



**LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS  
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740**

**Tribal Council Travel Report Narrative**

Name:	Julie Shananaquet, TC Secretary	Date:	August 18, 2014
Training:	CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting	Date:	08/12 & 13/2014
	MAST Summer Meeting		08/14/2014
	2014 HIS Director's Bemidji Area Listening Session		08/15/2014

I respectfully submit this report to my fellow tribal council members and the citizens of LTBB and would like to express my gratitude and honor to represent our Tribe in Traverse City, MI at the above listed events:

Please accept the following as my formal written report and rather than itemize every agenda item for the day, I will briefly describe each days important issues and in some cases render my opinion/recommendation:

**Day 1 (Monday) – Travel Day 08/11/14**

**Day 2 & 3 (Tuesday, Wednesday) – CDC/Tribal Advisory Committee Business**  
Although I was thankful for the opportunity to witness first hand, what the Tribal Advisory Committee business consisted of i.e. Metabolic Syndrome, Traditional Foods, Environmental Health, Smoking and Tobacco use, Native Specimens, and Toxic Substances/Disease Registry, I question the need for tribal council members to attend this organizations meeting. It was discussed by the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) members that there is a need to develop policy and procedure which would allow non-committee attendees an opportunity to voice their opinion. This is basically a watch and listen session with no opportunity to render opinions or questions. Of very special interest were the topics of *Toxic Substances/Disease Registry* and *Native Specimens*. Mention was made that collection of data needed revamping and updating, as witnessed by the dated data (2006 – 2012 stats regarding Diabetes, TB, STD's etc.) The most controversial subject discussed was *Native Specimens*. Surveys will be sent out to all tribes in an effort to define what a specimen consists of, length of time for storage, ceremonies associated with the use and return of "specimen", etc. This committee is concerned with possible violation of NAGPRA. It is my recommendation to notify the Chairman and Wes Andrews of upcoming survey and the importance of response.

Special note: After being denied the statistical data presented at this meeting, Councilor Law left her business card and requested that a PDF file of presentations be sent to her e-mail.

**Day 4 (Thursday)** – Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Summer Meeting  
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa Indians did a wonderful job hosting this meeting and I highly recommend that we as Tribal Council start sending Thank You cards to hosting tribes for any and all meetings/trainings we attend where exceptional care is given. We went from two days of no offer of a meal(s), snacks or beverages to a day filled with exceptional meals and COFFEE. Sadly, Cathy Abramson informed every one of her intent to withdraw from many of the positions she currently holds within Indian Country. Due to health reasons, she is no longer able to continue working at such a frantic pace. Recommend a card thanking her for her exceptional service????

There were several notable subjects during this meeting.

- Mr. Frank Ettawageshick was requested to draft either a Resolution or Declaration regarding Tribal Disaster Guidance.
- HHS Director Kathleen Falk presented an update on the 2014 consultations
- IHS Director Jenny Jenkins presented an update on the 2014 consultations. Ms. Jenkins will be retiring from her position and further update will be given under the IHS update.
- Congressman Dan Benishick was scheduled to speak but was unable to attend and sent Director Daniel Blough in his stead.
- A lively discussion ensued regarding the presentation regarding Youth Detention/Wellness. Items discussed were funding sources and requested charges for stay, is length of stay adequate to address need, cultural activity and counseling.
- Nomination and election for the Treasurer position.
- Phyllis Davis gave recognition and thanks to the tribal leaders for their hard work and commitment to native issues not only within their respective tribes but also for their continued support of issues affecting all Midwest Tribes.
- As expected there was a funding reduction in the special diabetes program, however, the tribal outpouring for continuance kept this program from complete discontinuance.

**Day 5 (Friday)** – Indian Health Service (IHS), 2014 IHS Bemidji Area Listening Session with Tribal Leaders.

In my opinion this was the “nuts and bolts” of the week. Tribal leaders voiced their concern on continued program fund reductions when the number of suicides, prescription abuse, illegal drug labs, cancer, care facility elder abuse, youth detention as well as adult incarceration are rising at an alarming rate.

I commented as a tribal leader that I was sorely disappointed that the root of many of the issues discussed during the week begin with mental health issues and the lack of funds and policy to address this great need. I further stated that by not including dollars for holistic healing and mental health or other forms of wellness besides the approved

practice of prescribing "legal" drugs, then IHS in essence is contributing to the practice of prescription abuse and a closer look is need on alternative wellness.

There was some discussion on the Affordable Care Act (ACA ), Medicaid and Medicare coverage or rather should one say the lack of coverage.

As mentioned earlier in this report Jenny Jenkins, position is open. Dr. Roubideaux requested that tribes within the Bemidji area discuss who they would like to sit in on the interviews and to bring forward questions and concerns to be addressed during interview.

In conclusion, it was a pleasure attending MAST and IHS Tribal leader roundtable and I thank you for allowing me to attend.

*Julie Shananaquet*