

## Key Objectives

- **Addressing the Opioid Crisis:** Participants will engage in discussions around the opioid epidemic, including the principles guiding trauma-informed care, stigma reduction, and substance misuse interventions. The conference will explore strategies for encouraging behavior that promote positive change and examine the critical roles of healthcare professionals, educators, social service providers, the judicial system, and community leaders in supporting individuals struggling with addiction.
- **Cultural Relevance in Treatment:** The conference will highlight the importance of cultural identity and its influence on recovery and abstinence. Attendees will examine therapeutic models that integrate cultural components and explore how these approaches can improve outcomes for minority populations.
- **Enhancing Clinical Competence:** Through interactive sessions, clinicians and participants will develop greater awareness of personal biases, deepen their understanding of the unique identities of minority groups, and gain tools to navigate challenges in treatment settings. The goal is to build confidence in applying culturally responsive practices in opioid-related care.
- **Suicide Prevention and Support:** The conference will provide education on suicide prevention through advocacy, resource connection, and community support. Participants will learn how to identify risk factors, intervene effectively, and support individuals and families impacted by suicide.

## Target Audience

This conference will benefit HTW, behavioral health and victim service providers, law enforcement, health care professionals (physicians, nurses, advanced clinical practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, nurse practitioners), educators, community organizers, human service workers, court personnel, therapists, addiction and recovery specialists, first responders, and students.

## Conference Keynote Speakers



Dan Griffin,  
M.A.



Barb  
Smith



James  
Vukelich

## Conference contacts

- ▶ **Carol Jackson** | 989.775.4801  
*Magistrate, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court*
- ▶ **April Osburn** | 989.774.7107  
*Executive Director, Mid Central Area Health Education Center, CMU College of Medicine, and Central and Western AHEC*
- ▶ **Inquiries:** [midcentralahec@cmich.edu](mailto:midcentralahec@cmich.edu)

## Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Central Michigan University College of Medicine and Mid Central Area Health Education Center. CMU College of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Central Michigan University College of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 8.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Central Michigan University Social Work Program, an accredited social work education program, is authorized by the Michigan Licensure Law Administrative Rule 338.2965 to award Michigan social work continuing education contact hours. For this program, 5 CE hours of live training will be awarded for the entire first day and 3 CE hours for the entire second day up to a maximum of 8 CE hours for the full event.

12 EMS CEs approved for all levels, including Community Integrated Paramedic by MDHHS - BEPESoC (excluded presenter presentations: Sam Anglin and Rebecca Simkins Nowak).

Pending approval - EMS CEs pending State of Michigan approval.

*DISCLOSURE: The planners and speakers for this activity have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.*



Presented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs  
and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

**Nov. 5 & 6, 2025**

**Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort**  
Mount Pleasant, Mich.

*The Bureau of Indian Affairs' mission is to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaskan Natives.*



Brought to you by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and  
the Central and Western Area Health Education Center



The one-and-a-half day summit will feature presentations and break-out sessions addressing co-occurring conditions and issues surrounding both legal and illegal substance use and abuse disorders. The training will highlight best practices that influence individual behaviors, promote positive change, and reduce recidivism. Participants will also explore the science and evidence-based approaches behind substance misuse prevention and treatment.

This event brings together leading professionals from the legal, medical, public health, and community sectors to collaborate on actionable strategies. Emphasis will be placed on innovated, grassroots, community-based approaches to prevention, intervention, and treatment for individuals, families, and communities.

# Conference Agenda

*\*Information subject to change*

## Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025

**7:30 – 8:30 AM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Registration & Breakfast**
  - Networking and vendor viewing

**8:30 – 9:00 AM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Welcoming Remarks**
  - **Tim J. Davis**, SCIT Tribal Chief
  - **Alice Jo Ricketts**, SCIT Tribal Council Chaplain
  - **Erik Rodriguez**, SCIT Public Relations
- **Opening Grand Entry & Prayer**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Keynote: The Four Horsemen**
  - **Dan Griffin**, M.A.
  - Complex interactions between trauma, shame, mental health, and addiction.

**10:30 – 11:00 AM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Break/Vendor Viewing**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** | Ballrooms  
**Breakout Sessions (Workshop-based sessions)**

- A. **Looking at Things from the Four Directions**
  - **Patrick McCoy**, M.A., B.S. (*Black River Room*)
  - Exploring inclusion, personal biases, and cultural engagement in the workplace
- B. **From Suppression to Healing – How Unspoken Pain Fuels the Opioid Crisis- and the Leadership Needed for Lasting Change**
  - **Bernadette Atanga**, MD (*Swan Creek Room*)
  - Deepen awareness of how unresolved emotional pain, trauma, and cultural disconnection contribute to opioid use

C. **Isabella County Overdose Response**

- **MMR Team – Burke Duzenbury & Ben Secson** (*Saginaw Room*)
- Local overdose trends and naloxone protocol

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Lunch & Ziibiwing Cultural Performance**
  - Cultural sharing

**1:00 – 2:00 PM** | Entertainment Hall  
**Breakout Sessions (Workshop-based sessions)**

- A. **Treating Chronic Pain and Opioid Use Disorder through a Humanistic Lens**
  - **Juliette Perzhinsky**, MD, MSc, FACP, FASAM (*Black River Room*)
  - Chronic Pain & OUD
- B. **Expungement Clinic**
  - **Rebecca Simkin Nowak**, J.D. (*Swan Creek Room*)
  - Promoting recovery, second chances, and community wellbeing along with legal assistance
- C. **The 5 Cs**
  - **Dan Griffin**, M.A. (*Entertainment Hall*)
  - Using the 5 Cs to enhance team coordination and collaboration

**2:00 – 2:30 PM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Break/Vendor Viewing**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM** | Ballrooms  
**Breakout Sessions (Workshop-based sessions)**

- A. **Seeking out the Good Life**
  - **James Vukelich** (*Black River Room*)
- B. **SUDs: Where We've Been & Where We're Going**
  - **Colleen Lane**, MD & **Erin Lane**, JD Executive (*Swan Creek Room*)
  - Substance Use Disorders in the Intersection of Medical and Justice Systems
- C. **Same Stories, Different Rez**
  - **Terri Smith**, (Former Tribal Chief Judge) & **Amanda George** (*Saginaw Room*)
  - Healing and Reentry into Tribal Communities

**3:30 – 3:45 PM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Break**

**3:45 – 4:45 PM** | Ballrooms  
**Breakout Sessions (Workshop-based sessions)**

- A. **Peer 360 Presentation**
  - (*Deer/Moose Room, second floor*)
  - Community recovery (CME credits not provided)
- B. **Michigan Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Overdose Data Mapping & Emerging Drug Trends**
  - **Bob Kerr**, Retired Deputy Chief Police Officer & **Emily Godfrey**, MPH (*Saginaw Room*)
  - Michigan Overdose Response Strategy and Resources

**4:45 – 5:45 PM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Networking/Vendor Viewing**
  - **Erik Rodriguez**, SCIT Public Relations
- **Door prizes, giveaways & connections**

## Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

**7:30 – 8:30 AM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Breakfast & Registration**

**8:30 – 9:30 AM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Keynote: What's On Your Mind? Let's Talk About It**
  - **Barb Smith**
  - Addressing suicide through the lens of substance use

**9:30 – 9:45 AM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Break**

**9:45 – 10:45 AM** | Ballrooms  
**Breakout Sessions (Workshop-based sessions)**

- A. **Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative**
  - **Camille Nitschky**, LMT (*Black River Room*)
  - **1016 Recovery**
  - Recovery culture
- B. **A Journey Toward Wellness: Project Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center**
  - **Christina Denslinger**, Ph.D. & **Lizette Bailey** (*Swan Creek Room*)
  - Addressing factors in Adolescent recovery and lifelong wellness
- C. **Men, Trauma, and Violence**
  - **Dan Griffin**, M.A. (*Entertainment Hall*)
  - The link between male trauma and men's violence and abuse
- D. **Just for Today: Understanding Humility**
  - **Narcotics Anonymous** (*Deer/Moose/Fox Rooms*)
  - (*CME credits not provided*)
- E. **Spirit Foods of Our Ancestors**
  - **Sam Anglin**, Chef (*Saginaw Room*)
  - Cultural healing through food

**10:45 – 11:00 AM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Break**

**11:00 – 12:00 PM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Keynote: The Seven Grandfather Teachings**
  - **James Vukelich**
  - The Seven Generations, Seven Grandfather Teachings, and Applications for Today

**12:00 – 12:15 PM** | Entertainment Hall

- **Closing Ceremony**
  - **Erik Rodriguez**, SCIT Public Relations
  - Reflection and gratitude