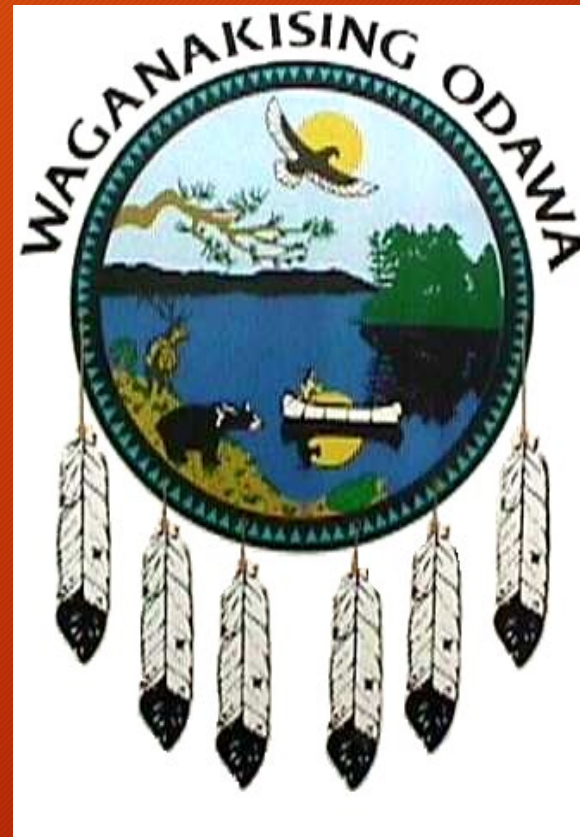


# Department of Human Services Binagek

## Social Services Programs



# LTBB Social Services Workers

*Sonja Fiel - Social Services Program Manager*



*Tosha Otto - Tribal Social Worker*



*Corey Bennington - Tribal Social Worker*



# What do the DHS Social Services Workers Do?

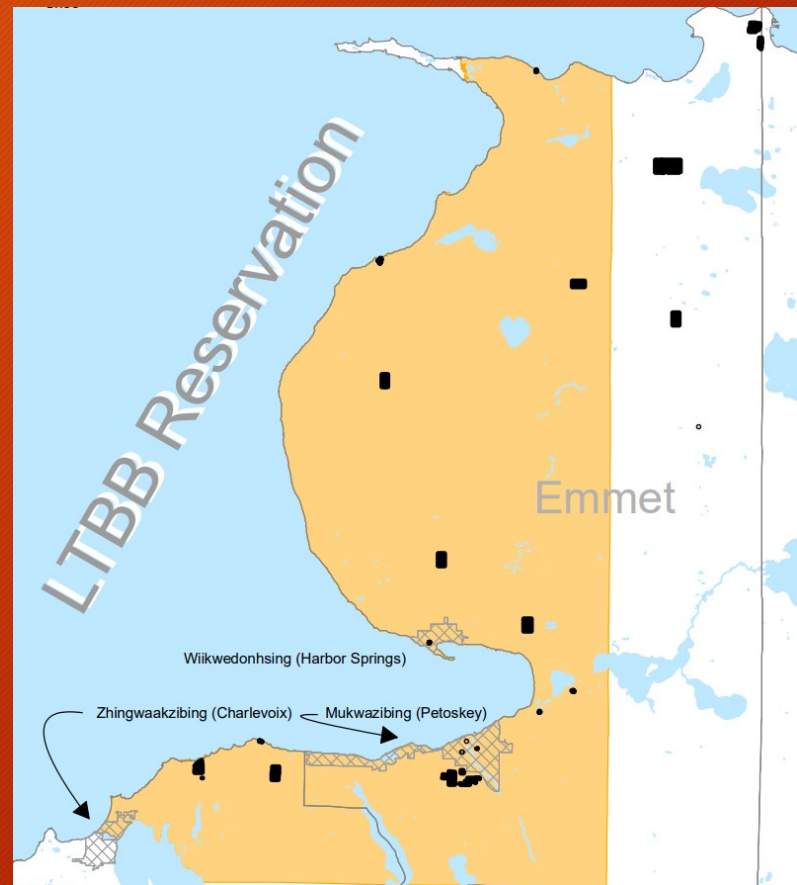
- Investigate child welfare matters
- Work with children and families in Foster Care
- Monitor LTBB child welfare cases throughout the United States
  - Offer Family Preservation Services
  - License our own Foster Care homes
- Help complete adoptions for LTBB children
  - Investigate adult welfare matters

# Jurisdiction

## On LTBB Trust Land:

LTBB DHS has original and exclusive jurisdiction over Tribal children and adults who reside on Trust Land.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is not involved in these cases.



# Jurisdiction

## Within LTBB Reservation Boundaries:

LTBB DHS investigates alongside the Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHHS) when a complaint is received on an LTBB enrolled or eligible child or adult.

- Go along on home visits
- Offer LTBB services that may be available to the family
- Can open cases even if MDHHS does not

# Jurisdiction

## Outside the LTBB Reservation Boundaries:

LTBB DHS monitors the Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHHS) investigation when involving a complaint with an LTBB enrolled or eligible child or adult.

- We ensure ICWA/MIFPA are being followed in child welfare cases
- Offer any LTBB services that may possibly be utilized by the family based on their location



# Children's Protective Services

Tribal Social Workers investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect when involving enrolled/eligible LTBB children. If a case is opened, these workers develop and implement case service plans to minimize and eliminate risk of harm to tribal children.



# Family Preservation

The Family Preservation Program helps those who want, or need, additional assistance when children are at risk of being placed out of the home. Clients work with Tribal Social Workers to develop and implement service plans.

This is a voluntary program and referrals can be made by anyone.

# Foster Care Services

DHS oversees foster care for children under the jurisdiction of LTBB Tribal Court. Our Social Workers develop and implement case service plans to reunify families as well as assist with adjustment of placement changes.

# Licensing Foster Care Homes

The LTBB Department of Human Services has the ability to license their own foster care homes. This includes completing background investigations, home studies and gathering information for the purpose of presenting to the Child Welfare Commission for licensing recommendations.

# Adult Protective Services

LTBB Social Workers investigate and provide protective services for adults. If necessary, Social workers develop and implement case service plans to minimize and eliminate risk of harm to all vulnerable adults.

# Funding for Social Services Programs

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- In-Home Care
- LTBB General Fund
- Inter-Tribal Council (ITC) funding available
- CARES Act Funding

# LTBB's Child Welfare Commission

- The Child Welfare Commission (CWC) is created by Statute and appointed by the Tribal Council to protect and promote the welfare of Tribal children, families and the best interest of the Tribe.
- The CWC is made up of five individuals, who meet on a monthly basis.
- At these meetings, LTBB DHS provides the CWC with case updates. The CWC provides their recommendations to both Tribal Court and State Court.

# LTBB Social Services Participates in...

- Quarterly Tribal State Partnership Meetings with MDHHS
- Continuous online & in-person training
- Workgroups & meetings with MDHHS

# Department of Human Services Social Services



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