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# GIISHKAANDAGO'IKWE

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HEALTH SERVICES

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2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT





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# Vision, Mission & Core Values

## MINO AYAWIN - GOOD HEALTH

We are a leader in innovative health care guided by the Grandfather and Grandmother teachings of the Anishinaabeg inspiring knowledge, strength, and empowerment for the purpose of lifelong mino ayawin (good health).

**NIBWAAKAAWIN**



*Wisdom*

**ZAAGI'IDIWIN**



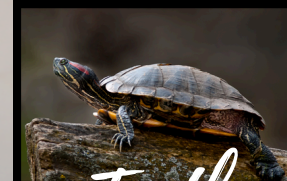
*Love*

**MANAAJI'IDIWIN**



*Respect*

**DEBWEWIN**



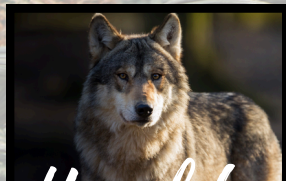
*Truth*

**ZOONGIDE'EWIN**



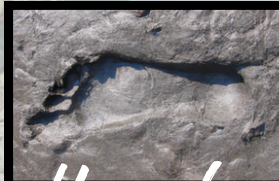
*Bravery*

**DABASENDIZOWIN**



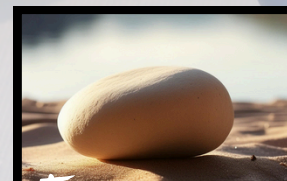
*Humility*

**GWEKWAADIZIWIN**



*Honesty*

**BOONENDAMOWIN**



*Forgiveness*



# Board of Directors



**Carl Big George Jr**  
Anishinaabeg of  
Naongashiing



**Deborah Ludeman**  
Mishkosiminiziibling  
**CHAIR**



**Earl Klyne**  
Couchiching  
**VICE CHAIR**



**Mariah Morrison**  
Mitaanjigamiing  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER**



**Carrie Atatise-Norwegian**  
Gakijiwanong Anishinaabe  
Nation



**Garry Windigo**  
Nigigoonsiminikaaning



**Carrie Boshkaykin**  
Chima'aganing



**Wayne Smith**  
Naicatchewenin



**Marcel Medicine-Horton**  
Manidoo Baa Witi Gong



**Clarissa Kelly**  
Ojibways of Onigaming

# Elders Advisory Council



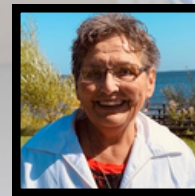
**Josephine Wood**  
Anishinaabeg of  
Naongashiing



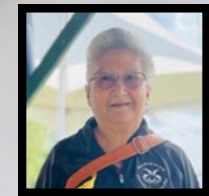
**Mike Kabatay**  
Chima'aganing



**Florence Yerxa**  
Couchiching



**Edna Morrison**  
Mitaanjigamiing



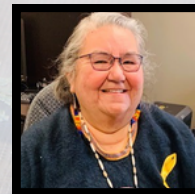
**Margaret Ottertail**  
Gakijiwanong Anishinaabe  
Nation



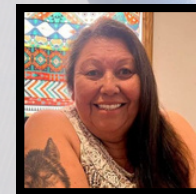
**Shirley Atwell**  
Nigigoonsiminikaaning



**Dennis Smith**  
Naicatchewenin



**Mookii Morrison**  
Manidoo Baa Witi Gong



**Hazel Copenace**  
Ojibways of Onigaming

# CORPORATE MESSAGE

*Boozhoo,*

On behalf of Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services, it is an honour to share the accomplishments and triumphs of our dedicated team members this past year. Collaboration and strong relationships are a fundamental part of who we are as an organization and we are very pleased to be able to share and celebrate in each other's successes through this Annual Report.

We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our employees who continue to work compassionately and tirelessly to serve our clients and their families. Your unwavering commitment and dedication to advancing the work of the organization is truly valued. At Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services we have a wonderful team of caring employees, contract staff and managers who continue to be successful in meeting the ever-changing day-to-day challenges and rising above the usual requirements of their positions to tackle the pressures and increased workloads.

We wish to offer our sincere appreciation and gratitude to our community leaders and front-line workers. You are at the heart of all the Health Centers in our communities, working diligently to ensure each individual's needs are met and to advocate for meaningful change in the health care system. Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services is grateful to work along-side you and remains committed to supporting you as you continue to carry out your important work. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence in shaping the future of health and wellness for the communities.

To our community members, your voices are integral to shaping the direction of our collective efforts and ensuring the advancement of our organizational vision of Mino Ayawin (Good Health). We remain committed to providing our service users with high-quality, safe care and we are grateful to hear your experiences so that we can be attentive and pro-active in responding to the evolving needs.

We are grateful to our Elders' Advisory Council and wish to acknowledge and recognize all of you for your devoted efforts and contributions. We thank you for your continued guidance in helping us to ensure that Anishinaabe traditional teachings, principles and ways of life are embedded within our approach to health and wellness. We value the time provided to support the organization and wish to express our sincere appreciation for your ideas and recommendations that assist us in continually improving our services.



On-going professional development remains a priority for the organization. We recognize that quality improvement begins with the organization's leadership and are pleased to share that the Board of Directors undertook important work throughout the year to participate in Board training where we reviewed and revised governance policies.

We are also extremely pleased to share that many of our management team members are nearing the completion of their First Nations Health Management Association (FNHMA) certification. This is a great achievement for our management team and the organization, as the FNHMA is a national association that is committed to the design and delivery of training, certification and professional development for those providing health services to Anishinaabe communities.

Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services remains focused on the Strategic Priorities outlined in our 5-year Strategic Plan. Together we have made progress and continue to emphasize the importance of communication and relationship building to ensure that the Anishinaabeg lead the organization so that the organization's successes are the communities' successes, that we deepen the mutual understanding and relationships between the Anishinaabeg and Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services, we continue to pursue and acquire the necessary fiscal, capital and human resources to support achievement of our strategic goals, and we ensure that clients have access to wrap around-services that promote mino bimaadiziwin. We are excited to share this year's Annual Report with you that outlines some of the key achievements in working towards these strategic priorities.

As we look to the year ahead and beyond, we acknowledge that our work is not finished. Through dedicated efforts, collaboration and commitment to our shared vision, we will continue to build on our successes and drive meaningful change for Mino Ayawin (Good Health).

*Kayla Caul-Chartier*  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



*~ Mùgwech ~*



# *In Loving Memory*

It is with heavy hearts that Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services wishes to remember and honour our dear friends and employees, Leeann Johnson-Mainville, and Miranda Skirten.



## *Leeann Johnson-Mainville*

**Leeann has been a valued member of Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services since 2014 when she joined the Home & Community Care team as a Registered Nurse.**

**Leeann was an amazing nurse and colleague who cared deeply for her clients and their families.**

**We will be forever grateful for her care and compassion that she provided to all those that she interacted with, and for her passion to teach and mentor others.**

## *Miranda Skirten*

**Miranda began her career with Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services in October 2021 as a nurse at the Mino Ayaa Ta Win Healing Centre and later transitioned to the Home & Community Care team, providing home care support, as well as foot care services.**

**We are grateful for her passion to care for others, her contributions to the organization and the support she provided to her clients.**



*Apsane go giga-kwiinauvenimigoo*

**UNTIL WE SEE YOU AGAIN, WE WILL ALWAYS MISS YOU**



# CORPORATE EVENTS

## LOVE IS LOVE PRIDE EVENT

Our Love is Love Pride event took place on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at The Point Park. It was a great day where we had teachings, heard our drum, and shared food, music and some laughs. We were privileged to hear the stories of community members of Treaty 3. Thank you to these individuals. We hope that their stories support others in their journeys. Thank you to our elders who attended and provided teachings. Thank you to our drummers, those that stood at the drum, and our fire keeper.



## NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

In partnership with many local organizations, 2024 marked the fourth year that we hosted a series of educational and commemorative events in honour of residential school survivors and those that did not make it home.

The commemoration began with a flag raising ceremony at the beginning of the week, included an Elders Dinner & Drum Social, and a Sunrise Ceremony throughout the week, and culminated with the Honour Walk & Pow Wow held on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, which saw over 1,000 people in attendance.

This multi-day initiative demonstrated our commitment to cultural respect, healing, and community engagement. By combining traditional ceremonies with inclusive public events, it fostered accessibility, intergenerational connection, and a powerful sense of community.



# FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

## FINANCE

2024-25 was a year of realization for the Finance department. With the exponential growth of the organization, an operational priority was to explore options to amalgamate the current Human Resource Information and Finance systems into one electronic system. Currently we use three separate systems to handle the Human Resources, Payroll and Finance processes of the organization. We realized that by amalgamating the data systems offered many operational efficiencies. We reviewed several new products in the industry that would combine these processes and provide the timely accurate information that is integral in the current landscape. We needed a system that would provide accurate live data for Directors and Managers to easily utilize in program decision making and tracking employee information. After looking at systems we identified Workday as the best program that would combine these three areas into one integrated system. The new system will eliminate the three programs we currently use, as well as have the ability to work with the IT and security systems used across the organization. We are hoping for the new system to be live in 2025-26 fiscal year.

We are continually striving to provide fair compensation to our employees and have been working with the Human Resources department along with an external consultant to review our current salary system and structure. This review was ongoing during the course of 2024-25. We are currently working on the financial feasibility of the new structure with an anticipated implementation date within the 2025-26 fiscal year.

We were fortunate enough to receive new program funding from Ontario Health North and the Provincial Ministry of Health in 2024-25. However, we are still advocating for additional funding sources to support the expansion of the Women's Shelter that is to be operational in late 2025-26 as well as increases in our current base funding to support increases in operational and costs of living expenses that have occurred.

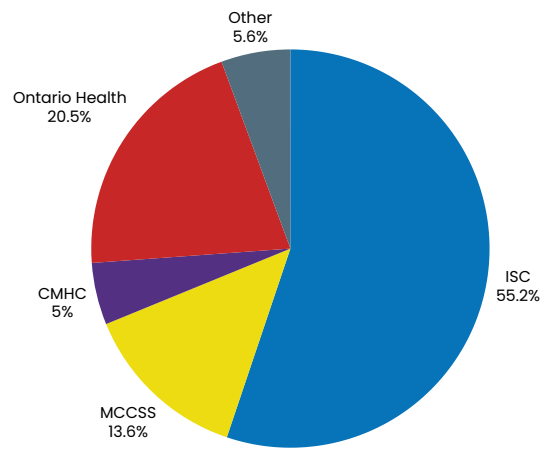
I would like to thank the members of the Finance Team for their tremendous dedication and hard work over the past year, with system issues and staffing shortages they have shown how truly amazing they are. Thank you Team!

*Stacy Hakkala*

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION



# Sources of Funding



A total of **\$26,457,277** in funding was received in 2024–2025.

Funders include:

- Indigenous Services Canada (\$14,597,249)
- Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (\$3,608,719)
- Canadian Mortgage & Housing Corporation (\$1,332,427)
- Ministry of Indigenous Affairs (\$158,333)
- Other (\$1,293,736)
- Grand Council Treaty #3 (\$35,125)



## ADMINISTRATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2024-25 we saw a growth to our Administration and IT Teams. To better help support our growing organization, we added a part-time IT Assistant to meet the organization's IT needs. We also welcomed the addition of another full-time Custodian to assist with custodial duties at our many locations. With the growth in our services we also had to increase the size of our vehicle fleet this year in order to provide efficient services to our communities.

For the safety and security of our employees we installed ring cameras at our locations in 2024-25. We also established a new VPN Network to protect the security of our servers and the data contained within them. Our IT team developed a customized incident and hazard reporting system to ensure the proper tracking, identification, and resolution of any organization incidents and/or hazards.

Another area of importance for the organization was our responsibility to privacy. Two of our team members successfully passed their Privacy Officer Training for Healthcare Organizations offered by the Osgoode Hall School of Law. The organization has begun the review of our Privacy Policies and will be updating Privacy Policies, Forms and Procedures in the next fiscal year.

*~ Mägwech ~*

# HUMAN RESOURCES

*Boozhoo,*

On behalf of the Human Resources Department, I am pleased to present this year's annual report. As always, we remain proud of the remarkable contributions made by our employees across Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services. Their dedication, resilience and commitment to our mission, vision and values continue to drive our success and shape our culture.

Over the past year, Human Resources focused on supporting our employees through strategic initiatives, meaningful engagement and operational improvements that foster a safe inclusive and productive workplace. The following report outlines key achievements during the 2024-25 Fiscal year.

*Dina Gardiman*

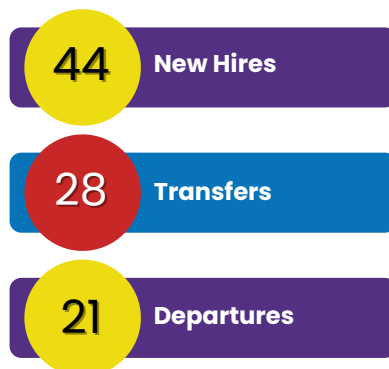
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

## Recruitment & Staffing

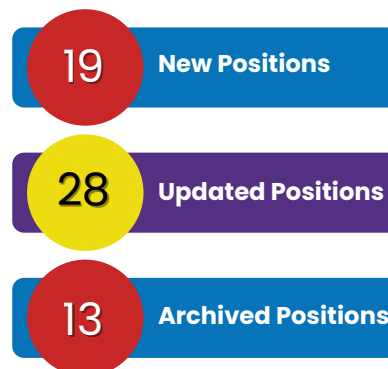
As the organization continues to grow, Human Resources remained focused on supporting recruitment and staffing to meet evolving operational needs. Key efforts have included attracting and retaining qualified candidates and working closely with department managers and directors to ensure the best fit for each position.

The following statistics highlight the impact of these initiatives:

### TOTAL # OF EMPLOYEES - 158



### POSITION CHANGES - 60



Two key positions included in these statistics are the newly created roles of the Training and Development Coordinator and the Director of Strategy and Relations. The Training and Development Coordinator is a newly established role in the Human Resources Department, developed in order to support a cost-effective consistent approach to staff training and development. The Director of Strategy and Relations is a newly established corporate position, focused on strategic and operational planning, strengthening relationships with communities and oversight of corporate communications and administration.

We implemented several new initiatives designed to strengthen our organization and support our employees. These changes reflect our ongoing commitment to staying responsive and forward thinking. Aligned with our strategic goals, we:

- Created an Annual Holiday On-Call Pay policy, to provide fair compensation for employees required to be available for work over the holiday period.
- Created a simple way for employees to provide feedback on Wellness Programing and All Staff Meetings directly through our internal portal.
- Increased our mental health benefit amounts to ensure employees have sufficient funds to access effective and meaningful mental health supports.
- Created a new salary scale with the roll out taking place in the next fiscal year. The most significant outcome of this project was the successful revision of our job evaluation tool to include traditional and conventional knowledge as valid forms of job-related expertise. This means that we now recognize both traditional and conventional knowledge when determining pay, replacing our previous system that considered only formal institutional education.

This year, we continued to deliver annual corporate training. All staff participated in Lateral Violence to Lateral Kindness training and Seven Grandmother and Grandfather Teachings. While managers, directors and select positions participated in Debriefing training.

## ***Occupational Health & Safety***

We continued to prioritize workplace safety through a variety of occupational health and safety initiatives. These efforts aimed to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all employees while promoting awareness and compliance with safety legislation as follows:

- Created an electronic Incident Reporting System in collaboration with our IT team, replacing the previous paper –based process.
- Introduced safety-focused training presentations at our bi-monthly All Staff meetings to maintain a strong focus on workplace safety and discuss Ministry of Labour initiatives.
- Provided Workplace Inspection training to managers and custodial staff, while managers also participated in specialized health and safety training for Managers.
- Continued to provide mandatory corporate occupational health and safety training for all employees.



# Culture

A variety of cultural activities and learning opportunities were available to employees. These experiences aimed to support employee well-being, understanding, respect and connection to Anishinaabeg traditions and values as follows:

- Ribbon Shirt/Skirt Making
- Jewelry making
- Traditional birch bark basket making
- Strawberry picking/teachings and jam making
- Orange shirt beading
- Rock your Mocs
- Anishinaabemowin Language Table
- 10 days of Nishmas
- Cedar bath ceremonies
- Feast bags
- Leather mitten/glove making
- Ogitchidaa teachings
- Bring your own beading
- Earning/necklace making
- Wild ricing



# Wellness

In addition to the cultural activities that support employee well-being, our Wellness Committee offered the following initiatives:

- Wellness walk across Southern Treaty 3 challenge
- Reading challenge
- Golf membership
- Pride decorating contest
- Eat green challenge
- Book bingo
- All staff wellness golf day
- Halloween costume contest
- Christmas party treats and trivia

~ Mügwech ~

# STRATEGY & RELATIONS

*Boozhoo,*

Community engagement sessions were held in 2022-23 with the 10 Anishinaabeg communities in Southern Treaty 3 that Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services provides care to. The feedback and stories shared during these sessions were crucial in developing our 2023-28 Strategic Plan. As an organization, we take immense pride in our commitment to being a client-centered and community driven service provider. To demonstrate our commitment to our communities, clients, and to delivering quality service, we developed a position that is solely focused on driving the initiatives identified through the community engagement sessions. The Director of Strategy and Relations oversees the implementation of our operational and strategic plan initiatives, internal and external communications strategies, and acts as the senior leadership lead for our Quality Improvement Committee.

*Jena Thomasson*

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & RELATIONS

## ***Looking Ahead***

The department's priorities are as follows:

- Hire a Communications Coordinator
- Develop a comprehensive communication framework tailored to each community's needs
- Evaluate internal processes, resources, and communication strategies
- Develop reporting systems and metrics for assessing client experiences including a review of corporate and program level client satisfaction surveys as well as the processes for client and community feedback
- Collaborate with the senior leadership team to drive strategic initiatives and track the progress and effectiveness of outcomes
- Identify opportunities, challenges, and trends in the health and social service landscape to inform practices, standards, and strategic directions

Each member of the Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services team works hard to not only provide services and programming, but to also ensure our client and community voices are heard. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each member of this amazing team in their continued dedication to and advocacy for our clients and communities.

*- Mûgwech -*



# BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH SERVICES

*Boozhoo,*

Over the past year, our Behavioural Health Services team has continued to demonstrate unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of the individuals and communities we serve. Through exceptional teamwork, culturally grounded practices, and trauma-informed care, our dedicated employees have connected with and supported hundreds of individuals seeking Mino Ayawin (Good Health). None of this work would be possible without the continued support of our Anishinaabeg Community Leadership, Elders, Board of Directors, and all our partners.

Behavioural Health Services underwent some structural changes this past year. The role of Director of Behavioural Health Services was vacated and filled internally. Management of the Mino Ayaa Ta Win Healing Centre was divided amongst two positions. The Manager of Withdrawal Management Services & Community Addictions Services/RAAM (Rapid Access Addictions Medicine); and the Manager of the Mino Ayaa Ta Win Healing Centre, responsible for the oversight of the 56 Day Bed-based Treatment program as well as Pre-Treatment and Aftercare services.

Working to address individual mental health, substance use, and trauma recovery—while also responding to complex community challenges rooted in colonialism and multi-generational trauma—is both challenging and deeply rewarding. I am pleased to share some highlights from the 2024-25 fiscal year.

*Andrey Mikkelsen*

DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH SERVICES





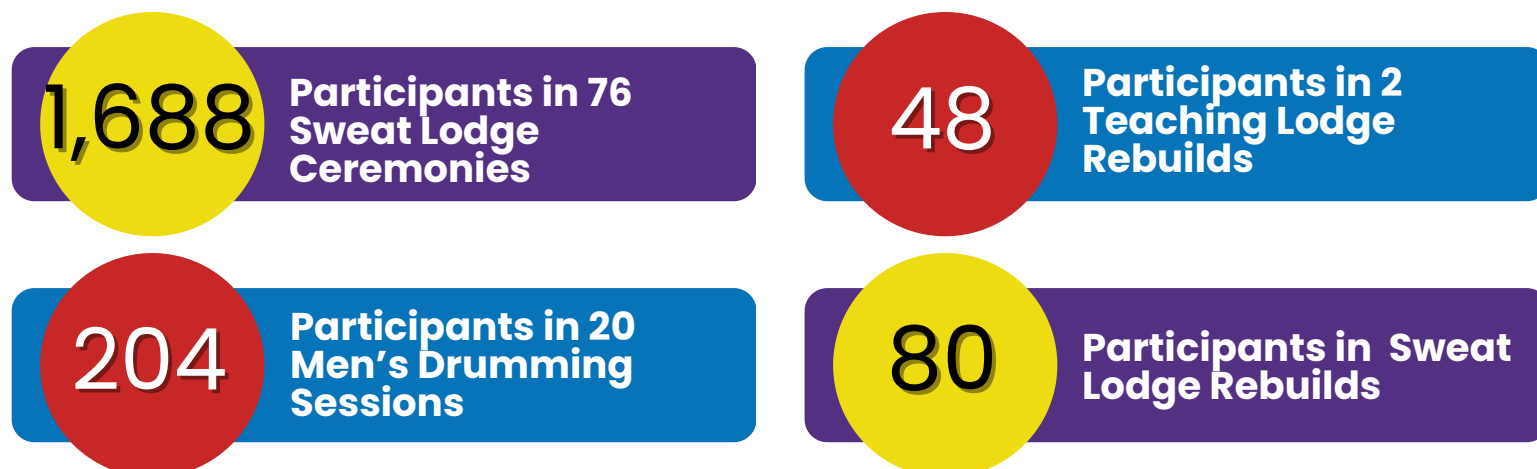
# MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

This year, our Mental Health Services team continued to demonstrate profound dedication, adaptability, and empathy—serving not only within the walls of our counselling spaces, teaching lodge or sweat lodge, but also in the heart of each First Nations community we work with. They meet individuals and families where they're at, often extending their care far beyond scheduled appointments and conventional working hours. Whether providing trauma-informed crisis support, walking alongside Elders on their healing journeys, supporting youth, or simply holding space for someone in emotional distress, our team leads with compassion. Their daily actions reflect empathy, patience, and unwavering support for those in need.

## *Cultural Community Support*

Among our most accessed and impactful services, the Cultural and Community Support program continues to foster mental and emotional well-being, cultural reconnection, and community resilience. Led by our dedicated Cultural Community Support Worker and Shkaabewiz, this program offers bi-weekly sweat lodge ceremonies, men's drumming nights, and support for other community lodges throughout the region.

Grounded in Anishinaabeg worldviews and traditions, the program creates safe spaces for people across the lifespan to gather, share, laugh, reflect, and heal. Throughout the 2024-25 year, **nearly 1,600 individuals attended open community sweat lodge ceremonies held at Behavioural Health Services (BHS)**. The program also responded to individual and family requests for ceremony whenever possible, continuing to honour the importance of culturally rooted healing.



# Counselling Services

**589** individuals received counselling services from the Mental Health Counsellors and Mental Health Therapist with **988** direct client encounters

This year, the team also participated in psychiatric consultation and education sessions with Dr. Jack Haggarty, Dr. Michelle Marlborough, and Dr. Chien-Shun Chen—partners from Lake of the Woods District Hospital Psychiatric Services. These collaborations enriched our clinical knowledge and enhanced the care we provide.

In response to growing demand and extended wait times, we took steps to expand therapeutic capacity. Our counsellors began intensive training in Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT), a structured, evidence-based approach that supports individuals experiencing emotional dysregulation, trauma, and self-harming behaviours.

This investment in professional development reflects our commitment to reducing wait times, enhancing service quality, and offering healing pathways that honour both clinical excellence and cultural identity.

## Clinical Case Management

A key structural enhancement this year was the recruitment and hiring of a Clinical Case Manager for the Mental Health Services team. This role has proven instrumental in identifying and supporting client needs in a timely and appropriate manner.

**55** individuals received services from the Clinical Case Manager with **268** direct client encounters

The role has helped fill service gaps and increased access to resources through internal and external referrals.



# SOCIAL EMERGENCIES

Throughout the past year, our Social Emergencies Team has continued to respond with cultural humility, deep respect, and empathy to urgent situations impacting the mental wellness of individuals in our communities. Their work has not only provided immediate support during emergencies but has also fostered trust and strengthened relationships across the region.

By integrating cultural awareness into every response, they have set a powerful example of how inclusive, trauma-informed care can transform lives. Together, their efforts have helped countless individuals, families, and communities navigate some of their most difficult moments.

## *Mental Health Direct Line*

The Social Emergencies Team works closely with our Mental Health Services team to monitor and respond to calls through the Mental Health Direct Line. Available during daytime hours, Monday to Friday, the line serves as a trusted point of contact for individuals seeking urgent mental health care. In addition to phone-based support, individuals can access face-to-face assistance through our walk-in service, receiving immediate emotional support, referrals, and stabilization.

In 2024-25, the **Mental Health Direct Line responded to 390 requests for support.** Together, the teams ensure that no call goes unanswered and no crisis unfolds without compassionate presence and professional care.

## *Training & Capacity Building*

Numerous training events were coordinated this past year to build community capacity and enhance emergency response.

**51** Mental Health First Aid

**19** Youth Mental Health

**21** Canadian Red Cross Standard First Aid/CPR/AED

**16** Canadian Firearms Safety

**31** Naloxone Training

**6** Ontario Hunter Education Course

**21** CTRI: Responding to Trauma and Grief for Indigenous Communities and Organizations



# Social Emergencies Coordination

*The Social Emergencies Team works collaboratively to respond to requests received through the program.*

Coordination of services is ongoing and responsive to the unique needs of each community. In 2024/25, the team provided crisis response and support across communities, with a total of **531 direct client encounters**.

Additionally, **the team hosted 17 community outreach events, serving 525 community members or displaced individuals** with hot meals and resources such as program information, naloxone kits, fentanyl testing strips, and condoms

## PREVENTION MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

AED	11
Condoms	570
Sharps Container	45
Naloxone Kits	184
Fentanyl Testing Strip	290
Safe Needle Handling Kits	6
Air Purifiers	3
Puncture Resistant Gloves	3
First Aid Kits	134
Life Jackets	4
AED Replacement Pads	5
Fire Blankets	70
Smoke Detectors	2

\*Materials/Supplies and Amount Distributed

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sharing Circles	18
Debriefing & Coping Strategies	10
Outreach Meals	525
Crisis Response Debrief	13
Seniors Lateral Violence, Conflict Management & Mediation	55
Drop In Support	56
Missing Person's Search	14
Seniors Wellness Sessions	22
Resource Booths	626

\*Event and Number of Participants



# Mental Wellness

*Our Mental Wellness Workers provide frontline emotional support and post-crisis follow-up for individuals and families. They often serve as bridges between community services and formal care systems, walking alongside clients with humility and steadiness—especially during times of tragic loss and compounded grief.*

In 2025, we welcomed a Mental Wellness Training and Development Coordinator to promote and strengthen community wellness. This role focuses on building community capacity by offering training events that address emerging health and social concerns.

## HIGHLIGHTS



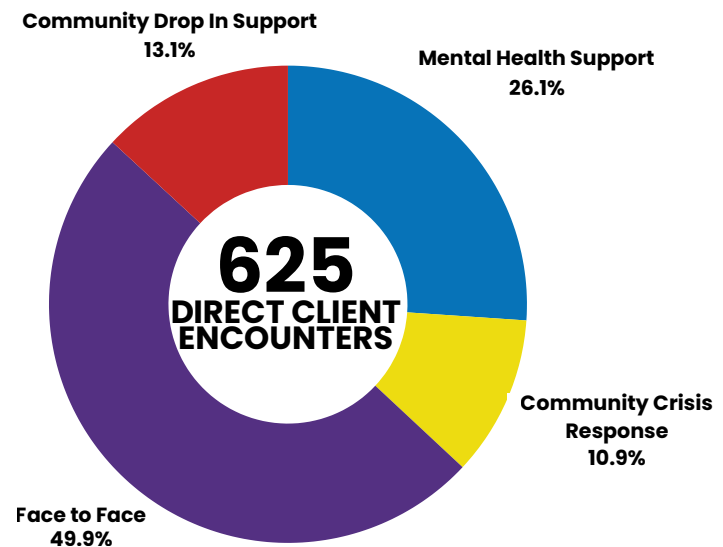
Program continues to offer free haircuts and manicures in communities.



Program continued Golf for Wellness, providing an opportunity for community members to golf at local courses. Additionally, the annual Youth Golf Camp took place, giving youth the opportunity to socialize, play, and build positive relationships.



Assisted with Manidoo Baa Witi Gong First Nations Fall Harvest, managing the wild rice station, in which students from Donald Young, Sturgeon Creek, and Our Lady of the Way schools had the opportunity to participate and learn about harvesting animals and medicines



# Land Based Counselling Program

Our Land-Based Counsellors continue to offer healing rooted in Anishinaabe ways of knowing and being, while fostering healthy connections to land and community in the Southern Treaty 3 region. Through ceremonies, cultural teachings, and outdoor activities, clients engage in healing and recovery by building relationships with Elders, medicines, and their own cultural identity. This work reclaims powerful pathways to wellness that go beyond clinical settings and has been especially impactful for individuals navigating historic and multi-generational trauma.

Throughout 2024-25, **workers from the Land-Based program had 374 Direct Client Encounters with individuals attending activities hosted by our counsellors.** Regular activities include bi-weekly women's hand-drumming, and monthly full moon ceremonies. As well, numerous cultural teaching opportunities are well attended. Some examples of these activities include cedar bath ceremonies, story telling sessions, Elder visits, medicine gathering, bear fat rendering, beading and sewing sessions and seasonal land-based community visits for activities such as harvesting wild rice in the fall, or maple sap in early spring. **A total of 1005 individuals participated in these various group activities over this past year.**



**Men's Drumming** - 20 participants at 3 sessions  
**Medicine Gathering** - 12 participants at 6 sessions  
**Land Based Community Visits** - 20 participants at 6 sessions  
**Drum Social** - 100 participants at 1 session  
**Community Event Collaboration** - 268 participants at 6 session  
**Women's Hand Drumming** - 224 participants at 23 sessions  
**Sit with an Elder** - 21 participants at 3 sessions  
**Fort Frances High School Outreach** - 66 participants at 8 sessions  
**Knowledge Sharing Naming Ceremony** - 15 participants at 1 session  
**Strawberry Teachings** - 15 participants at 1 session  
**Out on the Land** - 30 participants at 16 sessions  
**Full Moon & Sweat Ceremony** - 55 participants at 7 sessions  
**Cedar Bath Ceremony** - 41 participants at 2 sessions  
**Eagle Fan Teachings** - 13 participants at 1 sessions  
**Hand Drum & Songs Teachings** - 14 participants at 2 sessions  
**Outreach Hand Drumming** - 42 participants at 7 sessions  
**Bear Fat Rendering** - 8 participants at 1 session  
**Beaded Poppies** - 7 participants at 1 session  
**Medallion Making** - 5 participants at 1 session  
**Storytelling & Teachings** - 12 participants at 1 session  
**Leather Beaded Pouch** - 17 participants at 3 sessions



# Memegwaawag Anti-Human Trafficking Program

*Grounded in trauma-informed, culturally safe, and survivor-led approaches, the Memegwaawag Anti-Human Trafficking Program provides frontline support and resources to individuals experiencing exploitation or at risk of exploitation.*

In addition to direct services, the program works to prevent human trafficking through education and awareness initiatives, including community events, workshops, and presentations.

**63 individuals were supported by the Memegwaawag Program with 503 direct client encounters**

This year, the program coordinated numerous outreach and education events across the region. A major milestone was the establishment of the Fort Frances and Area Human Trafficking Coalition (FFAHTC) in June 2024—a cross-sector partnership that brings together law enforcement, social service providers, Anishinaabeg communities, legal services, healthcare, and education. The coalition aims to address human trafficking collaboratively and ensure streamlined support for survivors.



Community Chaining Event	60
Parents Anti Human Trafficking Training	42
MMIWG2S+ Summit	233
Student Presentation	11
Lunch & Learn	8
YWCA Anti Human Trafficking Panel	48
FFAHTC	16
Women's Domestic Violence Support Group	15
World Day Against Trafficking Walk & BBQ	120
Gang Prevention Awareness Workshops	125
International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women	80
Thanksgiving Feast for Displaced Individuals	50
MMIWG Tree Lightings	50
Dinner & Documentary	70
International Women's Day Sweat	18
You Are Not Alone Program	10
Women's Breakfast	20

\*Event and Number of Participants

# Wiidookodaadiwin

Construction of our Wiidookodaadiwin Women's Shelter began May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This initial phase includes eight beds. The projected completion date of phase one is March 2026.

We are also excited to share that we have received additional funding from Indigenous Services Canada for the construction of an additional five spaces and a cultural space.

Phase 1 is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2025, with phases 2 and 3 to be completed by spring 2026. We hope to begin staffing the shelter in the winter of 2026. Work is currently being done to engage with community leadership, members, elders and partners, including other successful shelters and those with lived experience to complete designing the day to day operations of the shelter including policy and procedures, resources, and job descriptions.



## Mobile Crisis Response

*Our Mobile Crisis Response workers, in collaboration with Treaty Three Police services provide rapid, trauma-informed support for individuals experiencing a crisis related to mental health and/or substance use.*

The program employs two workers, providing 12 hour coverage seven days a week to individuals via phone, text or in person, continually approaching their work with professionalism, clinical skill and cultural sensitivity. Our Mobile Crisis Response team work collaboratively with officers to offer de-escalation, safety planning, and pathways to recovery. This partnership has increased trust and reduced harm, especially in situations where justice and health intersect.

**106** individuals received services from the Mobile Crisis Response Team  
with **407** direct client encounters



# Client Success Story



*Molly Smith*  
*Niigaanibinesüik*

**MANIDOO BA WITI GONG FIRST NATIONS**

and borderline personality disorder. While working through past trauma, triggers, and finding ways to cope with my grief. My counsellor has helped me work through some of my hardest days, and I am grateful for their help.

Some of the ways I continue to live a healthy life is through connection with my culture, sewing, spending time in nature, and staying active. When I started my recovery, I was apprehensive about engaging in my culture. Accessing Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services has provided me many resources and learning opportunities to reconnect with my culture. Taking part in their sweats and cultural activities, has helped me to learn more about my culture and grow the connection with my spirit.

Throughout my experience with Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services I have learned how to live my life to the fullest, and I am appreciative of their commitment to helping others. Without the supports I have in my life today I would not be in the place I am today. Today my life is full of love, I can move forward without being afraid, and I can be grateful for the life I have created for myself.

Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services has helped me immensely in my recovery journey. My journey started two years ago when I made the decision to enter a treatment program for addiction. Before I accepted help, I struggled for many years with addiction and mental health problems. I was at a point where I could not manage my addiction while experiencing the heavy feelings and triggers related to past trauma and grief. I felt as though I could not live life anymore.

Upon returning from treatment, I knew that I needed more support to stay on the right path. I surrounded myself with positive influences and accepted any help I could find. Accessing cultural and counselling supports from Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services, while also setting up support provided by my community, I can live a healthy life.

Over the two years I have been in recovery, it feels as though I have lived many lives. I was handed many tools along my journey and with the help from my counsellor, I have learned to use them well. I faced many challenges such as learning to manage and live with anxiety, depression,



# MINO AYAA TA WIN HEALING CENTRE

## *Bed Based Addiction Treatment*

Our Bed-Based Treatment program completed six 28-day treatment cycles (three male, three female), providing services to a total of 53 individuals. Throughout the year, our treatment team also delivered pre-treatment programming to nine individuals.

In 2024-25, we began developing a new 56-day Bed-Based Addictions Treatment curriculum. This change was driven by consistent client feedback indicating the need for a longer program. Once the new curriculum was reviewed and approved, the treatment team received training to understand the content and deliver it effectively.

The new program is designed to help individuals participate in activities and ceremonies that foster a positive sense of Anishinaabeg identity. It also supports deeper reflection on their personal journeys and provides opportunities to learn and practice the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual skills necessary to embark on their recovery path.

## *Withdrawal Management & Community Addiction Services*

Our detox nurses continue to be the cornerstone of our Withdrawal Management Services team, offering compassionate, clinically sound, and culturally responsive care to clients navigating the most vulnerable stages of recovery.

**109 individuals were supported through safe withdrawal from our nurses with 9,440 direct client encounters**

Whether receiving services in one of the communities we serve or at the RAAM (Rapid Access Addiction Medicine) clinic in Fort Frances, clients can begin evidence-based, urge-reducing medication treatments for opioid and alcohol use disorders.

**595 individuals accessed RAAM services through the Community Addictions program with 3,923 direct client encounters**

Clients accessing Withdrawal Management Services and/or the Community Addictions Program consistently cite the kindness and professionalism of our nurses as crucial in their decision to pursue ongoing treatment.

**Their work is not only life-saving—it is dignity-restoring.**



Sincere appreciation is offered to every member of the Behavioural Health Services team. Your unwavering commitment, professionalism, and compassion have had a meaningful and lasting impact on the individuals, families, and communities we serve. From crisis response and counselling to cultural programming and community outreach, your contributions reflect a deep dedication to healing and wellness. We are grateful for your continued efforts and proud to walk this path together.

Central to all aspects of this work, is a deep respect for Anishinaabeg ways of knowing, being, seeing and doing. Culture and ceremony as a means to healing is foundational to the work being done. These approaches inform our services, strengthen our relationships, and restore pathways to wellness that honour identity, dignity, and community resilience.

As we move into the coming year, our commitment to enhancing service accessibility, integrating traditional healing practices, and advocating for sustainable funding remains steadfast. We also recognize the importance of caring for those who care for others. With an increased focus on workplace wellness and the implementation of Critical Incident Stress Management supports, we aim to address the impact of secondary traumatic stress on our staff. Guided by empathy, cultural wisdom, and innovation, our Behavioural Health Services team will continue to walk alongside individuals and communities on their healing journeys—while ensuring our own team is supported, resilient, and well.

*- Mûgwech -*



# HOME & COMMUNITY CARE

*Boozhoo,*

Holding our strategic directions at the forefront, this fiscal year saw Home and Community Care become its own department, enabling more fulsome and focused support to these teams to meet the ongoing health care needs of the Anishinaabeg communities we serve.

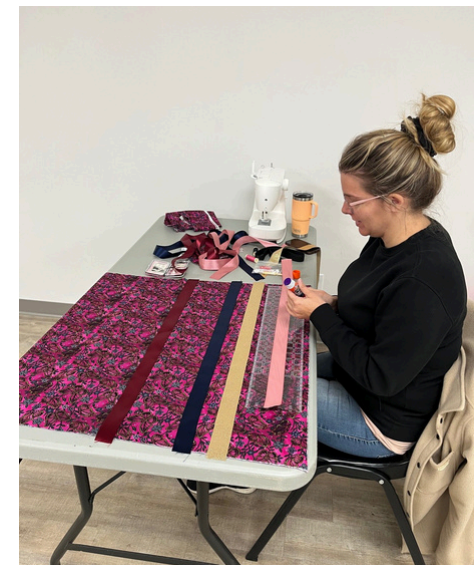
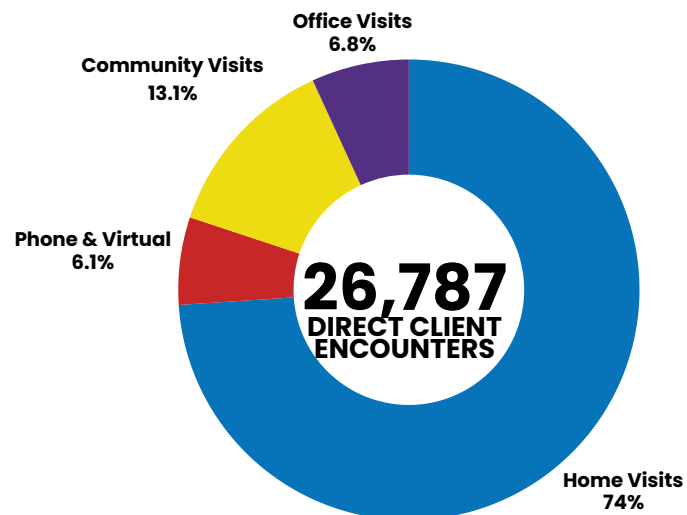
This has meant that the Home and Community Care, Diabetes and Foot care programs have been able to expand their services, guided by the health care priorities identified at the community level. This year has been one of ongoing dedication to the provision of high quality nursing services and of expansive growth within those services, and as such, I am honoured to celebrate with you the remarkable accomplishments of this creative, knowledgeable and devoted team.

*Deirdre O'Sullivan-Drombolis*

DIRECTOR OF HOME & COMMUNITY CARE

A total of **752 individual clients** received **34,898 encounters** (includes direct client encounters and other related encounters including time spent case managing, record keeping and connecting with other health care providers).

## DIRECT CLIENT ENCOUNTERS





# HOME & COMMUNITY CARE and FOOT CARE & DIABETES

We have received ongoing feedback from our clients, community health partners and community leadership about the need for increased presence of our team within community. Over this past fiscal year we have been in a position with increased staffing and infrastructure to be able to restructure our program, shifting from referral based visit scheduling, to having our team members within community 3-4 days per week.

This year saw our team continue to emerge as leaders in many pressing health care areas, including chronic wounds and lower limb preservation, and palliative and end of life care, with this team being asked to participate on federal, provincial and territorial working groups, including providing support to other nations developing their programs.

All of our team have completed extra training in how to assess, treat, and prevent wounds, and this training will remain ongoing. Two of our nurses are also Skin Wellness Associate Nurses, having completed a certificate through the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Institute. All of our foot care nurses are able to provide advanced services, and we have been able to increase capacity to provide services with the addition of another team member.

It is through the teams' knowledge and expertise that we have continued with our quality improvement project with SWIFT Medical, a wound assessment tool. This tool enables proper wound assessments to document progress, strong communication within our team as well as to other health care providers. It also enables clients to see in real time how their wound is doing. Through our ability to leverage SWIFT we have been able to provide advanced dressing therapies not covered through Non-Insured Health Benefits.

## HOME & COMMUNITY CARE

<b>369</b>	Individual Clients
<b>6,822</b>	Direct Client Encounters
<b>3,550</b>	Nursing Treatments/Procedures
<b>1,778</b>	Wound Care Assessments
<b>399</b>	Home Making Assessments/Follow Ups
<b>821</b>	End of Life Care
<b>155</b>	Respite Visits
<b>119</b>	Healed Wounds

\*Service & Number of Encounters

## FOOT CARE

**504** clients received **2,237** direct client encounters with the Foot Care Team

**1,926** Foot Care Services

**311** Debridements

## DIABETES

**217** clients received **1,507** direct client encounters with the Diabetes Care Team

**120** Diabetes Clinics

**240** Food Boxes Delivered

**1,147** Diabetes Education Assessments

This year also saw the expansion of our footwear program as ill-fitting footwear is a key risk factor in foot complications, including wounds. The team works collaboratively with a local footwear provider to assess, fit and provide clients with shoes. This partnership has improved access to a wider range of shoes as well as ensuring the needed sizes are readily available.



Partnerships are key to addressing the health care concerns of our area and nurturing ways to work better together has been a key priority. Through the development and delivery of joint diabetes risk assessment visits between our team and Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre we hope to increase early identification of diabetes and risks of associated complications. The next year will mark enhancement of these partnership for the provision of wrap around services in the area of lower limb prevention.

Through our advocacy for enhanced palliative care services, our organization has successfully implemented a Palliative Care Clinical Coach, one of five in Northwestern Ontario. This position provides support to health care providers at many different levels to provide palliative care that is grounded in both best practices and traditional needs of each community. They work collaboratively with each community's health team, our local hospitals, Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre, the Fort Frances Clinic and our Rainy River District Ontario Health Team to improve pathways for our clients. Internally our team has had increased capacity to provide palliative care services and the past year has involved work to improve our internal processes to provide that care.

In addition, this past year saw strategic development of our respite program. This includes direction provided at the community level for how and for whom these services are provided, the creation of care plans and then provision of services.

With the growth of not only our team but also the team of our health care partner Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre, our team spent the greater part of this fiscal year seeking a new space to call home. This proved no easy feat in locating a space that not only had enough space for our team but also met the needs of our unique program. Next fiscal will begin with the Home and Community Care team moving into 300 Sinclair Avenue and the Diabetes and Foot care team remaining at the Rainy Lake Plaza.

The past year has been one of deep evaluation of our programs and ongoing connection with the communities we serve and the partners we rely on with the goal of working to better align services to meet our vision of Mino Ayawin (Good Health). It has also been a year of growth, change and challenge. As always, this team rises to meet the challenges of each day grounded in the values of this organization with dedication and commitment. This work will continue into the year to come. We are so grateful and honoured to be able to provide services within client's communities.

## ***Medication Management Committee***

The Medication Management Committee had been working on the creation of one policy manual for all medication related policies and procedures to enable all medication related protocol and information to be easily located in one place. This manual was successfully released this fiscal, the culmination of two years work. We were able to have programs review the manual to ensure it meets their needs and updating as a result. The manual will continue to be a living and breathing document to serve as reference for our teams when working with medications. Over this next fiscal year, while continuing to serve as a reference for the organization, the Medication Management Committee will be turning their eyes towards accreditation and the work that needs to be done for this.



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES & PUBLIC HEALTH

*Boozhoo,*

The Children's Services and Public Health branch of Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services formally launched in April 2024 to strategically align services with similar functional goals and objectives to support coordinated and collaborative services better situated to anticipate and respond to community needs.

Throughout 2024-25, identifying areas for implementation of upstream approaches to achieve lifelong Mino Ayawin (Good Health) continued to be a priority. The department has focused on enhancing services and the potential for streamlined service pathways while maintaining focus on our strategic priorities.

It has been another year of incredible commitment and dedication by our team to the communities we serve and I am honored to share their accomplishments.

*Ashlee Grimard*

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES & PUBLIC HEALTH



# MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

*Maternal Child Health Services strives to realize coordinated delivery of quality and equitable supports for children and families from preconception to parenting and child development that are rooted in Anishinaabe culture.*



## Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program

**The Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program distributed 2,488 nutrition vouchers and 8,056 milk coupons to pregnant or parent/caregivers of children under two residing in the ten Southern Treaty 3 communities in 2024-25.**

The Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program aims to improve the health of pregnant women, new mothers and their babies. In 2024-25, we continued to focus on the provision of Nutrition Vouchers and Milk Coupons to support developmental and nutritional outcomes for pregnant women and children under the age of two years old.

The program provided an increased nutrition voucher benefit in December 2024 to provide additional support to families. We also initiated planning for the foundation of increasing access to breastfeeding support such as breast pumps and supplies for clients of Community Health Nursing and Indigenous Midwifery in 2025-26.

# Indigenous Midwifery

*A model of care rooted in Anishinaabeg approaches to family, ceremony, traditional knowledge and connecting to land as a part of birth.*

In addition to direct service, the Indigenous Midwifery Program led additional capacity building to support Birth Work in Southern Treaty 3 this year. With support from Grand Council Treaty #3, four birth work leaders were engaged and supported in best practice site visits, mentorship, teachings and to learn from those who have walked before us.

Along with the Elder Midwife, participants attended one or more of the following Midwifery Services to learn about birth work, program development, consider possibilities for communities, and become familiar with what Birth Work looks like in other communities:

**Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig**

**Mewinzha Ondaadiziike Wiigaming**

**Sturgeon Lake Health Centre**

The program hosted re-initiated Healthy Babies Healthy Children Networking Meetings in May 2024 to bring together Midwives, Elders, Community Health Nurses, and other internal staff.

38 participants learned and shared about maternal child health work including Indigenous Midwifery and Birth Work happening in Southern Treaty 3.

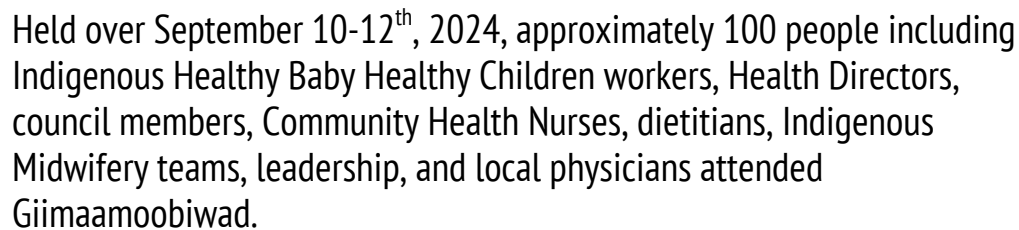
Participants made connections, networked, shared program information, highlighted current and upcoming work and discussed strengths, challenges, needs and opportunities in service provision.

Phone/Text/Email	299
Home Visits	26
Hospital Visits	6
Clinic/Office Visits	5
Traditional Parenting Groups	2
Moss Bag Sessions	3
Welcome Baby Ceremonies	2
Star Blanket Sessions	1

**The Anishinaabe Elder Midwife completed 339 direct encounters with 12 families and supported 3 births.**



To further support capacity building this year, the program planned and hosted Giimaamoobiwad where representatives from Southern Treaty 3 communities and partners gathered to focus on Indigenous Midwifery, the importance of bringing Birth Work back to our communities, and inspire community-led Birth Work.



Speakers highlighted the diverse pathways to becoming a midwife, unique models of Indigenous Midwifery care and importance of Indigenous Midwifery in decolonizing health care.

This event provided space to listen, share and learn as active partners in returning Birth Work to communities. A facilitated session was held during the event to determine what participants would like birth work to look like in their community, how they see themselves supporting Birth Work and what is needed to move forward. Evaluation results were overwhelmingly positive.

The full Giimaamoobiwad report has been distributed to communities, and is available on the website. If you would like a hard copy please contact Maternal Child Health at 807-274-2042 ext. 5273.



# Children's Oral Health Initiative

## ZHOOMIINGWEWINAN NIIGAAN EYAAGIN – SMILES FOR THE FUTURE

Through the second year of Jordan's Principle "Equitable Access to Oral Health Care" group funding, **the Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI) team supported 20 children in accessing required dental treatment and preventive care** such as exams and cleanings, fillings, extractions, and surgeries under general anesthesia. Due to changes in the application of group funding under the administration of Jordan's Principle in 2025-26, we will only be able to provide this support via individual applications. The COHI team continues to advocate for unmet oral health needs under Jordan's Principle despite this increasingly challenging landscape.

The COHI team remained committed to innovative health promotion and program cross-collaboration this year. Foods That Make Me Smile, in partnership with the Child's First Initiative Program Dietitian, delivered interactive educational play dates and an engaging social media campaign to link oral health messaging with nutrition and promote overall wellness. Summer and after school playdates promoted fun and healthy oral habits through interactive games and hands on activities and a back to school brushing challenge saw great success.

To further build capacity and respond to an identified need, the COHI team began pursuing training in Myofunctional Therapy this fiscal year. The certification will enhance the assessment skills in this area to promote improved oral and overall health outcomes for children. Early planning to develop strengthened pathways for referral and intervention were initiated and we look forward to continuing this important work in 2025-26.



<b>263</b>	Dental Screenings
<b>452</b>	Fluoride Varnish Applications
<b>138</b>	Temporary Fillings
<b>103</b>	Dental Sealants
<b>31</b>	Silver Diamine Fluoride Applications
<b>111</b>	Dental Referrals
<b>94</b>	Dental Provider Consultations
<b>167</b>	Family Member/Guardian Consultations

\*Service & Number of Encounters

**279 children received services from the COHI Team with 2,237 encounters**





# Client Success Story

The past year has been one of growth for my girls. A year ago Olivia and Natalie were in diapers, hated having their hair brushed (their hair was completely matted), were terrified of baths, barely left their bedroom, and had not left the house in about five years.

They would scream when staff would come to the house and hide their faces and not communicate with them at all.

Child's First Initiative came into our home and helped us toilet train the girls last August and we were successful after three days. After toilet training, the girls have thrived. They tolerate bathing, hair brushing, communicate with the workers and even leave the house with the workers!

My girls are living life again because of the services provided by Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services. As a mother of two children on the spectrum I felt hopeless. The support I have received from the Child's First Initiative team has been amazing. It has boosted my spirit and has made me a better mom to my girls.

In our culture, family is everything. The ladies at Giishkaandago'lkwe have become our family.

Miigwech,

*Jessica Mainville*

**MOTHER**



*Olivia & Natalie Strey*  
*Agwamo & Mokebee*

**COUCHICHING FIRST NATION**



# Child's First Initiative

*The Child's First Initiative is a child and family centered, culturally grounded and community based program offering a range of assessment, treatment and support services through a multidisciplinary team approach to build health, education, social and cultural supports tailored to the child's needs that can grow with them through all stages of their development.*

**The Child's First Initiative (CFI) team of Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services provided supports and services not otherwise available to 519 children and their families** in the 10 Anishinaabeg communities in Southern Treaty 3 in 2024-25.

Services included weekly clinical and case management support such as in-person assessment and interventions, transitions supports, education to children, families and communities, advocacy and support, and funding applications to Jordan's Principle for additional identified unmet needs.



The Child's First Initiative Program also continues to administer Service Access Resolution Funding that supports children and families with approved Jordan's Principle individual applications for goods and services. **In 2024-25, we administered \$766,982 in direct payments to eliminate barriers and improve timely access to goods and services** required to meet unmet needs of children in Southern Treaty 3.

SERVICE	CHILDREN SUPPORTED	ENCOUNTERS
Behaviour Support	47	368
Children's Mental Health and Psychotherapy	152	988
Family Navigation and Case Management	219	1988
Infant Child Development Family Navigation and Case Management	178	1180
Occupational Therapy	142	2019
Physiotherapy	47	728
Rehab Assistants	57	
Registered Dietitian (RD)	56	298
Speech and Language	89	1085
Communication Assistants	53	
Cultural Support	14	
Adult Transitions	16	169



## ADDITIONAL TARGETED SERVICES

Additional targeted services to support children and families beyond direct individualized client services, included:

- Autism Awareness Day
- Community based groups for youth focusing on nutrition, meal planning and preparation, daily living skills, and well being, including play groups, Cook and Connect, Kids in the Kitchen, chopped challenge and fun outdoor games
- Classroom based wellness activities, coping strategies, nutrition, self-regulation, physical activity and social skills
- Group based learning for preschool and school age children to build connections with families and space for children to connect and socialize with other children
- Early years groups to support child development, cognitive skills, play skills, social emotional development, school readiness, parenting, nutrition, and other specific topics as identified by families and communities

# PUBLIC HEALTH

*Promoting and protecting the health of families and communities through preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health, wellbeing and equity.*

## Community Health

The Community Health team continued their dedication to enhanced public health services this year by strategically increasing access to COVID-19 and Flu vaccination and general immunizations through community based clinics and proactive targeted delivery of vaccines during daily visits. With this approach **1,545 immunizations were administered in 2024-25** over 1,278 than in the previous year.

Similarly, naloxone training sessions and individual based dispensing focusing on awareness of signs and symptoms of an overdose and how to administer naloxone were increased this year. **The team distributed 433 naloxone kits** with education which was more than double the number of kits distributed in 2023-24.

In addition to more than tripling communicable disease follow-up (83 in 2023/24, 288 in 2024/25), our Community Health Nurses continued to remain in a state of preparedness/readiness for the contingency of a measles case by providing ongoing education of measles, the importance of vaccination and ensuring community members are up to date on their vaccinations.

To improve community based access and awareness of cancer screening, we continued to engage with Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) for valuable updates on cancer screening guidelines, educational sessions and the opportunity to network with peers and experts in oncology care. Further, we initiated preparation in partnership with Ontario Health/CCO for FIT Kits on Hand Expansion to improve access to Colorectal Cancer Screening in 2025-26.

<b>288</b> Communicable Disease Follow-ups	<b>101</b> Prenatal/Postpartum Follow-ups
<b>4</b> School Visits	<b>1,545</b> Immunizations
<b>811</b> General Community Health Services (vital signs, wound management, Nyda, etc)	<b>19</b> Sexual Health Services (pregnancy tests, education and testing)
<b>433</b> Intranasal Naloxone Kits Dispensed	

**1,184 community members received 4,769 service encounters through the Community Health Program**



# Environmental Public Health

Environmental Public Health continues to support communicable disease control, safe drinking water, healthy housing, water and waste management, food safety, and emergency preparedness in communities.

Strengthening our capacity to support safe, reliable drinking water in Anishinaabeg communities, the Environmental Public Health Officer and Water Quality Analyst completed additional training, receiving certificates for Watermain Repair Logistics, Attaining Water Quality Compliance, and Maintaining Drinking Water Systems in First Nations Communities via the Walkerton Clean Water Centre. The training further enhanced our culturally informed approach to water system management, promoting practices, and supporting community-led water stewardship as well as our ability to respond efficiently to infrastructure issues while minimizing contamination risks and continuing to recommend repairs that meet the appropriate standards.

Our team provided ongoing valuable expertise and support to communities for various drinking water upgrades and facilitated projects by sharing historical water reports and completed water sampling when requested.

Inspections (premises, housing and septic installations)	45
Boil water Advisories Issued	15
Boil Water Advisories Lifted	14
Investigations of animal bite exposure to ensure no risk of rabies transmission	25
Community Consultations	355
Bacteriological Analysis Samples	447
Quarterly Chemistry Water Samples	260
Additional Water Samples Obtained	78
Lead in Drinking Water Samples	32
Food, Health and Important Consumer Recall Notices/Warnings	255
Comprehensive Annual Sampling	170

**114 individuals engaged in 1,666 direct client encounters with the Environmental Public Health Officer & Water Quality Analyst**

Equitable, quality and safe services that prioritize early intervention, health promotion and public health rooted in Anishinaabeg ways of knowing are vital for healthy community members across the life cycle. Looking onward to 2025-26, Children's Services and Public Health programs and services remain eager to continue to develop and enhance services and service pathways with our vision of lifelong Mino Ayawin (Good Health) to guide us. By continuing to invest financial and human resources in these critical services, we will not only provide much needed services today but will strengthen the overall well-being and resilience of our communities in the generations to come.

*~ Mùgwech ~*



MINO AYAWIN  
*"Good Health"*







**GIISHKAANDAGO'IKWE**  
— HEALTH SERVICES —



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