ITCMI Health Education and Chronic Disease Division

QUARTERLY UPDATES for WEBSITE

October 2026

Raeanne Madison, MPH, Health Education and Chronic Disease Director

Upcoming Programs and Project updates:

- General Updates:
  - All HECD programs for Fiscal Year 2026 have been completed!
  - We continue to facilitate new subawards and budgets for FY 27.
  - We will be onboarding a new Program Manager to take the lead on our cancer screening and prevention projects, specifically CRC (colorectal cancer), BC3NP (breast, cervical, and lung), and TCP (tobacco cessation project cancer objectives).
  - ITCM established a memorandum of agreement with the Sault Tribe to support implementation of colorectal cancer screening and prevention evidence-based interventions at all 5 service sites. This includes customized support to help with the transition to a new EHR to ensure that eligible patients who are due for screenings receive timely follow-up care.
  - ITCM continues to serve alongside LTBB with the support of the Karmanos Cancer Institute to improve lung cancer screening rates in the community.

Program Manager, Hannah Swartz – REACH and Food Farmacy



- **Food Farmacy** – This program implements culturally tailored produce prescription programs designed to improve access to healthy and traditional foods while supporting positive health outcomes. This program is in year 3 or 3 and will run through September 30, 2027
  - Participating Tribal communities enroll participants and distribute 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.
  - During the two years of program implementation, 564 participants have been enrolled in Food Farmacy. In addition to FF, since 2024, 178 participants have been connected to other eligible food access programs

including SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC, Senior Project Fresh, and FDPIR. Through this project, over $66,000 were made available for healthy food purchases so far.

- July, ITCM participated in the Michigan Produce Prescription Program Steering Committee Meeting to collaborate with statewide partners to sustain funding for Food As Medicine programs.
- September, ITCM worked with Lamphere Visuals, LLC to finalize short videos to highlight Food Farmacy programs, success stories, and participant experiences. A :30 second PSA campaign will be highlighted through Spectrum Reach from September 30, 2026 – December 31, 2026 to promote the program and increase participation in participating tribal service area zip codes.
- ITCM participated in the Northern Region Food as Medicine Convening on September 11th in Traverse City to provide feedback in the development of a Food as Medicine Statewide Roadmap for strategic collaboration

- **Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)** - The REACH Journey to Wellness project advances policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change strategies focused on increasing access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity.
  - Tribal partners continue to work toward the goals and objectives identified in their site-specific 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.
  - The annual REACH in-person convening took place June 2-3, 2026, at Bay Mills Community College. The meeting focused on training, peer learning, technical assistance, and planning for Year 4 implementation activities. ITCM hosted We the People Consulting, who assisted participating tribes with developing action plans for Food Service Guidelines.
  - On August 24th, ITCM supported a Walk Audit Training with the CDC TA provider, Mark Fenton. The training provided attendees with practical tools and hands-on experience to assess community environments, identify barriers to safe physical activity, and develop actionable strategies to improve walkability and active transportation.
  - August, ITCM submitted the Annual Evaluation Report, Annual Performance Measures, and 2 success stories to the CDC.
  - ITCM presented on the Food Farmacy project during the CDC's Division of Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO) virtual seminar series on September 17th highlighting the work that has been done.
- **Medical College of Wisconsin Food Exposures and Food App:** This project will partner with Tribal communities to assess PFAS and other contaminant exposures in traditional foods, such as manoomin and wild game, and use the findings to strengthen food exposure and risk communication resources, including the Fish App. The study will also compare contaminant exposures from traditional foods with more mainstream, commercially available foods, with the expectation that findings will help demonstrate the benefits of traditional food systems and reinforce confidence in traditional foods.

Program Manager, OPEN – Tobacco Control Program (TCP) and BC3NP

- TCP –
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- BC3NP –
    - The mobile mammogram events were a huge success, with several ITCM team members stepping in to assist the tribes with their local events. In total, 171 women were provided mobile mammogram services during the event. The local CBS News Team also covered the story for community awareness of the service provided at event.
    - Planning for the next round of mobile mammography visits will begin in Winter 2027, with ITCM representation from Angel, new program manager, and Raeanne.
    - October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Supported breast cancer prevention and early detection efforts across all 12 Tribes by providing display kits of health education and screening up-take materials designed to increase awareness, encourage preventive care, and promote routine breast cancer screening in Tribal communities.

Patient Navigator, Angel Eggert – CRCCP Program/ BC3NP



- CRCCP -
    - PDSA cycle of continued progress with new EMR processes/ workflow with Sault Tribe Health Division for CRC data collection to determine screening status of all patients along with any historical follow-up recommendations or abnormal findings documented in previous EHR system.
    - EBI creation of flyer (small media) recognition from Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) to assist CRC Screening uptake.
    - Continued to provide tailored quality improvement measures paired with visual aids to be empowering and informative for Colorectal Cancer Screening in Native American communities.
    - Colorectal Cancer Barrier Surveys distributed and collected from CRC community outreach events and health fairs for understanding of personal, cultural, socioeconomic and systemic obstacles of people unscreened. CRC barrier surveys provide evidence-based insight to design effective, patient centered strategies that help increase CRC screening rates and reduce disparities.
    - Attended Gather and Grow Session hosted by Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) for topic discussions on F/U Colonoscopy, Patient Navigation, Stool Base Testing, Support of CRC Treatment and Shield.

- BC3NP -
    - Continued support of program efforts for enrollment screening uptake to any eligible low-income women access to breast and cervical screening services (Mammograms and Pap tests) and follow-up care if needed.
    - Attended Karmanos Cancer Institute COE, in collaboration with the Detroit Public Library, Community Conversations on Cancer series – “The Road Ahead: Understanding a Triple Negative Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Exploring Treatment” led by Dr. Hadeel Assad.
    - Planning/ Development stages of cancer support group built around talking circles – designed to foster understanding, connection and the exchange of helpful resources as well as promote programs prevention/ awareness for screening uptake.

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



Menthol –

- Successfully completed Year 3 and transitioned into Year 4, continuing efforts focused on commercial tobacco prevention, education, cessation, and community outreach.
- Hosted a successful Tribal Youth Summit in East Lansing, bringing together approximately 75 participants from 12 Tribal communities across Michigan. The summit focused on tobacco prevention, cultural teachings, leadership development, and youth engagement.
- Year 4 activities will focus on expanding community education, increasing access to cessation resources, strengthening partnerships, and supporting policy efforts to reduce menthol and flavored commercial tobacco use.

Smoke Free Homes -

- The Smoke-Free Homes Program is in its final year of recruitment, with participation and engagement increasing through community gatherings, health fairs, and Tribal events.
- Staff continue outreach efforts and remain focused on supporting families in creating healthier home environments and reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, particularly for children and other vulnerable household members.

TCP –

- The AI/AN Adult Tobacco Survey officially closed on May 31, 2026, with nearly 1,000 responses collected from Tribal community members across Michigan.
- Final community-specific reports were completed and were distributed to participating Tribes to help guide future commercial tobacco prevention, cessation, outreach, and policy efforts.
- Project staff will remain available to review findings and assist communities in using survey data to support local prevention initiatives.

RMTLC -

- Finished Year 3 activities focused on supporting mass media initiatives, commercial tobacco prevention, and cancer-related education efforts within Tribal communities.

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



REACH -

- Continued coordinating the CDC-funded REACH program, providing programmatic and administrative support to participating Tribal partners and assisting with implementation of strategies focused on healthy food access, physical activity, and chronic disease prevention.

- Coordinated bi-monthly REACH meetings, supported communication and collaboration with Tribal partners, and discussed program activities, progress, and upcoming priorities.
- Supported ongoing program communications and outreach, including developing educational social media content to promote healthy eating, physical activity, and other chronic disease prevention strategies.

Healthy Native People Coalition (HNPC) –

- Continued coordinating the Healthy Native People Coalition and facilitating quarterly meetings focused on improving health outcomes and addressing chronic disease prevention in Michigan Tribal communities.
- Hosted a webinar in October featuring Morgan Jones-Axtell from the Public Health Law Center, who presented on public policy implementation and enforcement in Tribal communities.
- Continued developing webinar promotional materials, coordinating outreach with Tribal health partners and other stakeholders, exploring opportunities to increase coalition membership and identifying future presenters and topics to strengthen coalition engagement and participation.

Food Farmacy –

- Continued providing administrative and programmatic support to participating Tribal Food Farmacy programs, coordinating with Tribal partners on program implementation, agreements, and ongoing activities.
- Supported communications and outreach efforts to increase awareness of Food Farmacy and produce prescription programs, including developing educational social media content highlighting the connection between nutritious food access and improved health outcomes.
- Coordinated promotional content for National Farmers Market Week and Food as Medicine Day, connecting national educational resources with ITCMI's Food Farmacy and Produce Prescription programs and directing interested community members to their local IHS clinics for additional program information.

Tobacco Cessation Project and Menthol/Our Breath is Sacred –

- Completed tobacco cessation training to earn a certification as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist, expanding knowledge and skills to support individuals interested in quitting commercial tobacco use.
- Continued supporting tobacco prevention and cessation efforts through program coordination, educational outreach, and development of communications materials addressing commercial tobacco use and its impact on health.

Communications Specialist, Mike Willette



- Mike works across Maternal Health, Behavioral Health and Health Education to assist with mass media campaigns, social media posts, press releasees, etc.

- Mike's services have been contracted by MPHI for their Rape Prevention and Education program to negotiate, schedule, and track a media campaign. ITCM is also housing the creative elements on our social media channels and website.
    - Campaign message is to encourage community connectedness, love, belonging, generosity, respect, community, dignity, humility, fairness, healing, and hope. The goal is to increase understanding of how we can prevent sexual violence in rural and tribal communities.
    - Video and resources available here: https://www.itcmi.org/connectedcommunities/
- Mike has negotiated and scheduled public service announcement campaigns for:
    - Tobacco Control Program
    - Food Farmacy Project
    - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
    - Tribal Home Visiting
    - State Home Visiting
- Check the events calendar at: https://www.itcmi.org/events/
- Follow Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and Youtube.
- Sign up for the ITCM E-Newsletter here: https://www.itcmi.org/newsletter/
- The American Indian Commercial Tobacco Program is a free culturally tailored quit coaching service available to AI/AN in Michigan on their journey to quit commercial tobacco. Call 1-855-5AI-QUIT for more information

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