant interviews, 6 focus groups with home visitors, and 5 knowledge holder interviews.
- We are now coding and analyzing interview transcripts and preparing for a facilitated discussion during our March in-person meeting.



Maternal and Early Childhood Services

State Home Visiting Expansion *Madison Thompson, Program Manager

Partnering Sites: (3) Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

- Madison Thompson recently accepted the State Home Visiting Program Manager position starting Oct 2025. Maddy will continue to work across multiple projects.
- State home visiting overall program numbers from last quarter October - December 2025 54 families enrolled.
- A reminder for program staff to please schedule a Quality Assurance Site visit

SOR4 - Tribal Perinatal Opioid Use Disorder Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Initiative (NAS) *Jessica Thompson, Program Manager

Partnering Sites: (8) Direct care coordination services are supported in six tribal communities: Bay Mills Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, SSM Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Lac Vieux Desert Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and Hannahville Indian Community. Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi and Pokagon Band of Potawatomi will soon be providing in-home counseling services for clients.



- Connie DePlonty has resigned as program manager for NAS, and Jessica Thompson has accepted the position. Please direct any questions regarding the NAS program to Jessica at jessica@itcmi.org. We will miss Connie!
- Saginaw Chippewa, Pokagon, and NHBP have officially joined the NAS program and are all working on implementation, which brings a total of 8 NAS sites. Pokagon and NHBP will be hiring in-home counselors.
- ITCM is in the process of creating a series regarding breastfeeding with Raeanne Madison of the Postpartum Healing Lodge. More info to come in upcoming months.
- Please reach out to Jessica if your community is interested in completing a virtual or in-person Naloxone training.





Maternal and Early Childhood Services

Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

**Shentele Apps, Program Manager*

**Jessica Thompson, Program Coordinator*

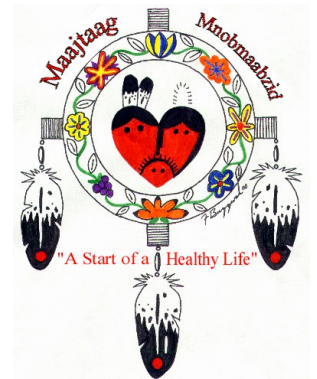
Partnering Sites: (6) Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Bay Mills Indian Community, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi

- Saginaw Chippewa and NHBP have recently joined the FFPSA/Family Spirit program and are working towards implementation
- KBIC, BMIC, LVD, and Pokagon currently have openings for FFPSA/Family Spirit
- Please reach out to Shentele if your site is interested in receiving Mandated Reporter training

Healthy Start **Amanda Bahrou, Program Manager*

Partnering Sites: (9) Bay Mills Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Hannahville Indian Community, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, American Indian Health and Family Services - Detroit

- ITCM submitted the HS 2026 progress report in January
- **Healthy Start Fiscal Year ends March 31st**
 - Please review your budget and ensure spend out plans are in place
- Good news! The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that funds 11 appropriation bills for FY26 through September 30, 2026.
- With the passage of this bill, **funding will continue to flow to Healthy Start programs.**
- ITCM is hopeful we will soon receive our *HS Notice of Award* for grant cycle 4/1/26 -3/31/27 at which time we will be sending out new contracts.
- The National Healthy Start Association will now turn its focus to advocacy for funding for HS FY27.
- ITCM is expecting an upcoming site visit with our HS Federal Project Officer during FY26.





Maternal and Early Childhood Services

Infant Safe Sleep All HV Tribal Partners *Shentele Apps, Program Manager

- We are currently developing a new infographic this year that will help providers and families follow a timeline, prenatal through first 12 months. The timeline will incorporate safe sleep, breastfeeding, skin to skin, and will incorporate guiding questions.
- Infant Safe Sleep Annual Reports and training videos can be found at www.itcmi.org

Expanding Access to Rapid Syphilis Testing Through Family Spirit Home Visits: A Pilot study in Tribal Communities

Partnering Sites: (2) Saginaw Tribe of Chippewa Indians, American Indian Health and Family Services.

- New pilot project led by the Center for Indigenous Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in partnership with Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.
- With syphilis rates rising rapidly in many Indigenous communities—and congenital syphilis increasing sharply in Michigan—we are working with tribal partners to expand access to early, convenient, and culturally grounded testing for pregnant and postpartum women.
- The project will integrate the newly FDA-approved rapid syphilis self-tests into existing Family Spirit (FS) home visits, offering families private, stigma-free testing supported by trusted home visitors. Results are available in 15 minutes, allowing immediate referral for care when needed. Adding rapid syphilis testing to FS visits can fill a critical gap by providing convenient, culturally grounded education and private screening through a program families already trust.
- The Study will explore the following Questions:
 - Feasibility: Can rapid syphilis testing be smoothly added to Family Spirit home visits?
 - Acceptability: Do perinatal women and home visitors find testing helpful, comfortable, and culturally appropriate?
 - Scaling: What might help or hinder offering these tests across more Family Spirit and other home visiting programs





Maternal and Early Childhood Services Staff Contact Information

MIECS UPCOMING EVENTS:

- HS-FS NETWORK QUARTERLY IN-PERSON (3/18-3/20)
 - NEXT: HS-FS MONTHLY NETWORK MEETINGS (1ST WED 10:00-11:30)
 - MONTHLY MCAC MEETINGS (2/18) (3/20) (4/15)
 - MICHIGAN HOME VISITING CONFERENCE (8/12- 8/14) (ITCM HOSTING MODEL DAY ON 8/12)
-

Amanda Bahrou - Department Director, Healthy Start Program Manager & Tribal Home Visiting Program Director
Amanda@itcmi.org
phone: 906-322-0276

Sandy Thompson - Administrative Assistant
sthompson@itcmi.org
phone: 906-632-6896 ext 120

Josie Babcock - Assistant Department Director & Tribal Home Visiting Data and Reporting Manager
josie.babcock@itcmi.org
phone: 906-632-6896 ext 133

Shentele Apps - Families First Prevention Services Act & Infant Safe Sleep Project Director
shentele.apps@itcmi.org
phone: 906-632-6896 ext 111

Madison Thompson - State Home Visiting Program Manager & Tribal Home Visiting Program Manager
mthompson@itcmi.org
phone: 906-632-6896 ext 123

Jessica Thompson - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Initiative Program Manager & FFPSA Project Coordinator
jessica@itcmi.org
phone: 906-632-6896 ext 119

