

Getting Drug Abuse Task Force up and running



**LANA CAUSLEY, DIRECTOR,
UNIT II**

As reported last month, on Aug. 7 we held a discussion and

presentation to form the Drug Abuse Task Force Committee. This information will be very important for any family that is in need. I have spoken to countless members about problems and ideas to combat them and to help families in need. This has been a priority for my community and me. I will also be asking that our Communications Department attend this workshop and report on available resources, how each tribal department can help, and making information and contact numbers available on our website to streamline assistance to tribal members. This is a hurtful, rising problem in Indian County and it will take the entire leadership,

every department and our community members to work through this. I will update monthly on the status. I hope many members attend our workshop and give input.

A few months ago, Director Hollowell and I met with our health director to discuss the possibility of reopening a satellite clinic in the DeTour/Drummond Island area. We asked to see statistics on members who used services and identify funding we could use to reinstate the service. Since this initial meeting, our director has scheduled a meeting with the facilitators needed and is preparing information to present to the board. I have requested that

we prioritize spending — I don't support spending any money we do not have, so we could plan with existing savings or additional IHS funds. I look forward to seeing this through and working on the service for our area.

We still must remain strict on our spending as our projected budget for the closing of 2012 is slated to be a \$300,000 surplus, if we stay within the planned, approved budget. As always in a new administration, people expect changes to be made. I'm supportive of making changing that will enhance service to members but I WILL be very frugal on any spending that will cause deficit spending or is not necessary for

retaining or enhancing service.

Lansing — in this edition of the paper, you will find an update on our Lansing project. We have postponed the date to complete initial requirements and have approved new developers for the project. As always, I'm watching carefully and representing our interests in every step we make.

Lastly, its powwow season and I look very forward to attending those coming up in our unit — Rexton, Newberry and Hessel. Please attend! I would like to say *chi miigwech* to our community members in our area who work hard to make the *jiingtamok* happen!

Baamaa pii, Lana Causley