



Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians  
7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

### TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL NARRATIVE

Submitted by: Julie Shananaquet,

Training/Event: 2016 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Partners in Action / Midwest Region  
Location: Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
Date of Event: July 19 – 22, 2016

I respectfully submit this travel narrative to my fellow Council members and the Citizens of LTBB. Please accept my gratitude for allowing me to represent our Tribe at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 2016 Midwest Region Partners in Action Conference, *"Honoring the past, treasuring the present, shaping the future"*.

#### Monday – July 18, 2016

Note: In keeping with cost saving measures, Treasurer Reyes, Councilor Naganashe and I carpoled.  
Attended the evening Welcoming Gathering and Snack

This report reflects the sessions I attended, and does not include the accompanying slide presentations used. As soon as the Michigan Agency updates their site with data presented, I will submit as an addendum to my report

#### Tuesday – July 19, 2016

Opening ceremony (Special thanks to Councilor Bernard for opening prayer)

Welcoming and Introductions (Karen Diver informative and humorous)

Legislative & Legal Updates which included: Nebraska v Parker (enactment of liquor control ordinance my Omaha Tribe), Dollar General v Mississippi Band of Choctaw (Tribal Jurisdiction over non-members), Big Lagoon Rancheria v California (Carcieri argument regarding IGRA issue), Jamul Action Committee v Chaudhuri (suit to stop on-reservation gaming citing IGRA/reservation status and NEPA/National Environmental Protection Act), Patrick v Jewell (Gun Lake Trust Land Reaffirmation Act). Field Solicitors discussed fee to trust process and appeal process. Stressed the importance of thorough documentation!

Core Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Awareness - presentation dealt with the growing population of children living in environments consisting of substance abuse, drug manufacturing and distribution. Consequences for children: neglect, abandonment, death and learned behavior. Concern that numbers are not realistic because cases are not reported for numerous reasons.

DEC Moving from Awareness to Action - presentation focused on the professionals component of drug endangered children and addressed some of the changes needed within the health care, child welfare, law enforcement and court systems and networking programs that should be identifying and intervening.

#### Wednesday – July 20, 2016

Land Acquisition Trends – Fee To Trust land acquisition trends affecting applications. Acquisition of land in trust is essential to tribal self-determination. Prepare for challenges by local governments, BIA and other Tribes when fee-to-trust transfers occur because it could result in loss of tax revenue and jurisdiction. Exercise care when stating reason for placing land in trust, i.e. stating use for housing, economic endeavors or any other reason other than gaming and slapping a casino on it. In most cases NEPA is used to stall FTT process.

Best Practices Compact Provision – Examples were given of various compact verbiage that should be avoided and phrases that should be included. Avoid wording that is too vague as it has proven to be detrimental to tribes. Make sure that Tribes have a very strong Tribal Court system. Exercise care

when waiving sovereign immunity. Several Tribes have compacts with no ending date and rely on amendments for changes in laws that apply to tribes.

Best Practices RAP Provisions – A big concern presented in Revenue Allocation Plans is the term “Aboriginal Territory”. This terminology is a gateway to off reservation gaming. Tribes may want to cap the percentage that the State will receive from gaming.

MOU’s careful using the word “reasonable”

Thursday – July 21, 2016

\*Drugs in Tribal Communities – although there is a decrease in the meth labs, meth still remains to be one of the top four abused drugs. Heroin, Prescriptions and marijuana included in the top four. 120 deaths occur daily of prescription drug overdoses. Meth is produced in Mexico and brought into US. Different terms used in today’s drug community. Synthetic drug use on a rise at an alarming rate. Not all states have laws against internet purchase of medications that are being altered and causing permanent illness and death.

\*Drug Trends in Indian Communities – Cartels using tribal gangs to push drug products. Most tribes do not have enough LE officers to keep up with the traffic on reservations. DOI concerned that state approval of marijuana (both recreational and medical) are promoting drug use.

\*Presentations were filled with statistics and I will be submitting hard copies of the slides used during presentation.

Closing Ceremony

Thank you for allowing me to attend. I will say that I am disappointed that our elected officials were unable to have a “one on one” with BIA officials as was implied when invitation to attend was presented.

