

Working on 2016 budgets for operations and services



**LANA CAUSLEY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

As reported last month, we have been reviewing budgets for the 2016 annual program services and operations. During this time, there is additional information that I have been requesting to come to a decision about the annual budgets. It is difficult as I have continuously requested that we need factual budgeting to determine the number of members served with the dollars funded to each program. I know that we have certain programs that only service a limited amount of members and the amounts for administration are heavy. We still have not completed the reviews and we are now working with a continuing resolution with last year's amounts. We do address each program's needs once identified to make certain there is minimal interruption in the day-to-day, but it's the administration's responsibility to point these out for smooth operations. I not only have many questions of my own but many staff come to me with questions, ideas and concerns on our budget, so weighing all this out is never an easy process. I will update when we complete, as there are still many questions from many board members.

We finally met on our tribal action plan (TAP) to begin the tribal justice system planning process face-to-face with Fox Valley Technical College. The

planning to write the actions were done with nine modules:

- Module 1: Assess the needs, assessment findings. This was done with the survey and focus groups we did many months ago. We identified gaps, lack of services, validate what is working effectively and what major service is needed.

- Module 2: Prioritize issues. We used methods to prioritize problems and issues with each service.

- Module 3: Develop a problem statement. Who is affected, how are we affected, a strategy to have the best approach, etc.

- Module 4: Review desired outcomes.

- Module 5: Identify goals.

- Module 6: Strategy and action steps. Identify appropriate tasks involved in each step and identify internal and external stakeholders who will support each goal.

- Module 7: Timelines. Calendar each task and identify who is responsible.

- Module 8: Evaluation.

- Module 9: Written plan overview, plan for sustainability and next steps to complete written plan.

I have written this all out to show the lengthy process taken to write the plan. We are in the process of hiring for a position in the court (grant funded) with the skills and expertise to accomplish this written plan with all the material and planning the TAP group has completed this far. I would like to personally say chi-miigwech to all the program staff involved in this. Sitting through the meetings when I could attend showed me the dedication and knowledge of the staff knowing what our problems are and bringing to the table what is needed to advance our services for substance abuse. We talked about out-of-the-box thinking so that we could help in the emergency time of need and making sure we sustain all programs to keep things up to date. As we were sitting in some of

the sessions we came to realize even new problems and certain dangerous drugs coming to light just from our last sessions. Our court staff have firsthand knowledge of where the problems lie and their input is invaluable. We now have to continue to commit to these and make it a priority. I have been frustrated through this process but seeing the experienced technical trainers come in to assist did give us the help to move forward. Now we have to complete it. I will report next month on the status.

As most know, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) made the decision to close fishing down in Lake Michigan for the remainder of the fishing season this year. This was due to the over harvest of lake trout due to all five tribes' fishing efforts. This was a very hard outcome for our fisherman and their families. We held discussions on two separate meetings thus far and many problems have been identified (some are the same ones I have been bringing up for awhile based on conversations with the fishermen). We need to address the amount being stocked and we also need to change the way we count the catch. It's obvious that we have cards stacked against us when it comes to the state, feds and sport fishing groups, but I believe this will finally make eyes open to the lack of attention we show on these problems. Again, we fail as a government to address or act on the issues that create problems. I'm not saying much more about this publicly, but I have spoken to most all the fisherman in our area and the message is the same. I will continue to be at the table pushing the items that need to be addressed to sustain and keep our industry going. We will be holding a special discussion workshop with all involved and ask that all of the fisherman attend. We have requested that all get a notice sent in the mail for date and location. I'm afraid to place what I

know about the date due to the fact I've seen it get changed on a moment's notice and that's quite embarrassing and frustrating (trying to stay professional). I will also call fisherman when the date is committed to by our administration. I can assure you that these issues are the priority of Director Hollowell and myself at the present time.

I would like to give you all a very brief update on a few of our legal issues pending. In the Greektown holdings U.S. bankruptcy court case we prevailed in our argument that we did not waive our tribe's immunity. This was very good news for us, now we will file all the papers and continue to see this through for an outcome to finally get this case behind us. We are now in the active process of discussion and sitting at the table for revised or replacement compact negotiations with the state per our 1993 compact. There has been minimal discussion up to this time and now it seems that we will be committing to real planning and discussions about the future of each tribe's compact. I'm confident we are becoming prepared and would hope that our entire board is involved in this process.

Our mandatory trust request and application for Lansing and New Boston is still under review in the solicitor's office. We are still right on timeline and mark for the Lansing project as we knew and expected this. Both projects have representatives from the board, our legal department and casino to go through all phases and stages. We still have many obstacles to overcome, our legal department and outside attorneys have been consistent with moving this along as well.

We did receive some very good news from the U.S. Department of Education. We applied for a \$300,000 grant for planning and preparation of additional education services for members. This application includes the salary for an education director for our tribe. I advo-

cated for this position ever since it was vacated years ago and I'm very happy that this direction is being taken again. Look for the posting in the near future and please spread the word around to any qualified members. We do need many items addressed in our education needs, especially in the rural areas, so new directions, goals and ideas are encouraged.

I had the opportunity to attend our veterans' powwow in Kinross this past weekend. Chi miigwech to Jackie Halfaday Minton, the participants and our drums who attended. It was a relaxing time and I watched many very young ones dance for their veterans and it was good to see. These youth are around 4 and 5 years old and it impressed me so much. To the parents that had their children there and dancing, chi miigwech, it does my heart good to see that.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to remember our past unit representative, Robert (Bob) LaPoint, who passed on this past week. I had the opportunity to work with Bob on many projects as well as sit with him during many hours of debate on topics for our tribe. I will say that he always treated me with respect, kindness and was a gentle leader who was dedicated to our tribe for many years as an elected official. I will always be grateful for certain teachings he gave me as a leader and also as a friend. I smile thinking about a couple actions with him, he sure was one of a kind and he will be remembered by me for his gentle kindness as a leader. Chi miigwech to his family for loaning him to us all those years and supporting his role as a representative for our tribe.

As always, please contact me if you would like to meet. I'm always available by phone or in person for a visit. Contact me by email at lcausley@saulttribe.net, or by phone at (906) 484-2954 or 322-3818.

Baamaapii,
Lana Causley-Smith
Unit II tribal representative.