



# GLITC Resiliency

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. Newsletter



“ Our health is an important factor in our overall quality of life.

"Working in an environment that prioritizes cleanliness and safety, especially during the pandemic, has helped keep our staff healthy and able to work effectively.

"If our team is healthy, we can better serve our communities. ”

German Gonzalez

MD, MPH, FACE,  
GLITEC Director/  
Medical Epidemiologist

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## From GLITC Leadership

August 2021

The past 17 months have been challenging for our Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC) employees and facility. The COVID-19 pandemic required leadership and our custodial staff to look closely at our policies, procedures, and practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to keep all employees safe. With guidance and support from Lac du Flambeau Tribal leadership, CEO Bryan Bainbridge, and the custodial staff, GLITC implemented a rigorous process to prevent exposure.

Many initiatives were put in place. Custodian Janet Wink oversaw regular deep cleaning that included sanitizing the entire building, cleaning our bathrooms 2 to 3 times per day, checking that kitchen cleanliness processes were followed, cleaning rooms after staff use, and researching and buying personal protective equipment for employee and visitor use.

GLITC installed locking lobby doors and distributed employee access fobs to control traffic flow in the building. One-way traffic was instituted throughout the facility, thus eliminating cross-traffic and close encounters with employees and creating good social distancing.

All food exchange was eliminated, and no food was stored in the facility. Refrigerator rules directed employees to only bring food that would be consumed that same day. The kitchen was closed permanently except for the microwave, which had “use at your own risk” and “clean after use” policies.

Our custodian, Janet Wink, deserves much of the credit for keeping our facility clean, safe, and secure. Our facility returned to a full-staffing model June 1, 2021. We are so grateful for all the support and efforts.

Ron Teliszczak, Human Resources Director

## Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life for all Native people



# GLITC and COVID-19 Vaccines: Helping a Tribal Community at Ground Level

Education, Health,  
and Research  
Highlight

In late December 2020, as COVID-19 vaccines were being approved and shipped to Tribal communities, Amy Poupart, who is a member of the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Health Board and is the Program Director for the Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health (Great Lakes NARCH), reached out to the Peter Christensen Health Center (PCHC) in Lac du Flambeau. The question she asked was if the clinic had enough available staff to implement the phased rollout of vaccines, as the pandemic shutdowns had stressed the healthcare delivery systems. After getting approval from GLITC CEO, Bryan Bainbridge, assistance was offered to PCHC in the form of a few GLITC staff members.



GLITC employees Amy Poupart (left) and Melissa Doud are shown working at a COVID-19 vaccine clinic in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. They did health status screenings, which patients had to successfully complete before entering the vaccine clinic.

Initially, Melissa Doud, Program Director for the Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network (WNATN) and Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council member, and Amy were tasked with performing health status screenings, which were required for entrance into the COVID-19 vaccine clinics. These screenings included taking temperatures, asking screening questions, providing consent forms for completion, and sanitizing pens, clipboards, and any other materials contacted by patients.

As discussions with the Community Health Department occurred, it became evident GLITC staff were a group that should be considered a higher potential exposure status because many of them travel in and out of the Lac du Flambeau community since most live adjacent to the reservation. Amy advocated that the GLITC employees be offered the vaccine similar to the manner in which other Tribal entities were being offered. Melissa supported this, and the Community Health Department agreed. At the end of February, with other priority health groups' vaccinations completed, PCHC was able to offer the vaccine to interested GLITC employees.

This effort enabled 30 employees to get their two COVID-19 vaccine doses. This greatly assisted in the process of reopening our GLITC office as Tribal resolutions were lifted. Various GLITC staff were also able to help with continued vaccination efforts up to the beginning of May, as vaccinations became more readily available to the general public. In all, more than 25 vaccine clinics of both first and second doses were assisted by GLITC staff. Unfortunately, due to understandable travel restrictions, GLITC staff could not travel to other Tribal communities to assist in a similar way.



# Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin

Family Health Highlight

The Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin was created in 2016. Members from all 11 Tribes and the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center are represented by the coalition.

Our mission is to strengthen and encourage the traditional practice of breastfeeding to improve the lives of women, babies, and families, for generations to come.

Learn more at [glitc.org/nativebfcoalition](http://glitc.org/nativebfcoalition) or contact Cheri Nemec, Program Director, at [cnemec@glitc.org](mailto:cnemec@glitc.org) or 715-588-1020 for more information.



## Native Breastfeeding Week: August 8-14, 2021

GLITC and the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin are celebrating Native Breastfeeding Week. The theme this year is Nourishing Our Futures. This theme reminds us how important first food medicine is in securing a healthy and thriving next generation.

Native Breastfeeding Week lifts up the visibility of Indigenous milk experiences (Native breast/chestfeeding and lactation) and shows the resilience of culture and body sovereignty. It also pushes for access, opportunity, and equity in providing this sacred first food medicine to our babies. Native Breastfeeding Week does this by increasing the support and resources available, promoting healing and wellness, and sharing stories and knowledge about Indigenous milk experiences.

The Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin is celebrating with virtual activities including:

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### Breastfeeding Q&A

- Listen as community breastfeeding champions share their breastfeeding stories.
- Ask any questions you have about breast/chestfeeding.

Register for the virtual event at [surveymonkey.com/r/PY7KM8X](https://surveymonkey.com/r/PY7KM8X).

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### 2nd Annual Big Virtual Latch On Event

Share your breastfeeding pictures or stories via the [Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin Facebook page](#) with #StrongResilientLatched.

We invite exclusive pumpers, milk donors, partners, fathers, grandparents, and other breastfeeding supporters to post their pictures or stories.

# Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council

## Programs and Grants

### Aging and Disability

Aging and Disability Resource Specialist (ADRS)  
 Dementia Care Specialist (DCS)  
 Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS)  
 Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS)  
 Healthy Living With Diabetes  
 Medicaid Improvements for Patients and Providers  
 Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)  
 State Health Insurance Information Program  
 State Pharmaceutical Assistance (SPA)  
 Together Strong Dementia  
 Tribal Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)  
 Vaccine Community Outreach (VCO)  
 Vaccination Hesitancy Outreach (VHO)

### Economic Development

Small Business Technical Assistance Program  
 (American Indian Economic Development Grant)  
 CARES Act Tourism Recovery  
 Economic Development  
 Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW)

### Education, Health, and Research

Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health  
 (Great Lakes NARCH)  
 Wisconsin Native American Tobacco Network (WNATN)

### Elders

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)  
 Senior Companion Program (SCP)  
 VISTA AmeriCorps Initiative  
 Youth and Elder Community Empowerment

### Epidemiology

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response (CPAR)  
 Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC)  
 IHS Epidemiology Program Cooperative  
 Increasing Vaccine Coverage in AI/AN Adults (iVAC)  
 Tribal EPI Center Public Health Infrastructure (TECPHI)  
 Tribal Public Health Capacity Building (UMB)

### Family Health

Cooperative American Indian Health  
 Family Foundations Home Visiting (FFHV)  
 Lincoln Hills Program  
 Maternal Telehealth Access Project  
 Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin  
 Rural Infant Health  
 Sexual Risk Avoidance Education  
 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed)  
 Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)  
 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

### Vocational Rehabilitation

American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation  
 American Indians With Disabilities

### Our Heartfelt Gratitude

GLITC extends a special note of thanks to acknowledge all the federal, state, and private funders, donors, and foundations that support our programs and mission.