

DIRECTOR NAMED FOR THE MIDWEST AREA TRIBAL HEALTH BOARD

July 2, 2015

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC), a program of Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. (GLITC), is pleased to announce that Kara Schurman has been selected as the Director of the Midwest Area Tribal Health Board (MATHB). Though the new area wide Health Board was launched through the efforts of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) about two years ago, a Health Board Director and administrative home was needed. Bemidji Area Tribal leaders have long recognized that other Indian Health Service Areas across the country have benefitted from their Health Boards in numerous ways to address long standing health issues.

GLITEC sought to identify the Health Board as the Advisory Council to oversee a new CDC grant award, "Bemidji Area Leaders Acting for Change (BALAC)". Ms. Schurman will support MATH Board members to: engage in strategic planning; provide advisement to the program; engage in leadership development opportunities and partner with Tribal leaders across the region to lead and support local efforts to implement policy, systems and environmental changes to improve health.

Kara is Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe and Eastern Shawnee of Oklahoma, from Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminology & Law Studies and Political Science from Marquette University and a Master's of Science in Criminal Justice from UW-Milwaukee. Since 2012, Kara has served as the Project Director for the Increasing Cultural Congruence Among Nurses in Wisconsin grant housed at GLITC. Kara was also recently nominated for appointment to the Northern Highland Area Health Education Center Board of Directors. Kara currently serves on the Board of Directors for End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin and as a member of the Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse. She also has over 10 years of experience in coordinated community response and cultural collaboration and has given numerous presentations and trainings on cultural congruence and violence against Women.

"GLITEC staff are thrilled to have Kara join the BALAC team," says GLITEC Director Kristin Hill. "This grant opportunity springs Tribal leadership into action in support of policy, systems and environmental changes to improve the health and wellbeing of area tribal communities. Kara brings knowledge, experience and leadership skills to support the efforts of the emerging Health Board, a group of dedicated Tribal representatives who are striving for better health in their communities".

Kara adds, "I am very excited to join a team of such motivated individuals and be a part of the solution to promoting health and wellness in Indian country. I look forward to helping an idea take shape and promote the Health Board as a leader among Tribal communities."

Great Lakes Inter-tribal Council, Inc. is a consortium of twelve federally recognized tribes located in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, with offices on the Lac du Flambeau Chippewa reservation.

For more information:

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GLITEC

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