Casino Progress - 1st Quarter Results

by Lee E. Harden, CEO, LCO Casino, Lodge & Convention Center

Fiscal year 2015 began in October of last year with the Casino setting very aggressive goals for revenue, cost management and most importantly profit. The budgeting process that began in June of 2014 was a sharp focus on how to optimize our operational improvements. Each year the management team by department sets goals based on past performance and estimates financially where we think our trend of improvement can take us. This year we projected a significant up tick in revenue based on strong increases in casino win over the spring and summer of 2014 compared to the same period of the previous year. Expenses were projected as low as we could be comfortable with leaving a reasonable buffer for unknowns. Profit was projected to outperform last year due to better marketing yielding improved earnings and our ability to retain them with a close eye on cost control. We still need renovations to drive incremental business and the work on financing that is progressing in a very positive manner. For Tribes as well as commercial investors borrowing money to make money in the gaming industry has become a whole different landscape to navigate. With casinos closing and profits down across the country banks have significantly tightened their rules and raised their prices to lessen their risk. Investor groups are setting hard-to-meet criteria and building in multiple financial back-stops to protect themselves. Is it impossible to land a good deal? Absolutely not. It just takes more looking, more negotiating and higher performance from the borrower. With the uncertainty in today’s market an entity cannot qualify for the financial support it needs to remain competitive without a sustained demonstration of adequate profit margin. To that end the casino’s obligations are being met and the accomplishments are real. The commitment and dedication of a very valuable team is putting the casino on a direct path to secure a much brighter financial future in the coming months. The following summary is material proof of that progress.

October was a pleasant surprise as we were able to deliver 16% more cash to the Band than projected. Even though November was significantly more challenging our creativity and persistence allowed us to deliver the full amount of cash we projected to send to the Band for that month also. Nothing short of a miracle happened in December when we sustained the Lodge water damage disaster November 28th which took all 75 rooms out of commission for approximately a week, reduced capacity to 20 rooms until December 5th and limited us to 47 rooms until December 15th. To date 11 rooms are still off the market due to work needing completion. Our financial goals are highly dependent on the Lodge as a vital piece of our ability to make gaming revenue and profit each month.

This team was not to be denied. We delivered the full amount of projected cash to the Band for...
New Employees At LCO Vocational Rehab
by Dustin Morrow, Job Developer - LCO Vocational Rehabilitation

Aaniin gakina awiyya (Hello everyone),
My name is Dustin Morrow and I would just like to take this time to introduce myself as the newly hired Job Developer for LCO Vocational Rehabilitation.

A little background on me is that I started working for the tribe when I was 18 years old at the LCO Quick Stop where I had maintained employment for several years. In 2009 I had taken a part-time job with LCO Gaming Commission as a surveillance officer. About a month after receiving employment with the gaming commission I worked as clerical support for American Indians Against Abuse (A.I.A.A) for a brief stint of 3 months, at which time I had received full-time employment with the gaming commission; for which I had maintained for the last 6 years.

In 2011 I made the decision to return to college. I enrolled at LCOOCC in the fall of 2011 and have just recently finished with the courses on my degree plan and am set to graduate in May of 2015 with a 4.0 GPA and a double-major in Liberal Arts and Native American Studies - Ojibwemowin.

One big thing about me is that I hate disappointing people so I do all that I can in order to fulfill my obligations when it comes to employment. I really look forward to putting my best foot forward during my time here with LCOVR.

Nimiigwechiwendam omaa ayaayaan! (I am thankful to be here!)
Migwech for your time,
Dustin Morrow

by Utina Malnourie, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

My name is Utina Malnourie, I am a LCO Tribal Member and I have been employed at the LCO Vocational Rehabilitation for the past eight years.

During my career at LCOVR, I held the position as VR Counselor for four years and then Program Director for another four. I left my position at LCOVR to pursue personal goals but realized I missed VR counseling, which is now the position I hold at LCOVR.

The LCOVR Program holds a special place in my heart and I am very passionate about assisting individuals to pursue their employment goals.

My educational background consists of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, Graduate Certificate in American Indian Rehabilitation Administration from San Diego State University and a Masters of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of North Texas.
**Veteran’s Corner**  
By Renee Brown, Sawyer County CVSO

**Expansion of Eligibility for Unremarried Surviving Spouses Currently Receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (D.I.C.)**

Effective for taxable years, beginning on or after January 1, 2014: The Wisconsin Property Tax Credit is extended to include the unremarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, who following the veteran's death, began to receive and continues to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Federal VA. The veteran must have met all the criteria as described below:

An individual who had served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. Armed Forces; who was a resident of this state at the time of entry into that active service or who had been a resident of this state for any consecutive 5—year period after entry into that active duty service; who was a resident of this state at the time of his or her death; and following the veteran’s death, his or her spouse began to receive, and continues to receive dependency and indemnity compensation, as defined in 38 USC 101 (14).

Before claiming the credit, please stop by our office so that we may assist you with submitting a request for eligibility verification from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

**How to Report VA Healthcare to the IRS this Tax Season**

Questions are beginning to roll in to the CVSO office about how to report VA Healthcare and CHAMPVA coverage to the IRS in order to prevent a tax penalty under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obama-Care. VA Healthcare enrollees, as well as spouses and surviving spouses enrolled in CHAMPVA, will be required to verify their healthcare coverage to the IRS this tax season.

The official answer to the question above is: “Beginning in 2015, VA will send Veterans and eligible beneficiaries a letter and IRS form 1095B which will provide the details of the health care coverage provided by VA for the previous year. As required by law, VA also will notify the IRS.”

To find more answers on your VA/CHAMPVA Healthcare and the ACA, go to: http://www.va.gov/health/aca/FAQ.asp

**Camp Lejeune Exposure Dates Expanded**

A law signed in December expanded the eligibility for family members affected by the historic water contamination on Camp Lejeune, according to the VA. Under the amendment, family members who lived on Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987, could be eligible for VA health benefits. The initial dates before the change were between Jan. 1, 1957, and Dec. 31, 1987. Family members who apply through the program for health benefits could receive out-of-pocket medical expenses reimbursed by the VA. The VA would be able to cover expenses related to one of 15 medical conditions: including esophageal cancer, breast cancer, kidney cancer, multiple myeloma, renal toxicity, female infertility, scleroderma, Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, lung cancer, bladder cancer, leukemia, Myelodysplastic syndromes, hepatic steatosis, miscarriage and neurobehavioral effects. Family members would have to show proof of relationship to a veteran who served at Camp Lejeune and provide copies of orders or base housing records as proof of residence on the installation.

For more information regarding veteran benefits, please contact our office at (715)-634-2770. As a reminder, on every third Thursday of each month, our office holds outreach hours at Exeland Village Hall between 10 am and noon and also at the Winter American Legion between 1 and 3 pm. Additionally, we are available at the Hayward VA Clinic the first and third Tuesday of each month, 2pm – 4pm. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcomed.

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**Future Law Enforcement Academy Attendees**

L-R Raymond Young III, Judge Mohr, Chief Debrot, Aaron Debrot and Council Member Larry Kagigebl.

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**VA Reimbursement For Tribal Vets**

by Glenn Hall, Finance Director, LCOCHC

Public Information Release: Reimbursement available to eligible tribal member veterans.

The Reimbursement Agreement Process with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) has been completed. The effective date of the agreement is October 16, 2014, the date of the VA Contracting Officer’s signature located within the signed reimbursement agreement and in the Notice to Proceed.

On or after that date is when VA will be reimbursing for direct care services for eligible AI/AN Veterans.

Please refer to the Local Implementation Plan for the points of contact associated with this program (to include the claims call center, care coordination, etc.).

Additionally, program information is located on the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations website (www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/).

This website will maintain up-to-date information, to include the Tribal Health Provider Guide.
Phyllis Elizabeth DeBrot
Bineshi Mindimoie
February 22, 1920 - December 11, 2014

Phyllis E. DeBrot, 94, of New Post, died Thursday December 11, 2014 at Water’s Edge Nursing Home in Hayward, WI.

Phyllis Elizabeth DeBrot was born on February 22, 1920 in Odanah, WI, the daughter of James Bachand and Agnes LeMieux. She was ½ Bad River and ½ L.C.O Ojibwe. She grew up at Bad River by her mother and in her mother’s memory she stayed enrolled there, although she was raised by her foster parents, Kate and Gus Martin, at Old Post and New Post where she lived all her life. She attended the Indian Boarding School in Hayward, WI in the 1920’s and 30’s. Phyllis was the last survivor from the village of Old Post, which was flooded in 1923 when the Chippewa Flowage was created and the tribal people were relocated to what is now New Post. Phyllis raised her children by working at Shady Nook Resort, which was first owned by The Laper family and then the Sweeney family with whom she has remained close to. She also worked for Telemark when Tony Wise was owner and in her later years she worked at the LCO School in the Tribal Elder program. Phyllis loved going to pow-wows, camping, gardening and traveling with her significant other Sam Jockey, throughout the states. She was in her own right, a tribal historian of Lac Courte Oreilles, having lived its history and she was often sought out for information concerning L.C.O. history.

She is survived by sons, Dale DeBrot and Warren (Cynthia) DeBrot, both of New Post; daughters Deanna Baker of Hayward, Sue (Keith) Quaderer of Hayward and Elaine DeBrot of New Post; 17 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren, 19 great-great grandchildren; one niece Hazel Whitebird and family of Odanah, WI.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Earl DeBrot; sister Rosella; brothers, Harold, Frank and Melvin; her significant other Sam Jockey; son Wayne DeBrot; grandsons Keith L. “Sonman” Quaderer Jr., Ronald L. Quaderer Jr., Johnathan Baker.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in New Post with Fr. Gregory Hope officiating and music provided by Sister Felissa Zander. Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16 at Pineview Funeral Service.

Honorary casket bearers will be her Grandchildren.

Casket bearers will be John Baker, James Fleming Sr., Joshua Fleming, Kenneth J. Quaderer Sr., Thomas Sweeney Jr. and Nicholas Thayer.

Sharon Marie Hugo-Peterson
Zagima Ikwe
April 6, 1960 - December 11, 2014

Sharon Marie Hugo Peterson of LCO began her journey into the Spirit World, on Thursday, December 11, 2014 surrounded by her family, in LCO.

Sharon was born on April 6, 1960 in Milwaukee the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Mustache) Hugo. She grew up in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Bayfield, and Red Cliff. She was also raised by her Aunt Beatrice (Hugo) and Barney Cadotte. In the Indian or Anishinaabe way, she was adopted by Henry and Amy Flocken of Cass Lake, along with their children.

She worked in a variety of capacities, but, was always drawn to helping people like serving as a Community Health Representative for LCO, working with the Bemidji School District in the Indian Education Program, with the Mille Lacs Band with the Indian Education Program, in her later years she worked at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Great Lakes Agency, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in the Human Services Division, and with various programs in Red Cliff, such as the Housing Authority and with the Youth Conservation Corps. She was an active member of the LCO Am Vet’s organization and an avid VIKINGS fan!

She was married to James (Peterson) Pete, aka Guyaushk, from Red Cliff and remained friends and confidant, throughout all the years to help and support each other with various challenges. She began her Red Road (Sobriety) journey in October, 1992.

Sharon is survived by her sons Kelly Andeg, John Makoons Peterson, Sr., Benytt Makwa Niimiwin Gordon; grandchildren Shainah Bimiibaatoo Makwa Ikwe Peterson, Rokell Marie Maymingtonwassi Ikwe Peterson, Carrie Ann Wabagonsforkyureurb Burton Peterson, Alexis Jean Oskini Ikwe Peterson, John Makoons Peterson, Jr., Ava Angeline Bawaajige Nagwaagan Ikwe Peterson, Kiera Boswell; sisters Sheryl Hugo Gordon, Valerie Hugo, Rebecca Burett-Hugo; sister’s-in-law Mary Nenookaasi Ikwe Peterson, Donna Ozaaawi Bineshi Ikwe Galazen; nieces Leign Ann Gordon-Reynolds, Dana Gordon Marissa, Hugo, Spring Hugo-Howe, Kristy Barber; nephews Corby and Bob Gordon, Willard Gouge, Jr. Nelson Barber, Nicholas Barber, Jack Barber, Raymond Hugo, Jordan Hugo; 10 great nieces, 3 great nephews; best friend Debbie Smith; maternal “Aunties” Cleo and Beans Mustache and Janice and Debbie Cadotte, who were special cousins she grew up with.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brother Jack Hugo; sister Barbara Hugo Barber; grandsons Leondre’ Adams; In-Laws Elma Peterson and Louis (Uncle Butts) Peterson; Aunts and Uncles; other relatives and friends.

Tribal Funeral Rites will begin with a feast at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at Big Drum Ceremonial Center on the LCO Reservation with Lee Staples officiating. Burial will be in New Post Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13th at Big Drum.

Casket bearers will be Jack Barber, Bob Gordon, Corby Gordon, Willard Gouge Jr., Jordan Hugo and Jeff Woller.
Harry Oliver Mapes
Sept. 26, 1932 - December 31, 2014

Harry O. Mapes, 82, of Couderay, died Wednesday, December 31, 2014 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire.

Harry Oliver Mapes was born on September 26, 1932 in Couderay, WI, the son of Leonard and Agnes (Gokey) Mapes. He was a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe and was a long time resident of Couderay and Radisson where he was involved in the community as a volunteer firefighter, ambulance driver and school bus driver. Harry's greatest passion was fishing and was a long time resident of Couderay and was a long time resident of Radisson where he was involved in the community as a volunteer firefighter, ambulance driver and school bus driver.

Harry's greatest passion was spending time with his children and grandchildren. He also enjoyed baseball both as a player and coach as well as enjoying baseball both as a player and coach as well as his children and grandchildren. He also enjoyed baseball both as a player and coach as well as visiting with people and making friends. Harry was such a great storyteller. He considered himself a wealthy man because of the blessings of his many children.

He is survived by his wife Mary of 64 years; children Michael, Margorie, Rosemary, Julie, Thomas, Brenda and Scott; 26 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild; brother Jess.

Harry was preceded in death by his parents Leonard and Agnes; brothers Terrance, George and Tony; sisters Jeannette and Bernadine.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 3, 2015 at St. Francis Catholic Church in Reserve with Fr. Gregory Hopeff officiating and music provided by Sister Felissa Zander and Sarah Cornell. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery in Couderay. Visitation will be held from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Friday, January 2, 2015 at Pineview Funeral Service in Hayward and again from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. prior to the service on Saturday at the funeral home.

Casket bearers will be John C. Mapes, Ryan Magnuson, Jeffrey Coombs, Austin Dearhamer, Curtis Thompson and Ray Cook.

Esther Josephine Quaderer-Williams
February 25, 1926 - January 16, 2015

Esther J. Quaderer-Williams, 88, of Hayward, died Friday, January 16, 2015 at Water's Edge Care Center.

Esther Josephine Quaderer-Williams was born February 25, 1926 in Hayward, WI, the daughter of Thomas and Frances (O'Shogay) Quaderer. She attended school in Bayfield, WI, then went on to travel before settling down in Chicago where she got married and started her family of four children. Esther was married to Donald Williams in Delavan, WI. After the death of her first husband Arnold Anderson. Esther was a homemaker until she moved back to the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation to be with family and loved ones. Wrestling was her passion and bingo was her obsession.

She is survived by two sons Arnold Anderson of Hayward, Donald Anderson of Ohio; two daughters Sena (Fred) Groh of Willard, WI, Kim (Scott) Rohde of Elkhorn, WI; 14 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, 10 great great grandchildren; three sisters, Betty of Chicago, Lucilli of Michigan, Judy of Reserve; one brother Bobby of LCO.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents; sisters Veronica, Annie-girl, Flavia, Isabelle; brothers Vincent “Baggy”, Ignatius “Doc, Joey, Tommy and John.

The Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Pineview Funeral Service in Hayward with Fr. Gregory Hopeff officiating. Burial will be in St. Francis Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at the funeral home and again from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. prior to the service on Thursday.

Casket bearers are Arnold Anderson, Jason Anderson, Michael Anderson, Freddie Groh, Scott Rodhe and Ryan Townsend.

Alicia Marie Smart
January 2, 1992 - January 2, 2015

Alicia M. Smart, 23, of Mount Pleasant, MI, died Friday, January 2, 2015.

Alicia Marie Smart was born on January 2, 1992 in Ashland, WI, the daughter of Charles Smart and Michelle Miller.

She is survived by parents Charles and Michelle; daughter Zoey Dawn Goffnett; signicant friends. Harry was such a great storyteller. He considered himself a wealthy man because of the blessings of his many children.

She is survived by parents Charles and Michelle; daughter Zoey Dawn Goffnett; signicant family and loved ones. Wrestling was her passion and bingo was her obsession.

She is survived by two sons Arnold Anderson of Hayward, Donald Anderson of Ohio; two daughters Sena (Fred) Groh of Willard, WI, Kim (Scott) Rohde of Elkhorn, WI; 14 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, 10 great great grandchildren; three sisters, Betty of Chicago, Lucilli of Michigan, Judy of Reserve; one brother Bobby of LCO.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents; sisters Veronica, Annie-girl, Flavia, Isabelle; brothers Vincent “Baggy”, Ignatius “Doc, Joey, Tommy and John.

The Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Pineview Funeral Service in Hayward with Fr. Gregory Hopeff officiating. Burial will be in St. Francis Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at the funeral home and again from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. prior to the service on Thursday.

Casket bearers are Arnold Anderson, Jason Anderson, Michael Anderson, Freddie Groh, Scott Rodhe and Ryan Townsend.
**Boys & Girls Club Party Honors Boyle**

**by Shondel Barber, Circle of Life Home Health, LCO Tribal Member**

I, Shondel Barber, representing Circle of Life Home Health and LCO have been chosen to receive the Toy Donation for the children of the Lac Courte Oreilles this year from the Fallen Soldier, Tom Boyle Toy Drive. The party at the Boys and Girls Club Honoring Mr. Boyle was awesome. There were about 400-500 children who received a Toy from Santa, aka Bubby Barber.

The party was a huge success and was perfect. My Mom, Julie Taylor did most of the work. She got candy canes and cookies donated along with gathering speakers and the Drum. Special thanks to: The LCO Amvets, the Chief Lake Drum, the LCO Youth council, Gordon Thayer, Larry Kagigebi, Jenny Cadotte, Sirella Ford, John and Traci Yackel, Karen Harden, Dan Cousins.

Pauline Boyle and her son Ryan Boyle were at the event and they wanted to say.."Thank you" to the children and families of the LCO community for attending the wonderful event and Honoring Tom. It meant a lot for them to donate the toys to the LCO Children. Pauline Boyle is a LCO Tribal Member.

The Christmas Party 2015 will be bigger and better! We have already received a $1000 donation!

Thank you to Pauline and Ryan for being such wonderful friends!!

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**Someone You Should Know**

**A Patriot and His Legacy**

By Pauline Boyle, Resident Contributor

Born in Chicago, Thomas J Boyle Jr. served in the USMC for two tours of duty during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to the states, Tom embarked on a 30 year career with the Chicago Police Department earning numerous commendations.

After Tom's retirement, the Boyle family moved to Barrington Hills. That retirement would be short lived. Tom was a true patriot who felt even more deeply about global affairs after 9/11. This conviction that he could contribute positively to the American cause led Tom to sign up for various peacekeeping missions around the world. Tom continued these missions for over 12 years.

The morning of June 19, 2012 began as most others for Pauline Boyle. Errands for that day included a stop at the post office to mail a box to her husband Tom, who was deployed to Afghanistan. This box contained a doll and teddy bear for an Afghani child who had touched Tom’s heart. A child, who, he said, had nothing at all. This was not unusual for the Boyle family as this same scenario had been followed during past deployments to Kosovo and Iraq as well. Upon returning home Pauline was met by three men who would inform her of her husband’s death earlier that day in Kandahar Afghanistan.

A few days later Pauline remembered the doll and teddy bear and contacted the military so that it might be located. The box was eventually found. When informed of this Pauline contacted the Army Lt. Colonel if it was still possible to honor Tom’s last request. In true military fashion, to honor a fallen brother they jumped to the task. It wasn’t until October 23, 2012 that this ‘mission’ was completed.

Better said was a quote from Mrs. Bert Schreiber who, after seeing the photos of Tamanah receiving her gifts, stated, “The smile on this little girl’s face is priceless. Tom made a difference in this world in many ways, one of which is giving Tamanah more than a doll and a teddy bear. All her life she will remember Tom – and so will we.”

These events led to the founding of the Tom’s Toys for Tots initiative, a subsidiary of The Thomas J Boyle Jr Memorial Foundation Ltd. This not for profit (pending) was created to honor the life and legacy of Thomas Boyle.

**Quote from the U.S. Army,** “At long last we were able to deliver the gifts you had sent to Tom for the little girl named Tamanah. She is 6 years old and was very excited to receive these gifts.

She is 6 years old and was very excited to receive these gifts. Better said was a quote from Mrs. Bert Schreiber who, after seeing the photos of Tamanah receiving her gifts, stated, “The smile on this little girl’s face is priceless. Tom made a difference in this world in many ways, one of which is giving Tamanah more than a doll and a teddy bear. All her life she will remember Tom – and so will we.”

Monetary donations can be mailed to The Thomas J Boyle Jr Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 14 Fox River Grove, IL 60021.

Toy collection boxes will be located in the lobby of the Barrington Hills Police Department the second week of November.

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Do you know a Barrington Hills resident you would like us to feature as someone we should know? Contact Amy Nykaza at BarringtonPublishing@n2pub.com.
LCO Housing Authority’s 2nd Annual Christmas Festival of Lights Contest Winners

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the LCO Housing’s second annual Christmas Festival of Lights. The judges had a great time riding through all the communities looking at the beautiful decorations. We would like to thank our judges and driver for taking the time to volunteer.

Winners of the Contest
1st Place - Michell Nickence - New Post
2nd Place - Barb DeMarr - Gurno Lake
3rd Place - Diane Taylor - Skunawong
4th Place - Keisha Chino - Dry Town
5th Place - Natasha Miller - K Town

Congratulations to our winners and again for everyone who participated, they did a wonderful job. We look forward to next year’s festival!

2014 Toys For Tots Santa’s Helpers

LCO Christmas Party Raffle Winners

Winners from the 2014 LCO Christmas Party Raffle

LCO Headstart Christmas Program 2014

LCO Headstart children performing at their Christmas Program Dec. 2014

2014 Toys For Tots Santa’s Helpers

LCO Headstart Christmas Program 2014

Giwii Mino Bimaadizimin
LCO Prevention Coalition “We Want to Live Well”

Community Round Table

Learn about your prevention coalition! Share your knowledge.
Bring a dish to pass.

When: 1/28/2015
6 pm - 8 pm

Where: Peter Larson Room

Why: Share your experiences and wisdom

Who: LCO Prevention Coalition

Contact: Jenny Ingram
715-638-5116

We Hope To See You There!
LCO Community Health Center FY 2014 Accomplishments

Hello, my name is Gregg W. Duffek and I am the Health Director of the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Community Health Center (LCO-CHC). I have come here to help build the health service capacity of LCO-CHC. It is truly an honor to work in a Tribal facility.

I was hired by the LCO Tribal Governing Board in June of 2013. I am a U.S. Veteran and Tribal Member of the Stockbridge Band of Mohican Indians. I have over 20 years’ experience working in Indian Health and Human Services. I successfully received my Master’s Degree in Business with an Emphasis in Healthcare. I have served on many local, regional, and national health groups including Great Lakes and Bemidji Area Office focus groups to better healthcare for Tribes in and out of Wisconsin. I have served on the Wisconsin Legislative Special Committee on Tribal Relations to advance legislation for Wisconsin Tribes and have always fought to make it better for all Tribes not just one. I helped form the Tribal Aging Directors Association and provided guidance to the Tribal Income Maintenance Directors to help them form their own association, so we could all be heard by the state to make equal access to medical care and other services for Tribal Communities. This is the same vision I have for the delivery of healthcare here at LCO. If it is available for one it must be available for all and with the limited amount of funds we get from the federal government and other funding sources we bill, it is more important now than ever for us to pull together and use our limited resources well.

My goal is to create a health clinic that will provide the best quality care for its patients and in order to do this we needed to address, departmental structure, policy development, and quality improvement, reporting/coding and budget revision, short term and long term strategic planning in order to enable these needed health care delivery improvements to occur. Thus, I am pleased to inform you, that the work that the LCO-CHC staff has accomplished during FY 2014 is a starting point for the ongoing improvement of health services to the LCO community. These functioning areas play a major tool in the successful operations of a healthcare facility and will need continuous observation and adjustment through continued quality improvement.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Community Health Center was successful in fulfilling and meeting these objectives and goals by providing the best quality health care, even though funding was limited, for the Lac Courte Oreilles patient population as well as providing direct care for other Native American Indians and Alaskan Natives that met the criteria to receive health care services. We have overcome many obstacles and I strongly feel that we are on the right path to successfully creating the highest quality care for our patients through strategic planning, continued quality improvement and employee appreciation by recognizing and acknowledging all the team’s efforts.

We have come a long way on this effort to improve the provision of health care services for the entire LCO community. We are confident that with your patience and support, we will be able to realize a significant improvement in the health care services available to our patients and their community. With so much success in our accomplishments this past year, I am very proud of the teams and committees of the LCO-CHC; their hard work and dedication toward quality patient care have not gone unnoticed.

We have received many thanks and praise, not only from the community but from our Leadership. We appreciate your acknowledgement; this gives us the morale support to keep striving to do better for Lac Courte Oreilles.

Sincerely,
Gregg W. Duffek,
Director, LCO Health Center

LCO-CHC Passes AAAHC On-Site Approval 2014-2015

by Gregg W. Duffek - LCO Community Health Center Director

I am pleased to inform you that the LCO-CHC passed the accreditation with high honors with the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care AAAHC after having previously received a “Corrective Action Plan” in several areas of the Health Center.

This is an important milestone in the continuing growth and success of our health care organization. Pursuing accreditation shows our commitment to providing the highest levels of quality care to our patients, and the same high level of quality in our business practices.

Achieving accreditation by AAAHC is proof that we have met the rigorous standards of a nationally-recognized third party. We are proud to have met the challenge of accreditation, and intend to consistently uphold the principles of quality improvement in patient care in the future.

Accreditation distinguishes our ambulatory health care center from many other outpatient facilities by providing the highest quality of care to its patients as determined by an independent, external process of evaluation.

Status as an accredited organization means LCO-CHC has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care set by AAAHC. More than 5,000 ambulatory health care organizations across the United States are accredited by AAAHC. Not all ambulatory health care organizations seek accreditation; not all that undergo the rigorous on-site survey process are granted accreditation. Ambulatory health care organizations seeking accreditation by AAAHC undergo an extensive self-assessment and on-site survey by AAAHC expert surveyors – physicians, nurses, and administrators who are actively involved in ambulatory health care.

The survey is consultative and educational, presenting best practices to help an organization improve its care and services.

“Going through the process challenged us to find better ways to serve our patients, and it is a constant reminder that our responsibility is to strive to continuously improve the quality of care we provide.”

I am very proud that the teams here at LCO-CHC worked diligently on the “Corrective Action Plan” and we received our Accreditation with high honors for success.
New Health Advisory Board, Charter & Bylaws

The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board (TGB) swore in a new Health Advisory Board (HAB) along with a new Charter and Bylaws that were signed by LCO Chairman Mic Isham on November 18, 2013.

The HAB has been meeting monthly to assist in enhancing patient quality care through approval of policies & procedures submitted by the Health Director.

Policies & Procedures were updated or created to focus teams in the direction this facility needs to go in. Having policies, formally approved by TGB lets staff and patients know the rules are not made by individual staff members but by the Tribe. Many of the policies which were being enforced here were made and enacted by staff and no formal approval was obtained. This makes enforcing policy confusing for patients, staff, and management.

During FY 2014, Health Director Gregg Duffek submitted 22 policy and procedures to the HAB with the Legal Department’s LCO Community Health Center Accomplishments, Achievements and Establishments guidance which concluded final approval from the Tribal Governing Board (TGB). Such policies and procedures include: Transportation Policy, Patient Broken & Missed Appointments, HIPAA Employee Confidentiality Agreement, Automated External Defibrillator Inspections, Intravenous Therapy & Peripheral Venous Accesses, Prescriptions Written by Outside Providers, Pharmaceutical Storage, Security and Disposal, Drug Co. Reps and Sample Medication Policy, Dispensing of Vivitrol Extended Release Injection, Code Blue - Unresponsive Patient, Medical Incident Reports, Positive Urine Drug Screens, Unscheduled Clinic Closures, Elder Care Prescription Policy, Eligibility Direct Care Policy, Criteria for Medicare Part D, Grievance Policy Revision Review, Optical Services Policy, Dispensing Controlled Substances by Health Center Staff, Health Board By-laws, Health Board Charter, and Sexual Assault Protocol

New LCO Health Center Staff

We are very pleased that we were able to expand our provider staff and introduce to you; Dr. Yan, Dr. Handkte and Nurse Practitioner Geri Fitch.

We've also have added to our medical support staff by hiring additional nursing. By doing this we not only are able to provide better patient quality care, we are able to reduce the waiting time for patients to see their provider without delay from interrupted emergency walk-ins, and we were able to establish an Elderly Service area with focus on our Tribal Elderly.

Elderly Services At LCO Health Center

The Elder Care Services was established to assist elderly on a more one on one and closer patient-doctor relationship. This also allows for a better routine checkup of ailment that may need thorough examination on a regular basis. This also provided an area for the elders away from the main lobby where they were more assessable of catching flu/virus from the public due to their low resistances and from the noise of the lobby. This also provided a secure area from observers who could watch the elders pick up their prescriptions. This has proven very successful and we do receive much positive feedback from the community.

2014 Financial Successes Of LCO Community Health Center

One of our largest financial accomplishments was recovering over $500,000 that was being retained at the Bemidji Office for past years CHS (now Purchased and Referred Care (PRC)) services. Doing so helped us to continue the provision of all available medical services throughout the entire 2014 fiscal year.

The PRC was able to maintain financial function throughout the whole year where in previous years there were interruptions due to cash shortage. This is partly due to the FEHB and Tribal member insurance, as well as the aforementioned initiative. Established an Insurance Coordinator with successful results. The Benefits Department assists Tribal members with signing up for 3rd party insurance through the online Marketplace. They also coordinate and work with the Tribal Elderly Center staff and the Tribal Office. We have an opportunity to favorably impact our 3rd Party receipts if we get as many patients as we can to sign up for affordable health insurance (this allows us to stretch the amount of PRC dollars available). If we do that and we can improve our current LCO Community Health Center Accomplishments, Achievements and Establishments collection amount (13% to 24% of each dollar billed), we should be able to significantly contribute to the correction of many health issues that our patients have dealt with for many years, in some cases, without the opportunity to address their particular issue on a more permanent basis.

The more members that we can assist and enroll in the 3rd party insurance, the better services that we can provide through our PRC department. This means that we are able to assist our membership by referring them out for care that we do not provide here at LCO-CHC such as physical therapy and colonoscopy.

Established a plan for dealing with pain management that included physical therapy, behavioral treatment, health education as well as a significantly modified Pain Medication Treatment Plan.

We want to help patients get off the addiction to opiates (pain medication) by treating the cause of the pain rather than keep them numb, as was done in the past by Providers. This we have found to be very challenging as we not only receive negative feedback from the addicted patient but from those who participate in the aftermarket sale of these medications. We have made commitment to help addicted patients through appropriate holistic treatment of our patients and we remain firm in our resolve to help them overcome these issues.

Negotiated substantial savings with our largest non-IHS healthcare provider.

Hired a new Financial Director who has significantly impacted the financial area through the implementation of departmental procedures and who has contributed expert decision making regarding the expenses; changing vendors, seized overspending in each department and program by establishing budgets with Directors. He has also reorganized the Finance Department in order to maximize the efficiencies and positive impacts on LCO-CHC that result as a part of the fiscal management of LCO-CHC.
Miigwech To My Nation

by Becky Taylor

Miigwech to my Nation of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe, LCO Tribal Governing Board, LCO Casino, B & D Cafe, Smokn Joe’s Native Center.

Miigwech to everyone whom celebrated the LCO New Year’s Eve Powwow!

Miigwech to all our sponsors as it grows bigger every year.

Miigwech to all our cooks & servers for a great feast for our visitors.

Miigwech to all our singers through the drums & beautiful healing songs.

Miigwech to our Veterans Color Guard.

Miigwech for the prayers in our language.

Miigwech to our elders teaching of showing hospitality to all the other Nations.

Miigwech to our head dancers and Royalty and all the dancers & royalty wearing their beautiful regalia’s.

Miigwech to all our families for bringing in your babies and children to share their happiness and joy.

Miigwech to WOJB88.9fm, LCO News, Sawyer County Record, powwows.com, & Facebook Event page to get our information out there.

Miigwech to Rusty Barber as our MC along with Mike Sullivan.

Miigwech to the LCO Ojibwe School for use of the gym, kitchen, bleachers, tables, and chairs.

Miigwech to LCO Youth Council/Jennifer.

Miigwech to Mike Whitrock, Jesse Grover & my daughter Sheena Cain.

LCO Oakwood Haven’s Mission

Oakwood Haven’s mission is to provide a safe and healing environment for individuals and families in crisis and in crisis intervention situations. Individuals will receive assistance from staff and volunteers in a protective and healthy setting. Oakwood Haven has a variety of advocates to meet your needs; including a Children’s Advocate, Elder Abuse Advocate, Sexual Assault Advocate, and Victim Advocate.

Each Advocate is cross trained for victims of Sexual Assault, Nurse Examiner is available free of charge, Domestic and Sexual Violence Support Groups, Transportation to and from medical and court appointments, Suicide Prevention Lifeline is: 1-877-552-7474. We understand that there are many stressful times throughout the year.

January happens to be one of those times of the year, if you feel as though you may need to talk to us the number is 1-877-552-7474. We understand that there are many stressful times throughout the year.

Sealed bids
NOW BEING ACCEPTED Must be postmarked by January 30, 2015

2008 Mercury Mariner
4WD MINIMUM BID: $7,500.00 Sold in “AS IS” condition

Call for details or can be seen at: LCO Federal Credit Union (715) 634-7772.

BIDS CAN BE PICKED UP AT: 13829 W COUNTY ROAD B, HAYWARD, WI 54843
LCO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY & ALL BIDS.
Growing Lettuce Indoors During Winter

Would you like to grow lettuce indoors during the winter? Two Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe 6th grade Gifted and Talented students did!

Sage Stands-Christianson and Rian Fleming designed a hydroponic experiment to grow lettuce in 4 different mediums. Each pot had the same measured amount of coconut fibers, but different percentages of perlite, and vermiculite.

Sage and Rian shared their lettuce with their 6th grade class members and other teachers. An enormous salad was made with lettuce, cheese, sunflower seeds, and tomatoes. Many students went back for seconds, and they asked if lettuce could be planted again!

Rian, Sage, and the 6th grade class now have their sights set on expanding their hydroponic gardening to include lettuce, spinach, radishes, and perhaps carrots grown in an aquarium filled with dirt. The hydroponics activity was supervised by Linda Tennis, Gifted and Talented Teacher.

Free Native Artist Professional Development Training at LCOOCC

First Peoples Fund is excited to offer a free Native Artist Professional Development Training at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College (LCOOCC) Auditorium at 13466 West Trepania Road, Hayward, WI, on Saturday, January 24 and Sunday, January 25, 2015. We hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity to work and learn alongside professional Native artists and business coaches.

The training is sponsored by LaPointe Financial Inc. and First Peoples Fund. This program is being offered free. Register now at http://www.firstpeoplesfund.org/trainings/registration.html

At the training, we will work with you to help you grow an arts business. You will have an opportunity to participate in the following: Express your personal vision and values that will ultimately become the principal foundation of your business. Determine your art marketing, business and financial management abilities using a series of self-assessment tools.

Plan and set goals leading to weekly and monthly and annual business calendars. Budget and establish a successful pricing structure. Market your business using a variety of approaches and tools. Complete a marketing plan.

Here are the details for the upcoming training:
When: Saturday, January 24 and Sunday, January 25, 2015
Time: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days
LCOOCC Auditorium
13466 West Trepania Road
Hayward, WI 54843
Contact for more information:
Jeremy Staab
(605) 348-0324
jeremy@firstpeoplesfund.org

LCO College Extension Office Presents

BEGINNER PRODUCER PROGRAM

FREE gardening classes twice a month with meals provided

- Hands-on workshops
- Garden plot, supplies, and tools included
- Stipend upon program completion

- Program runs from February-September
- Learn about seeds, soil, pest control, irrigation, food preservation, and more!

Find Us
facebook.com/LacCourteOreillesTribalGovernment

Follow Us on Twitter @LCOOjibwe
Casino story continued from pg. 1

December with all of our monthly operational bills current and in essence paid in full. Outstanding and remarkable performance... “A” team stuff. They deserve a huge commendation for such an outstanding feat. What spun off this is a planned February/March rally to provide public recognition for special acts of dedication and commitment throughout this winter season. HR is launching a new program to include weekly and monthly recognition/rewards to appreciate team members who go above and beyond the call of duty. Mix in a few severe winter storms, slots being down due to IT problems and we had very real reasons to miss our profit goals for the first quarter. The recovery was truly an amazing accomplishment. I would be remiss without offering huge kudos to LCO Development as they are part of our team as well. To be right on target to make our profit goals for the year after these challenges is a testament to the incredible resiliency of our team. It has been a boost of confidence to realize just what can be accomplished when committed people stand in the face of severe diversity and overcome it. Great, great job and chi mii gwech to all of those team members who are fighting the everyday battle of pursuit-of-excellence and winning.

Questions for Waadookodaading Parents?

Have questions about the big merging of schools or just general questions about your child’s classroom? Can’t make it to the school board meetings or just too shy to speak directly to a board/staff member? No problem, we understand! Just email us at waadookodaadingparents@gmail.com. We’re happy to add your questions to a list and present them at the next staff meeting or board meeting. We don’t even have to attach your name to the question if you prefer. Answers will be distributed back to you.

Please keep in mind...

If you have a question, most likely, others do too! You’re not alone, and we’re here to help. Miigwech for choosing Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School. School leaders want all parents/guardians/families to know that staff are always doing their best to make you feel included and welcome on campus.