

ITCMI Health Education and Chronic Disease Division

QUARTERLY UPDATES

JUNE 2026



Jenna Calder, Health Education and Chronic Disease Director



Upcoming Programs and Project updates:

- General Updates:
 - Upcoming opportunity on June 25th 12-12:45 pm with MSU to gather health priorities and needs within your tribal communities. This listening session will gather feedback to inform future programming based on directions and alignment. Attendees will get a \$25 gift card for their time. Reach out to Jenna for more information.
 - P4 Program, and Indigenous Tomorrows Fund – I have been in communication about these opportunities. With multiple tribes applying for both, ITCM has decided NOT to go forward with applying. Any assistance or MOU's needed. Please reach out.
 - Michigan Health Endowment Fund – ITCM applied for funding with the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to gather additional funding for the participating tribes of the CRC CDC program. These will allow more supplemental funds to participating tribes to hire a patient navigator to support CRC screening. Jenna will reach out with Updates.
 - NIH Grant – Application was submitted with NIH for a research study to improve Native American Health. This study has three aims: ID priority foods for containment analysis, quantify obesogenic contaminants in priority foods and evaluate exposure reduction, and develop an interactive web-responsive advisory app to reduce obesogenic exposures. ITCM should be hearing soon if we were selected.
- 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.
- MDARD – Received funding with MDARD for a Food Sovereignty Program Manager. We are currently in interviews. Exciting 4 year program where we are going to be working to advance Tribal food sovereignty through community engagement, needs assessments, technical assistances and systems coordination.
- AI/AN Adult Tobacco Survey – Miigwech to the participating tribes. This survey took place Q1 2026. The closing date was 05/31/2026. This survey has collected almost 1,000 responses across the state. Evaluations and reports are currently in progress with the goal to have those returned back to the participating Tribes by September 2026.
- CRCCP (CRC) Program – Year 1 funding is underway. Assessments, priority goals, clinic champions have been identified.
 - Each site has identified 3 Quality Improvement Strategies to implement.
 - Monthly meetings are taking place.
 - ITC will have a vendor booth set up for a couple of the pow-wows this summer. The booths

will contain swag and education information on colorectal cancer.

- The patient navigator continues to work with Bay Mills and Soo Tribe to figure out the best way to do outreach and get as many people screened as possible.

Program Manager, Hannah Swartz – REACH and Food Farmacy



- Food Farmacy – Year 2 continues supporting six tribes, BMIC, HIC, KBIC, LTBB, NHBP & SCIT, to implement culturally tailored produce prescription programs designed to improve access to healthy and traditional foods while supporting positive health outcomes.
 - Participating Tribal communities continue enrolling participants and distributing produce vouchers and incentives through partnerships with local farmers markets, grocery stores, and food vendors. Programs incorporate nutrition education, goal tracking, and community-clinical referral systems.
 - year 1, 244 participants were enrolled in Food Farmacy with 25 participants also successfully connected to one or more nutrition and federal food assistance programs (e.g., SNAP, Senior Fresh). We look forward to the growing season ahead!
 - April, ITCM and our evaluation partners, Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), met with each Tribal partner to update program maps and referral systems.
 - May and June, ITCM will work with Lamphere Visuals, LLC on creating short videos to highlight Food Farmacy programs, success stories, and participant experiences. Videos will be available September 2026.
 - ITCM and MPHI presented at the Tribal Public Health Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, on April 6-8.
- REACH - entered Year 3 of 5 on October 1, 2025, 2026. Participating Tribal communities, including BMIC, HIC, KBIC, NHBP, & SCIT, continue advancing policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change strategies focused on increasing access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity.
 - Tribal partners developed action plans that include short- and long-term goals to improve walkability, safety, wayfinding, and access to physical activity within their communities. Planning efforts include collaboration with Tribal leadership, Public Works departments, transportation departments, and other community stakeholders.
 - ITCM continues working with Tribal health clinics and community health programs to strengthen food insecurity screening and referral pathways that connect community members to Food Farmacy programs and other food access resources like SNAP, WIC, Senior Fresh, etc.
 - ITCM has partnered with We The People Consulting to provide training and technical assistance to support action plan development within the Food Service Guidelines strategy of the REACH project. Kendra Wilson-Clements, from We The People Consulting, was introduced to the REACH Tribal partners virtually on May 12th and will meet with the tribal coordinators in person on June 2nd to provide individualized support.
 - The annual REACH in-person convening will take place June 2-3, 2026, at Bay Mills Community College. The meeting will focus on training, peer learning, technical assistance, and planning for Year 4 implementation activities.
 - ITCM presented at the 2026 National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA, on April 28-30. This presentation was titled “Small but Giant Step toward Addressing E-cigarette use through Policy Systems and Environmental Change: A Case of Tribal Health Program’s efforts to combat E-cigarette use,” based on the success of the REACH and Menthol grant.

Program Manager, Denise Porter – Tobacco Control Program (TCP) and BC3NP



- TCP –
 - Onboarded into the program March 2026.
 - ITCM has culturally tailored 4 commercial tobacco cessation flyers.
 - Billboards – ITCM is working on placing commercial tobacco cessation billboards across the Upper Peninsula to advertise the AI/AN MI Tobacco Quitline.
 - ITCM is hosting a tobacco cessation training with Richard Mousseau and that will take place August 24-25th at Bay Mills. This will be free of cost. Level 1 and Level 3 certifications are available. Travel stipends are available as needed.
- BC3NP –
 - Onboarded into the program March 2026.
 - We are currently working with Corewell, KBIC and Hannahville with coordinating a mobile mammogram event that will take place September 14 to September 18 in the KBIC and Hannahville communities.
 - We will have a booth set up at a couple of the summer pow-wows to distribute educational information and swag related to breast cancer awareness.
 - We are working on getting educational materials distributed for the BC3NP program to encourage breast and cervical cancer screenings. If there are any questions, or need assistance on referral processes, please contact me.

Patient Navigator, Angel Eggert – CRCCP Program



- CRCCP -
 - Provide patient navigation support 2 days a week to Bay Mills and Sault Tribe to increase CRC screening services.
 - During the month of March (CRC awareness month) hosted a month-long campaign at both Bay Mills and Sault Tribe to encourage CRC screening and provide patient education.
 - Continue to provide navigation services to both tribal communities.
 - Hosting booths at upcoming pow-wows to encourage CRC screening, educate community on CRC cancers, screening options, etc.
 - Continue to provide tailored quality improvement measures at both sites.

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



- Menthol –
 - The project is currently in Year 3 of implementation and continues to expand outreach, education, and community engagement efforts across participating Tribal communities.
 - This quarter, planning and outreach efforts have focused heavily on the upcoming Tribal Youth Summit taking place in East Lansing this month. The summit has generated strong interest and engagement from Tribal communities across Michigan, with 75 participants currently registered representing 12 different Tribal communities.
 - The Tribal Youth Summit will provide Native youth with opportunities to learn about the harms associated with menthol and flavored tobacco products while participating in culturally grounded activities, leadership development, and peer connection. The event is designed to create a supportive environment where youth can discuss commercial tobacco prevention, wellness, and healthy community leadership.
 - In addition to summit planning, project staff continue to provide education and outreach within participating communities to raise awareness about the targeted marketing of menthol and flavored tobacco products and to promote culturally appropriate cessation resources and prevention strategies.
 - Project partners also continue ongoing policy work within schools and Tribal communities to support healthier environments and reduce youth access to menthol and flavored tobacco products. These efforts include strengthening community awareness, encouraging prevention-focused conversations, and supporting policies that promote long-term wellness for Native youth and families.
- Smoke Free Homes -
 - The Smoke-Free Homes Program is currently in the final year of recruitment. Recruitment numbers slowed during the winter months, which is consistent with reduced community events and outreach opportunities during that time. However, participation and engagement have begun to increase with the arrival of warmer weather and the return of summer activities, community gatherings, and tabling events.
 - Program staff continue to conduct outreach through community events, health fairs, and Tribal activities to promote smoke-free home education and encourage household participation. These in-person engagement opportunities have helped reconnect with community members and increase visibility of the program across participating Tribal communities.
 - The program remains focused on supporting families in creating healthier home environments and reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, particularly for children and other vulnerable household members.

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



- REACH -
 - Planned, organized and helped facilitated the REACH annual in person meeting June 2-3rd. Brining the participating Tribes together to share progress, collaborate and identify future priorities.
 - Health Native People Coalition – continue to facilitate quarterly coalition meetings and strengthen partnerships that support healthy food access and chronic disease prevention. This quarter, we hosted Erin Martin of FreshRx Oklahoma as a featured presenter. I am currently recruiting additional speakers, developing promotional materials, and coordinating outreach for upcoming coalition webinars.
- Food Farmacy –
 - Continue to provide administrative and programmatic support to the six participating Food Farmacy Tribes by coordinating no-cost extension addendums, obtaining signatures, and ensuring completed agreements are returned to Tribal partners.
 - Traveled to Bay Mills to document their Food Farmacy program through video storytelling efforts with Matt Lamphere of Lamphere Visuals. During the visit, I toured Waishkey Bay Farm and attended a community morel mushroom workshop, gaining additional insight into local food systems and food sovereignty initiatives.
 - Will be traveling to KBIC and HIC in the middle of June to document their Food Farmacy program.
- Youth Summit –
 - A significant focus this quarter has been planning and coordinating the upcoming Tribal Youth Summit at Michigan State University under the Tobacco Control Program grant. The summit will utilize the GONA framework to facilitate discussions around commercial tobacco, traditional tobacco, culture, wellness, and prevention.
 - Current efforts include participant communications, dorm assignments, welcome materials, supply coordination, and event logistics. To date, 86 participants have registered, including 60 youth representing 10 of Michigan's 12 federally recognized Tribes, demonstrating strong statewide engagement and partnership.

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 been leading efforts on the Rogel Cancer Center project mass media campaign. This campaign project ended 04/30/2026.
- 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 call to action on the campaign is to text SACREDBREATH to 88709 to seek culturally tailored free quit coaching.
- Mike continues to offer support to ITCM staff, organization wide, to ensure communication needs are met with a variety of grants and projects.

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