

Tribe has crises care in place for drug and alcohol abuse



LANA CAUSLEY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

I want to start my report and attempt to bring awareness to some of the basic resources we have in place for crisis care due to drug/alcohol abuse. Below is an email that I sent to our Behavioral Health program and the response received back. This is very basic information.

I would like to know what steps we have in place for crisis situations when members come in and either need detoxification or immediate care.

We have urgent care available whenever our clinics are open and often spend many hours assisting clients in accessing these types of services. If the person has arrived when it is close to closing time, we assist them in going to the emergency room for help, but have stayed late in these circumstances as well, but only if there is more than one staff member available to stay late as we are not allowed to be alone with clients in the building after closing time.

Do we hold support group meetings?

If you are referring to 12-step meetings, we do not have them at our clinics. We do offer Matrix groups for intensive outpatient clients three days weekly at the Shedawin Building. We also have an MRT group twice weekly (separated by gender) at the Shedawin Building. We will begin a new group for those convicted of domestic violence

offenses in the near future given that we just completed training to run those groups.

Do we have support group meetings for family?

The Matrix program has one group weekly that includes family involvement for the group members on Wednesday afternoons at the Shedawin Building.

Do we have professional workers who go into homes to intervene in situations?

Is one worker responsible for a certain case or client?

The only home-based services offered is through the Family Spirit program, which is grant-funded through ITC and offers parenting classes to pregnant women and their partners as well as those with tribal children under age three.

Do we have funding to transport to and from treatment?

Yes, we are currently able to provide this through Access to Recovery (ATR) funds.

What is the on call emergency number for people in crisis situations?

For our office, folks can call 635-6075 or (800) 726-9105.

Following is a list by county of current emergency contact information:

ALGER COUNTY, Pathways, 601 W. Superior, Munising, MI 49862. Daytime, 387-3611; after hours, 225-7211; after hours/toll free, (888) 728-4929.

ANTRIM COUNTY, North Country CMH, 203 E. Cayuga, Bellaire, MI 49615. Daytime, 533-8619; 24-hour crisis line, (800) 442-7315.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, North Country CMH, 6250 M-66 North, Charlevoix, MI 49720. Day, 547-5885; after hours/toll free, 1(800) 442-7315.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY, North Country CMH, 825 S. Huron Suite 4, Cheboygan, MI 49721. Day, 627-5627; after hours/toll free, (800) 442-7315.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY, Hiawatha Behavioral Health, 3865 S. Mackinaw Trail, Sault,

MI 49783. Daytime/after hours, 632-2805; after hours/toll free, (800) 839-9443.

DELTA COUNTY, Pathways, 2500 7th Avenue South, Escanaba, MI 49829. Day, 786-6441, after hours, 225-7211; after hours/toll free, (888) 728-4929.

EMMET COUNTY, North Country CMH, 1420 Plaza Drive, Petoskey, MI 49770. Day, 347-7890; after hours/toll free, (800) 442-7315.

KALKASKA COUNTY, North Country CMH, 625 Courthouse Drive, Kalkaska, MI 49646. Day, 258-5133; 24-hour crisis line, (800) 442-7315.

LUCE COUNTY, Pathways, 200 Hamilton Lake (CO Rd 428 west), Newberry, MI 49868. Day, 293-3284; after hours, 225-7211; after hours/toll free, (888) 728-4929.

MACKINAC COUNTY, Hiawatha Behavioral Health, 114 Elliot, St. Ignace, MI 49781. Day/after hours, 643-8616; after hours/toll free, (800) 839-9443.

MARQUETTE COUNTY, Pathways, 200 W. Spring Street, Marquette, MI 49855. Day/after hours, 225-7211; after hours/toll free, (888) 728-4929.

OTSEGO COUNTY, North Country CMH, second floor, Suite A, 800 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, MI 49735. Day, 732-7558; after hours/toll free, (800) 442-7315.

SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY, Hiawatha Behavioral Health, 125 North Lake, Manistique, MI 49854. Day/after hours, 341-2144; after hours/toll free, (800) 839-9443.

I'm not sure who can answer these, but I will be answering to members who have asked and will need to know. Any additional information I can communicate to families in need will be helpful.

Thank you,
Lana Causley

This is the entire email I received back. Although it's not much detail, it did spark a discussion about the lack of awareness. I have been told that

this paper will have an extensive article about our resources. I'm hoping to see that. We have lost many lives this past year due to struggles and I have personally had many discussions and calls. It's apparent that we have a long way to go with our resources and plans to assist in our communities. I'm dedicated to placing this issue on our agenda items each and every meeting until a solid plan comes forward from our professionals in the departments and encourage families to call me or any other representative and the chair to express what you think is needed.

I only placed this in here to cause awareness and express to you, if you or a family member are in need of services, please call the numbers provided. IF you are told there is nothing we can do or NO funding, please call me, call your representatives or call the chairman. I often hear issues too late. If you are in need, please insist and be aggressive about the care needed and if you need me to help, call me.

My priority is and will be constant on a solid plan of crisis for families that are in need. I'm not satisfied with answers received, or dedication we, as a tribe, place on this issue, so my report is being used to encourage action. Our TAP meetings have been prolonged and that frustrates me as well. Guess I picked the wrong morning to do my unit report but it's for a good cause and be certain I will be at the table advocating for action and a plan that is solid.

I would like to report on our latest action for our casino properties. After the separation with our COO of the casinos, we advertised, requested proposals, discussed candidates, interviewed firms and individuals. After many meetings and face-to-face interviews, we have now contracted with a new executive in charge for our five northern casinos. The individual comes with a long history of experience and knowledge in the gaming

industry. (A profile should be in this edition of paper).

As I said before, we needed a solid plan here as well to move our casinos from decreased revenue and stagnant opportunities to a more competitive business and focusing on problems we have with customer service, employee morale and better business standards all around. At this point, I am confident that we have found the individual to assist us in all the above. I'm thankful for the team members who stepped up during our wait time and I'm looking forward to working with the new executive to move forward on recommendations and plans of action. I'm truly hoping that we, as a tribe, will embrace this new path and let knowledge and experience drive our decisions for a better business. We, as a gaming authority (board of directors), will be meeting with this individual every week but I am in full support of letting his direction and experience be the driving force behind decisions. I will update our progress.

We did hold our business meeting of the board of directors this past month in Hessel. During this meeting, we discussed avenues to increase revenue at the Hessel casino. Many ideas had been discussed including renovating the basement for Texas hold 'em tournaments or bingo; I'm looking forward to suggestions for that coming as well. I'm again using my report to cause a spark of information about what are the issues and discussions. It's been many years that I have advocated for increased business in our smallest casino and making one extra dollar is a benefit to us; therefore, any plans that will increase income is worth discussing and pursuing. This has to be driven by management and will keep you updated as well.

I wanted to give you a snapshot of our financial picture at the end of 2014. Our latest report states that if we hold the mark

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in spending at this time we will be in a deficit of spending by \$82,811. This amount is not at all bad considering the past amounts as well as our size. We could easily make this up by the end of the year as long as we hold the mark. As you know, I don't spend what we do not have. Also, you know that my constant priority has been to pay down our debt as timely as we can. At the end of 2014, it will be around \$18.5 million. It's steadily decreasing and is estimated to be about three-and-a-half years to pay. Again, once that's paid we will have around an additional \$8 million to place in service (My dreams are a detox center, outlying expanded services, wage increase, renovation on structures, many needed items!) We just have to be consistent and I will not waiver on that — I have waited and been patient too long to expect anything different.

I'm long winded this morning but with so much to say, as I reported last month about our troubles and education on our Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) rules. Here is the latest announcement about the awareness and effort to address the problems. As I have discussed and many families know, we struggle with educating courts and agencies in the protection of our Indian children. I'm thankful to see this

initiative being discussed and at the forefront.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder just announced the launch of an ICWA initiative to address ICWA noncompliance and halt the unnecessary and illegal removal of Indian children from their families.

The initiative mirrors the recommendations National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) made in countless pieces of testimony submitted, policy briefings provided to officials and hundreds of hours working behind the scenes, building on the relationships and reputation we have carefully nurtured in over 30 years of working on Capitol Hill.

We use our invitation to the policymaking table to advocate tirelessly, ensuring YOUR stories and concerns are shared with those at the highest level. Chief among these have been reports of widespread noncompliance with ICWA. NICWA has listened to you and called for accountability for those who have disrupted and damaged our families.

Here is an excerpt from today's announcement by Holder, "Today, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Justice is launching a new initiative to promote compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. Under this important effort, we are working to actively identify state-court cases where the United States can file briefs

opposing the unnecessary and illegal removal of Indian children from their families and their tribal communities. We are partnering with the Departments of the Interior and Health and Human Services to make sure that all the tools available to the federal government are used to promote compliance with this important law. And we will join with those departments, and with tribes and Indian child-welfare organizations across the country, to explore training for state judges and agencies; to promote tribes' authority to make placement decisions affecting tribal children; to gather information about where the Indian Child Welfare Act is being systematically violated; and to take appropriate, targeted action to ensure that the next generation of great tribal leaders can grow up in homes that are not only safe and loving, but also suffused with the proud traditions of Indian cultures."

There is never enough we can do, as a tribe, to protect our children. Again, this initiative is important to us and our families, I wanted to give you an update on the action being taken.

Okay, I really tried to keep this report and all others sensible and without the day-to-day debates and hurdles we face as a board or the political games that are played, but I do have to say I have received many calls about

the comments and non-factual items on the Internet or communicated through the avenues of Facebook or personal site groups. I do not read them and do not interact with each discussion. (Items are brought to my attention and I deal with them). As you know, most facts are not considered and that makes it hard to keep up or get across when people can just throw items out. I'm all about free speech and would never question people's right to "say what they want" but I will say, don't believe all you read. If you see something that is alarming or want to talk about it with me, do not hesitate to call. The items sometimes are hurtful and can steer members to a path of just plain untruthfulness; many of you have stated that to me. Please remember, our tribe is a great nation. We should be proud and honored to be a part of it, we've had scars and struggles but that should never take away from the fact that we are a tribe, people with traditions, families and a culture that is NOT dying or falling away! I don't want to get all sappy but be proud of our people because we have many families and dedicated workers who love this tribe, including me! I KNOW things happen and have happened that shouldn't have but we have to keep on moving forward. Lots of troubles in today's world and fighting each other will make us

weaker, we have enough wolves at our door to fight amongst ourselves. I will not participate in that.

Good point of pride, many tribal youth — I want to give a special recognition to our own unit's Cedarville/Detour football team. These young men made it, EUPC champions, district champions, regional champions, eight-man finalists! I watched them in action and I have to say, they inspired me every time! The leadership and heart they have is amazing and it cannot go without celebrating. We have young people who strive to excel and these are some of them. Congratulations, Cedarville Trojans! You all have made us proud. (Look for article, names and pictures in this edition of the paper).

In closing, Christmas time is here. I look at my granddaughters' faces during this time of year and know they feel magic. I cannot wait to enjoy Christmas eve with all my family and I say it every year, WATCH for miracles because they happen every day, no matter how small. I'm wishing you a blessed year, mno nimkwadaadim!

Baamaapii
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