

## Press Release Template

### Local Team Participates in Public Health Leadership Program

**Wilson, MI (4/10/12)** – Hannahville Indian Community has been selected to participate in the National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health (NLAPH) program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS). The NLAPH is a national program focused on improving community health by working with multi-sector leadership teams and training the teams through an applied, team-based collaborative leadership development model. The program is being implemented by the Center for Health Leadership and Practice (CHLP), a center of the Public Health Institute (PHI), and will provide training and support for a period of one year.

“This program will impart community health teams with the skills to lead across sectors and collaboratively solve complex community health problems in innovative ways,” said Carmen Rita Nevarez MD, MPH, Vice President for External Relations and CHLP's Director. “These are the types of leaders who will ultimately be able to drive critical efforts, such as the adoption of evidence-based policies and practices at the community level, which can have a tangible impact on health outcomes.”

The Hannahville Indian Community team will work on an applied learning project that tackles childhood obesity, an important community health issue with the goal of improving community public health outcomes. The project will target children in an effort to instill healthy lifestyle choices early in life by working with the Keepers of the Future Child Care Center. The NLAPH program has provided an opportunity for the team to work on their common goal of providing a healthy environment for the youth in the community. The team will evaluate the current school menu to determine ways to provide more nutritious foods and will also address hands-on nutrition education for the children and their family.

The team assembled to undertake this critical issue includes representation from: Julia Schroeder, Child Care Center Director; Tammy Dlugas, RN, Nah Tah Wahsh School Nurse; Kris Blahnik, RN, Clinic and Community Health Supervisor; and Erin Davis, MS RD CDE, Registered Dietitian.

NLAPH will provide training and support to assist the team in successfully addressing childhood overweight/obesity. Training and support will focus on two tracks. The first is the development of leadership skills, including personal and collaborative leadership in a multi-sector environment. The second emphasizes growth from team-based collaborative work to policy and systems change. NLAPH is provided at no cost to the participants or the community.

**For more information, contact:**

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