



Great Lakes Area Opioid Conference
JOURNEYING TOWARD WELLNESS

Pre-Conference Trainings: June 25TH

Conference: June 26TH – 27TH

Kewadin Casino and Hotel

2186 Shunk Road Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Pre-Conference Training Day: Tuesday, June 25th

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Registration & Breakfast

Location: Spruce & Oak

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Historical Trauma, Resilience, and the Trauma-Informed Approach (lunch provided in Spruce & Oak)

Location: Birch & Cedar

Trainers: Contractors Supporting SAMHSA TTA Center:

Ch'Giizhigookwe Adrienne (Riinii) Shipman, Training and Assistance Coordinator

Waabkeke'ak-kwe Jill Lawson, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist

Jesse Gibbs, Training and Technical Support

Description: This one-day workshop looks at historical trauma by reviewing the eras and events that occurred as a result of colonialization and the birth of the United States. This will help better understand the cause and ongoing effects of historical trauma, including inter-generational trauma, resilience, and the trauma-informed approach. This workshop will also provide an overview of current programs, training, and cultural activities that promote knowledge, awareness, healing, and wellness.

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: Lateral Kindness (lunch provided in Spruce & Oak)

Trainers: Maria Trevizo and Don Lyons

Location: Grand Island I

Description: Lateral Kindness Training is a comprehensive program designed to equip individuals and communities with the tools and skills needed to navigate conflict effectively, facilitate positive interactions, and implement upstream prevention approaches that address the root causes of social issues.

Benefits of Lateral Kindness Training:

Improved conflict resolution skills for individuals and teams. *Enhanced facilitation abilities to lead productive and engaging meetings. *A deeper understanding of upstream prevention approaches to create positive social change. *Increased capacity to build strong, resilient communities. *Reduced conflict and improved collaboration within organizations and communities.

Who Should Attend?

This training is ideal for individuals and groups who want to:

Improve their conflict resolution and facilitation skills. *Promote positive change within their communities.

*Learn about upstream prevention approaches. *Build stronger relationships and foster collaboration.

8:00 am – 5:00 pm: safeTALK Session 1 & 2

Trainers: Taylor Maxwell (Puckett) & Adon Vazquez – The Sacred Bundle Project
American Indian Health and Family Services of SE Michigan

Location: Grand Island II

This training is open to anyone who may be interested in learning more about suicide prevention or needs a refresher. Participants will receive a certificate of completion for this evidence-based training.

Objectives:

- Notice and respond to situations where suicide thoughts might be present.
- Recognize that invitations for help are often overlooked.
- Move beyond the common tendency to miss, dismiss, and avoid suicide.
- Apply the TALK steps: Tell, Ask, Listen, KeepSafe
- Learn Community Resources

Conference Day 1: Wednesday, June 26th (Morning sessions)

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Registration & Breakfast

Location: Spruce & Oak

8:00 am – 9:45 am: Welcome/Prayer/Opening Remarks/Introductions

Speakers: President Austin Lowes, Sault Tribe, Tribal Elder, Willard Pine, and GLITEC Program Director, Dr. Christina Denslinger

Location: Birch & Cedar Rooms

9:45 am – 10:00 am: Break

10:00 am – 11:30 am: Keynote:

Speaker: *Chi Mic Ki Nic* Dr. Joseph Sowmick, Saginaw Chippewa Tribe

Location: Birch & Cedar Rooms

11:30 am – 12:15 pm: Plenary Session

Facilitators: Maria Trevizo and Don Lyons

Location: Birch & Cedar Rooms

A structured and facilitated processing to help participants internalize key concepts, identify areas for improvement, and develop personal action plans.

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm: Lunch (provided)

Location: Spruce & Oak Rooms

Conference Day 1: Wednesday, June 26th (Afternoon sessions)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm: General Session 1

1. St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin – Public Health Vending Machines Part 1: Foundations

Speaker: *Migizikwe* Gina Benson BSN, RN, PHN St. Croix Tribe

Location: Birch & Cedar

The popularity of Public Health Vending Machines is growing around the country. This talk is about the process St. Croix Tribal Public Health followed to implement four vending machines throughout the reservation. It covers the step-by-step process of acquiring, setting up, and maintaining the vending machines, as well as the challenges faced along the way.

2. Clinical In-service: Advanced Cultural Diversity with Substance Abuse Treatment

Speaker: Patrick McCoy, MA, BS, CDC Sault Tribe

Location: Grand Island I

Mr. McCoy's in-service will explore the treatment strategies for treating substance abuse of Native Americans. Based on a current review of resources and years of personal and professional experience the presenter will discuss the importance of culturally specific recovery. The proposed in-service will examine the unique factors that influence substance abuse rates among Native Americans. The in-service will help participants learn how to examine personal biases and how they affect the counselor-client relationship. Included are discussions of co-occurring mental and physical health factors and how they correlate to substance abuse. Most important, the in-service will explore the importance of culture and its impact on abstinence rates including an examination of examples of therapeutic models in correlation to cultural components. Participation in this in-service shall encourage clinicians to be aware of personal bias, understanding the uniqueness of minority groups, and help clinicians to gain confidence in their treatment approaches and practices with minority clients.

Goals to accomplish with the in-service:

- Identify the unique aspects of this minority group.
- Learn how cultural differences affect substance abuse rates.
- Recognize how co-occurring mental and physical disorders affect substance abuse.
- Define culturally specific and learn its importance.
- Develop the ability to practice cultural sensitivity.
- Recognize how biases affect counseling relationships.
- Increase confidence when working with clients with cultural differences.

3. Social Determinants of Health and Infectious Disease

Speaker: Dr. Nicholas Lehnertz, MN Department of Health

Location: Grand Island II

This presentation will provide an overview of various social determinants of health, and the impact on both risk and severity of various infectious diseases.

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm: Break (snacks provided)

2:45 pm - 3:45 pm: General Session 2

1. St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin – Public Health Vending Machines Part 2: County Collaboration

Speakers: *Migizikwe* Gina Benson BSN, RN, PHN St. Croix Tribe & Helen Swanson

Location: Birch & Cedar

The St. Croix tribal reservation is broken up into 11 parcels spread across three counties in Wisconsin. Effective implementation of public health vending machines requires working with the

various county health departments that the reservation areas are located in. This presentation will highlight the collaboration process and how it is evolving today.

2. **Pathfinder Solutions: Empowering Communities and Inspiring Change and Native American Peer Recovery Services (NAPRS)**

Speaker: Dave Wellstone & Colin Cash, Pathfinder Solutions

Location: Grand Island I

Native American Peer Recovery Services training has been recognized by the Minnesota Certification Board as an accepted course for Certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS). This is a culturally specific model, integrating traditional values and Native American worldviews into the framework of recovery. It provides the necessary tools and knowledge to successfully navigate the certification process and provide Peer Recovery Services in tribal communities.

Recovery within tribal communities can differ significantly from approaches of mainstream 12-step fellowships. While these pathways are valuable, it's crucial to broaden our understanding of recovery. Infusing traditional wisdom into the recovery ecosystem while upholding ethical standards and practices, we can achieve meaningful progress.

How do we cultivate a Healing Forests and nurture Recovery Advocates in alignment with our traditional teachings to build resilience and representation across the whole continuum of care in the state of MN?

This presentation also provides an overview of Pathfinder Solutions' mission to enhance healthcare accessibility and effectiveness through innovative technology and comprehensive support services. It highlights our integrated software platforms—Companion and Bridge—which streamline healthcare providers' operations and offer robust tools for patient engagement and support. Additionally, the presentation emphasizes our specialized training programs, such as the Native American Peer Recovery Services (NAPRS), and capacity-building services designed to empower organizations and foster sustainable, community-driven health initiatives.

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Substance Use Disorder

Speaker: Dr. Nicholas Lehnertz, MN Department of Health

Location: Grand Island II

This presentation will provide an overview of MAT, lessons learned, and some considerations for implementation.

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm: Peer Recovery Panel (Light meal provided)

Facilitators: Maria Trevizo and Don Lyons

Location: Birch & Cedar

Time to gather, share a light meal, reflect on success and challenges, and learn from those in recovery.

Conference Day 2: Thursday, June 27th (Morning sessions)

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Registration & Breakfast

Location: Tahquamenon Falls

8:00 am – 8:45 am: Welcome/Prayer/Opening Remarks

Speaker: GLITEC Program Director, Christina Denslinger and Tribal Elder, Willard Pine

Location: Tahquamenon Falls

9:00 am – 11:00 am:

Panel – Addressing Substance Use, Mental Health, and Wellness: Perspectives from the Field

Facilitators: Dr. Christina Denslinger and Maria Trevizo

This panel aims to provide a unique blend of perspectives from the field and practical, day-to-day realities of supporting substance use, mental health, and wellness. It will offer valuable insights into the challenges and successes encountered by those working directly with individuals facing these complex issues.

Panelists: *Migizikwe* Gina Benson, BSN, RN, PHN – St. Croix Tribe

Shashana Skippingday – Director of Programs, Division of Indian Work

Valentina Zaragoza – Doula Coordinator, Division of Indian Work

Location: Tahquamenon Falls

11:00 am – 11:15 am: Break (snacks provided)

11:15 am – 12:15 am: General Session 3

1. A Bicultural Approach to Healthy Families

Speaker: *Chi Ayaabe* Dr. Brian Jackson

Location: Tahquamenon Falls

The Lac du Flambeau Family Circles AODA Prevention Program is for Indian families. The program is a culturally relevant and exciting new method of teaching healthy lifestyles. The emphasis is on nurturing oneself, one's family members, and one's community. Alcohol and other drug abuse

prevention is the goal of the program. The main purpose of the program is to help make life easier and happier for all family members by providing them with the opportunity to learn through their culture how to replace old problematic ways of interacting with the nurturing ways of the traditional culture. The program was developed out of a need identified by Indian families for AODA information that is culturally relevant to Indian people. The curriculum is two-fold in nature: first, AODA prevention; second, to increase self-awareness and self-esteem through cultural awareness.

2. Tribal Healing

Speaker: Willard Pine

Location: Grand Island I

Tribal Healer, Willard Pine, will discuss the use of tribal healing to support recovery and sobriety.

3. Stigma in Healthcare and the Benefits of Mail-based Supplies

Speakers: Bad River Harm Reduction: Kim Ford, Eli Corbine, Rob O'Claire, Shannon Kauppila

Location: Grand Island II

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm: Lunch (provided)

Location: Tahquamenon Falls

Conference Day 2: Thursday, June 27th (Afternoon sessions)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm: General Session 4

1. The Seven Generations and Seven Grandfather Teachings

Speaker: James Kaagegaabaw Vukelich

Location: Tahquamenon Falls

This talk will present the traditional teachings of the Anishinaabeg as a means of developing interconnectedness and interdependence. The seven grandfather teachings, the sacred law of the Anishinaabeg, show us how to lead Mino-bimaadiziwin 'the good life' a life of without contradiction or conflict, a life of peace and balance.

Learning Objectives

This presentation will break up ancient words and teachings morphologically and etymologically so that participants learn how the language defines and outlines how to live a good life.

- Participants will learn about the concept of Mino-bimaadiziwin 'The Good Life'
- Participants will come away with a greater understanding of the Chi-dibaakonigewin 'Sacred Law' of the Anishinaabeg 'Ojibwe'.

- Participants will learn how the culture and teachings are deeply embedded in the language.
- Participants will learn a model to introduce concepts of interdependence and interconnection to native and non-native students and educators.

2. Narcan Training

Speaker: Dr. Christina Denslinger, GLITEC Program Director and Jacob Riemer, Public Health Specialist

Location: Grand Island I

This presentation will provide an overview of different types of opioids, how to identify an overdose, how opioids and an overdose affect the body, and what Narcan is and how it works. Participants will learn how to recognize an overdose, how to respond to an overdose, and how to administer Narcan.

3. Harm Reduction Law and Policy 101

Speaker: Morgan Jones-Axtell, JD; Public Health Law Center

Location: Grand Island II

This presentation will describe the stages of equitable law and policy development and provide examples of harm reduction laws and policies in Tribal communities, with the goal of building attendee's confidence and capacity to work on Tribal harm reduction policies.

2:45 pm – 4:45 pm Community Conversations and Reflections

Facilitators: Maria Trevizo and Don Lyons

Location: Tahquamenon Falls

The end of the conference processing will provide a space for participants to reflect on their experiences, engage in community conversations, and identify key takeaways that they can apply to their personal and professional lives. This will be an opportunity to share insights, connect with others, and translate the knowledge gained into tangible actions that promote individual growth and community-level impact.

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm: Closing Remarks and Prayer

Speakers: Dr. Christina Denslinger, Don Lyons, Patrick McCoy

Location: Tahquamenon Falls