

ITCMI Behavioral Health Division

QUARTERLY UPDATES (JANUARY – MARCH 2026)



Gambling Disorder Initiative – Lisa Moran, Director



- Continuing to offer monthly NODS Assessment trainings to all 12 tribes. The NODS is a screening tool used to identify gambling-related problems. Trainings were conducted on January 29, February 24, and March 31, with the next training scheduled for April 28.
- A total of 179 individuals were screened for a gambling disorder, with 6 individuals receiving a diagnosis. Data were collected through a quarterly SurveyMonkey distributed to Tribal Behavioral Health Directors.
- Continuing to offer monthly Gambling Disorder trainings to all 12 tribes and communities via Zoom, in person, and self-paced options. Participants receive 2 CEUs upon completion. A training was held on February 19.
- Youth Gambling Presentation – Outreach to additional schools is ongoing, with presentations pending scheduling confirmation.
- Served on the planning committee and participated in Michigan’s 18th Annual Problem Gambling Symposium, held March 5 in Novi, A well-attended event with excellent evaluations, supporting statewide awareness, prevention, and treatment of gambling disorder.
- Contracted with Lamar Advertising to launch a Responsible Gambling billboard campaign throughout March, including both traditional and digital billboards.
- Continuing to share a video highlighting an individual’s recovery journey from gambling addiction during trainings, on our website, and across social media. A PSA campaign ran from March through April 2026, achieving 210 total airings across major sports networks (including ESPN, ESPN2, Big Ten Network, Fox Sports, NFL Network, and TNT) and expanding outreach efforts.
- View the gambling recovery story: 3:00 min video - <https://youtu.be/LyBoEp7qaJs>, : 30 sec video - <https://youtu.be/RUfO8PN460c>

Tribal Veteran Navigator Program

- New initiative launched under the Behavioral Health Division on March 1, 2026.
- Focused on improving access, coordination, and continuity of services for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans across Michigan.
- Provides outreach, service navigation, education, and culturally responsive support to Tribal Veterans and their families.
- Veteran Navigators will serve three regions: Upper Peninsula, Mid-Michigan and Tip of the Mitt.
- Recruitment is underway for one Program Manager and three Veteran Navigator positions; the posting closed April 15, 2026, with interviews to follow.

MolinaCares Grant

- Supported Tribal behavioral health programs by providing educational and cultural meaningful materials.
- These resources helped strengthen engagement and support the well-being of Tribal members participating in services.
- Distributed items included smudge kits, cultural craft kits, Wellbreity books, and *Walking in Balance: 7 Grandfather Teachings* workbooks.

SOR4 Tribal Medicated Assisted Treatment & Recovery Initiative – Amanda Virden, Program Manager



- Enrolled 21 clients with opioid and/or stimulant use disorders in Tribal evidence-based outpatient treatment programs; an additional 5 clients entered residential treatment or were referred to a Healing to Wellness Court, and 2 clients enrolled in recovery coach services.
- Participated in Eastern Upper Peninsula Family Literacy Night (EUP Reads) on March 9, hosting an educational resource table to share information on MOUD, cultural resources, mental health supports, and treatment services; the event had 538 attendees.
- Provided technical assistance and training to partnering Tribes on federal data collection requirements (SUPRT forms).

Anishnaabek Community Opioid Intervention Prevention Program– Arlene Kashata, Program Manager



- Awarded MCBAP-endorsed CEU certificates (7 CEUs) to participants upon completion of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria training held in January.
- Distributed resource handbooks to all Tribes and American Indian Health & Family Services in January.
- Provided cultural education materials, harm reduction supplies, and overdose reversal resources to each Tribe, including naloxone boxes, storage units, training, and informational materials.
- Supplied culturally relevant prevention materials identified by each program to support implementation, prevent opioid misuse, and promote sustained recovery.
- Submitted the year-end report; FY25 concluded on January 31, 2026.
- Developed a “Save the Date” flyer for the Behavioral Health Conference, scheduled for August 24-26 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa.
- Hosted a virtual cultural presentation, *Anishinaabe Izhitwaawim – Anishinaabeg Culture: Family Values and Traditions*, on January 16, presented by Joseph Sutherland.; 92 attendees participated and earned 2 MCBAP CEUs.
- Implemented the “Naloxone Saves Lives” PSA campaign (December 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026), generating 220,036 impressions with a 98.44% completion rate, emphasizing the importance of carrying naloxone daily.
- Completed and submitted a PSA for television and streaming distribution. View here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNcNllvZzeA>

Anishnaabek Healing Circle – Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Initiative – Arlene Kashata, Program Manager

- Arlene Kashata has stepped into the role of Program Manager and is actively onboarding; she has met with all Tribal partners to assess needs and advance program initiatives.
- Continuing to develop project objectives and budgets; Tribes with initiatives that support increased access to MOUD, or harm reduction services are encouraged to reach out.
- Ongoing coordination and input on federal data collection requirements (SUPRT forms).
- One Tribal partner is planning an educational training session for next quarter, led by a Community Health Worker, focused on overdose prevention for community members and program participants.
- Received funding from Superior Health Foundation to enhance the MOUD program, supporting evidence-based suicide prevention trainings (SafeTALK and ASIST) and expanding access to naloxone.



Title VI, Mental Health Delivery Systems (MHDS), Tribal Behavioral Health Initiative (TBHI) – Christin McKerchie, Program Manager

Title VI:

- Provides nutrition, wellness, and supportive services to Native American elders.
- Tribal communities continue to deliver essential meal services and caregiver support.

Mental Health Delivery Systems (MHDS):

- Provides culturally responsive outpatient behavioral health services, including individual and group therapy, evaluations, and medication support.
- Served 480 unduplicated individuals this quarter, with a total of 1,103 encounters/visits.

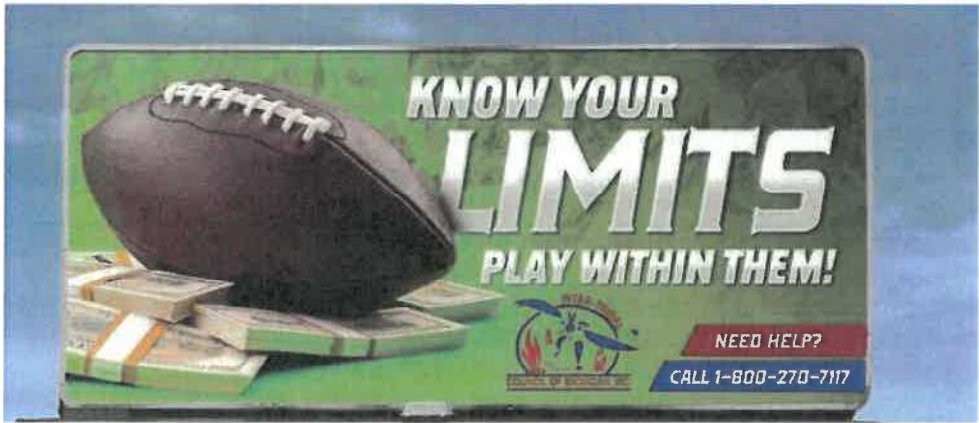
Tribal Behavioral Health Initiative (TBHI):

- Strengthens access to behavioral health services through coordination, outreach, and support of Tribal service delivery systems; also provides transportation assistance for behavioral health and medical appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy visits, and court appearances.
- Served 358 unduplicated individuals this quarter (967 cumulative), supporting therapy, evaluation, and medication-related contacts.

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Billboard Displayed – Gambling Disorder Initiative



Events: EUP Reads held at Lake Superior State University



MolinaCares Grant



5th Annual Tribal Behavioral Health Conference



August 24th - 26th, 2026

Grand Traverse Resort Acme, MI



- **Monday - Aug 24th : Pre-conference Ethics/ addt'l 6hrs – Optional**
- **Aug 25-26:** 1.5-day conference with presenters sharing culturally integrated treatment, prevention and recovery modalities
- Earn 12 MCBAP CEUs with attendance at all conference sessions
- Excellent opportunity for professional dialogue and networking
- Conference registration is **free!**

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Sponsored by: Inter-Tribal Council of MI, Inc.
ACOIPP # H1H5IHS0053-02-00

