



# AMERICAN INDIAN Health & Family Services



## New Site Updates

**MINO-BIMAADIZIWIN**

“A GOOD LIFE”

April through June 2026



# AMERICAN INDIAN Health & Family Services

April 2026

From The CEO...



As we welcome the renewal that comes with spring, I am reminded of the strength, resilience, and forward momentum of our AIHFS community. Spring carries the spirit of growth, and this season beautifully mirrors the progress we are making across our organization.

Over the past several months, our team has been hard at work on several major initiatives that position AIHFS for a stronger, more innovative future. I want to take a moment to share updates on a few of the key projects shaping our path forward.

We recently advanced our strategic planning process, focusing on aligning our services, partnerships, and internal development with the needs of the community. This work is grounded in the voices of our staff, our clients, and our stakeholders. Our goal is simple but powerful: to ensure that AIHFS continues to thrive as a place of

healing, cultural connection, and holistic care.

One of the most exciting developments this quarter is the progress on our new building. This future space represents more than bricks and beams—it symbolizes our dedication to expanding services, strengthening community programming, and creating a welcoming environment where families feel supported and seen. We anticipate continued updates in the months ahead as construction and planning milestones unfold.

We are also moving forward with the implementation of a new, innovative Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, Athena. This upgrade will improve efficiency, enhance care coordination, and create a smoother experience for both clients and staff. Our teams have already begun training and workflow preparation, and we are excited about the positive impact this change will bring to patient care.

As we step into this new season, I am grateful for every staff member, partner, and community member who contributes to our mission. Your commitment fuels our progress and ensures that AIHFS remains a place where health, culture, and family come together.

I wish each of you a meaningful and energizing spring. Thank you for walking this path with us.

In community,

Chasity Dial  
CEO, American Indian Health & Family Services

# Now Offering Prescription Delivery

Feel the speed in  
our delivery to  
your door!



For More Info Call Us  
313-846-6030  
[www.aihfs.org](http://www.aihfs.org)

AMERICAN INDIAN  
Health & Family Services

Call or Inquire  
At Your Next Visit!

AIHFS has partnered  
with a pharmacy to  
mail prescriptions to  
your door!

Up to 90 day supply  
on most medications.



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# MEDICAL



## TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE IN PROGRESS

### New EHR System!

In March, our agency began a major transition to a new electronic health record (EHR) system. This type of change is no small task and naturally brings a variety of challenges. We deeply appreciate the understanding and flexibility our patients have shown during this period.

Switching EHR systems is a bit like having a stranger rearrange your entire kitchen—and then being expected to cook dinner that same evening. “Why is the spatula next to the flour?!” That’s exactly how it can feel for our team as we learn a new system while continuing to provide care.

We made this transition with one goal in mind: to improve patient care through better technology. Our previous system created several issues for patients, including the frequent problem of medication refill requests being sent to outdated pharmacies on file. We know how frustrating that could be, and addressing it was one of our highest priorities.

For our patients, this transition aims to reduce appointment wait times, enhance medication refill speed, and improve coordination with your specialists. We're confident these upgrades will lead to a more seamless and efficient visit.

We are optimistic that our new EHR will resolve many of these challenges and enhance your overall experience with us.

Thank you for your patience, your trust, and for being a valued part of our community as we navigate this change together.

Dr. J



**Spring is the time of change, and this year our agency is embracing a season of exciting growth!**

## **AthenaHealth - Electronic Health System**

We have adopted a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system designed to strengthen our medical departments communication and enhance the care we provide to a growing population. With this new system, it is essential for all patients to enroll in the Athena patient portal.

### **The Athena Patient Portal Will Allow You To:**

- **Access your medications**
- **Request refills directly from your provider**
- **Review notes from your recent visits**
- **View your referrals**
- **Receive immediate access to your lab results**
- **Send/receive messages securely with your care team**

We kindly ask all patients to take a moment to sign up for the patient portal so we can maintain seamless communication with your care team. If you have not received a link, please contact our office!

If you need assistance, our staff and front office coordinators are ready to help during your next visit to ensure you are enrolled correctly.

We look forward to this new chapter for AIHFS and are confident these changes will strengthen our connection with the community and enhance your care experience.

**- The AIHFS Team**

## NEW SITE UPDATES!



### Bemidji Area Leadership Visits Urban Indian Organization's New Facility in Detroit

In February, Indian Health Service's (IHS) Bemidji Area leadership toured the new American Indian Health & Family Service (AIHFS) building in Detroit, Michigan, which is nearing completion. AIHFS is a nonprofit health and community wellness center whose mission is to empower and enhance the physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental well-being of underserved populations in southeast Michigan.

After surviving arson in 1993, AIHFS has provided services in a 100-year-old church and is looking forward to moving into new facility later this year.

The center's approach integrates traditional Native American healing and spiritual practices with contemporary Western medicine in both treatment and prevention through an integrated care model.

Shown in the picture, from left to right, are: 1. Jess Anderson, IHS Bemidji Area Pharmacy Consultant, 2. Chasity Dial, AIHFS CEO, 3. Dr. Amy Hatcher, IHS Bemidji Area CMO, 4. Tammy King, IHS Bemidji Area ALN, 5. Dr. Chris Poole, IHS Bemidji Area Director, 6. Glenn Wilson, AIHFS COO, and 7. George Luckey, AIHFS Chairman.

## Construction Progress

We are pleased to share that construction on the new building continues to advance on schedule. The exterior walls have now been fully completed, providing the structure with a defined and secure envelope. Concrete work is actively underway on both the first and second floors, marking a significant milestone in preparing the interior spaces for future development.

Window installation has been successfully finalized, further enclosing the building and enabling interior work to progress efficiently. Metal framing has also begun throughout the facility, laying the groundwork for upcoming mechanical, electrical, and finish phases. In addition, permanent utility

(continued on next page)

## Coming Fall 2026!



power has now been installed on-site, supporting ongoing construction activities and improving operational efficiency.

To ensure the safety and integrity of the project, the site remains professionally monitored and secured 24/7.



## Behavioral Health



### Meet Our New Behavioral Health Director

**Jon Williams  
LMSW, MA**

Jon is a licensed social worker with 10 years of human services experience. He graduated from the University of Michigan with his Master's of Social Work and Master's of Arts in Higher Education. Prior to joining AIHFS he has served in executive leadership roles, community mental health agencies and crisis services. He is skilled in mental health counseling, clinical leadership and program evaluation. His professional philosophy is centered on lifelong learning, engagement, human connection and culturally responsive practices. He currently lives in Southwest Detroit with his wife and son. He enjoys reading, cooking, and spending time with his family.

# Healthy Start/Tribal Home Visiting



## MASHKIKI is BACK

with Anishinaabe Elder Charmaine Paulson,  
Grand Portage

You will learn how to make traditional herbal remedies for various ailments.

May 7 | 3:00pm-4:30pm



In support of  
Native American Health and  
Wellness:

# POST- PARTUM SUPPORT GROUP

AIHFS-Healthy Start/Tribal Home  
Visiting Program

Support Group via Zoom

11am-12pm

- March 25
- April 29
- May 27

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://shorturl.at/c9YNN>

Meeting ID: 832 4208 3690  
Passcode: 119060

For help signing in, call Salli  
313-900-8262





American Indian Health and Family Services-Healthy Start/Tribal Home  
Visiting Program

For more information, email questions to: [Healthystart\\_thv@aihfs.org](mailto:Healthystart_thv@aihfs.org)

# Fathers Support Group via Zoom

Healthy Start/  
Tribal Home Visiting  
Clients will receive  
a \$25 gift card for  
attending



Contact Salli at 313-900-8262 or healthystart\_thv@aihfs.org

## This is a Zoom Meeting

11am -12pm

- April 15
- May 13

Meeting Link:

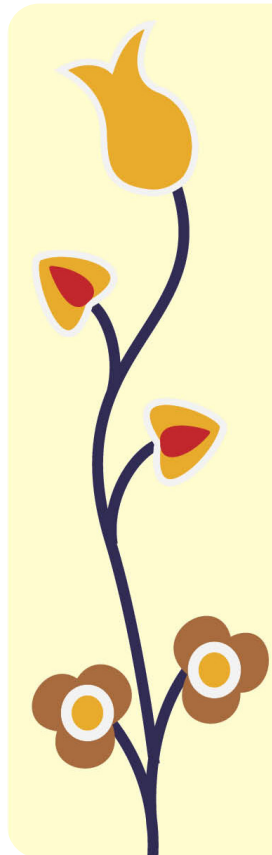
<https://shorturl.at/ojmbz>

Meeting ID: 841 5342 6468

Passcode: 630276



Clients who attend  
this event will be  
able to browse  
our inventory of  
supplies and take  
some items home  
with them. Bring  
your children



## Healthy Start FAMILY PLAYGROUP

An Interactive Program for Parents  
with Children ages 0-4



- Arts & Crafts Supplies
- Games
- Coloring
- Storytelling

- MAR. 4, 2026
- APR. 1, 2026
- MAY 6, 2026

11am-12pm

**\*\*In the case of inclement weather, the family play group  
cancellation will be announced on our social media pages.**

CALL 313-900-8262 or  
[healthystart\\_thv@AIHFS.ORG](mailto:healthystart_thv@AIHFS.ORG) TO REGISTER

# Youth Groups



On February 21st, our youth group attended Michigan State University's Annual Powwow of Love. Our Dreamseekers were great sports about getting up early to make the drive over to East Lansing so we could all settle in for grand entry! We were all able to watch grand entry, multiple dance categories, and even participate in the circle through inter-tribals. The highlight of the trip was our own Adon

Vazquez being called to judge all of the men's categories; he extended his knowledge to our youth by having them stand with him during judging to help explain what he was looking for. We look forward to attending the University of Michigan Powwow in April and we thank our Native Connections grant and Song Foundation donation for making this field trip possible.



**Save The Date!**

**Children's Mental Health Awareness Day**

**May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**from 5-7pm at AIHFS**

**All are welcome to join our activities and programming!**

# AIHFS Youth Summer Program

DreamSeekers offers summer programming that integrates cultural teachings, physical wellness, and social emotional learning for ages 5 to 17

Summer program runs from June 8<sup>th</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup> Monday through Thursday from 10am - 4pm

To register, call 313-846-3718 or email [youth@aihfs.org](mailto:youth@aihfs.org)

## New Editions to Clinic



We have new editions in the entryway of our clinic! After you get buzzed into our clinic entryway, immediately on your left will be our new vending machine and drug drop box. Both items were brought to us as part of an Urban Indian Drug Overdose prevention program. The program was funded by Seven Directions, the National Council of Urban Indian Health, the National Network of Public Health Institutes and Safe States.

Items accepted in the drug drop box include: prescriptions (Schedule II-V controlled & non-controlled substances), Vitamins, prescription ointments, prescription patches and over-the-counter medications. Items NOT accepted include: needles, inhalers, aerosol cans, thermometers, lotions or liquids, and hydrogen peroxide. Please remember to remove any identifying information from any labels before dropping into the box.

The vending machine is filled with hand warmers, Narcan, feminine hygiene kits, and shower kits. The items are free, you just enter the number on the keypad that corresponds to the number listed under each item in the row.

# 48 Hours in Newark, New Jersey



**by Shelly Nimocks-Hinshaw**

Office Coordinator

On February 10th 2026 I flew to Newark, New Jersey to speak on a panel for inside Edge Consulting. I left at 11:30 am and returned February 11th, 2026 at 8pm. I travelled a fast 48 hours to represent my agency. I was 1 out of 3 individuals flown to the Grand Hotel for an Inside Edge presentation to their staff.

Inside Edge is a consulting company working on bridging the gaps between underserved communities and medical innovators. Their goal is to get more diversity in research so the medical playing field is fair. I had formed a relationship with representative Christie Edwards when she came to visit AIHFS in the past. She has been a guest for community focus twice. I was flattered when my CEO, Chasity Dial, and Christy Edwards requested I go to NJ and be a part of a panel.

Inside Edge refers to their community connections as TRUSTKEEPERS. I am proud to be one out of hundreds of TRUSTKEEPERS around the world to assist in closing the gap and bringing an understanding to the Inside Edge Staff and the communities they serve. Besides myself, I shared a panel with two additional TRUSTKEEPERS. Below is a bit about them.

Ms. ShLanda Burton is the founder of the



(Shelly is pictured above on the far right)

National Birth Coalition in South Carolina. Her mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals in low-income communities. She aims to eliminate health disparities by advocating for culturally competent policies and providing education on birth, health and nutrition. It was a pleasure having her bubbly personality around me and a joy from the beginning to the end. You can reach her at: [www.thenationalbirthcoalition.com](http://www.thenationalbirthcoalition.com).

Mr. Ian Haddock founder of The Normal Anomaly Initiative located in Texas, helps Black queer plus persons to overcome barriers and stigmas. His goal is to empower and help Black, queer plus individuals find their voice and move up and out into this world, respected and seen. This man was a powerful speaker in every way. You can make contact at: [info@normalanomaly.org](mailto:info@normalanomaly.org).

Please take a look at their sites and share their info to others. Their agencies are not from Michigan, but perhaps you know someone from their communities who need assistance. These groups are open to everyone and see a need for Black & Brown communities specifically. I look forward to working with them again.

## Meet Our Newest Board Members



### MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



The Honorable Steven J. Morello is a Catholic Deacon currently serving as the Missionary to the American Indian for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Before that, he was in private practice in his own law firm, Native Law Group PC. NLG has represented Steve's Tribe, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, providing General Counsel, Director

of Government Relations, and Chief Ethics Officer Services. Prior to this, Steve served at the Department of Energy in a dual capacity as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs and the first Director of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (an office established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005).



### MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



Petersen N. Decker (ThD, JD, MBA, AB), is a former US Navy Captain with multiple overseas senior command tours. He now serves at the US Army's Detroit Arsenal as a Native American Indian and Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager in addition to the Combat Logistics/Bridging and General Counsel staffs. Past assignments include investment banking in New York, local counsel and mergers & acquisitions at a Europe-based law firm, and automotive in

Detroit and England. Dr. Decker's volunteer work supports community nonprofits, faith-based organizations, Veterans groups, historical societies, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Other affiliations include the National Native American Bar Association and Society of American Indian Government Employees. He is a published legal author and a daily longer distance runner.

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Now Offering Easy & Safe Appointments**



AMERICAN INDIAN  
Health & Family Services

[www.aihfs.org](http://www.aihfs.org)

*Connecting care with a culture of comprehensive wellness*

## Holiday Closures

### April

April 6 - Floating Holiday

### May

May 25 - Memorial Day

### June

June 19 - Juneteenth



**Missed this newsletter in your mailbox or email?**



**To receive the newsletters**, please email John Marcus at [jmarcus@aihfs.org](mailto:jmarcus@aihfs.org) to be added to the AIHFS email list. If you need a hard copy mailed to you, please call the front desk and give them your information to be added to the mailing list. If you change your address, please let us know. We want to keep you updated on all the events at American Indian Health and Family Services.

# March was Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

March 6, as part of National #DressInBlueDay, we put on our favorite blue shirts, and other clothing items, to support cancer screening and to honor the fighters, survivors, and loved ones lost to colorectal cancer.



## How to Support AIHFS!

Only with your support can AIHFS continue to try to meet the physical, spiritual, emotional and mental wellbeing needs of Native American families and other underserved populations in Southeastern Michigan. Additionally, as a 501(c)(3), your generous support is tax-deductible.

**Won't you make a donation today to help us get closer to meeting these needs?**

To donate by check or money order  
please send payable to:

American Indian Health & Family Services  
P.O. Box 810, Dearborn, MI 48121-0810

To donate online:  
[www.aihfs.org/donate/](http://www.aihfs.org/donate/)

Or, use this QR Code >>>



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**AIHFS**  
**4880 Lawndale**  
**Detroit, MI 48210**

**Return Service Requested**

## Services Provided at AIHFS

Medical Services  
 Women's Care  
 Maternal Health  
 Diabetes Health & Education  
 Health Education & Outreach  
 Immunizations & Flu Shots  
 HIV/AIDS Testing & Referrals

Insurance Enrollments  
 Substance Abuse Counseling  
 Behavioral Health Counseling  
 Psychiatric Services  
 Case Management  
 Cultural Consolation  
 Youth Programming

Tobacco Cessation  
 Native Healthy Start  
 Sweat Lodge  
 Community Garden  
 Cooking Classes  
 Annual Events  
 Fitness Classes

**Here at AIHFS we offer great care & services for your health care needs.**

If there is anything we can be more helpful with, please let us know!



### Clinic Hours:

Monday	9:00 - 5:00pm
Tuesday	9:00 - 5:00pm
Wednesday	7:30 - 6:30pm
Thursday	9:00 - 5:00pm
Friday	9:00 - 5:00pm

**Clinic: 313-846-6030**

**Visit us at: [www.aihfs.org](http://www.aihfs.org)**