

# State of Emergency for Bad River Tribe

The Tribal Directors for Bad River Tribe formally request to the Tribal Council to entertain a motion that calls for a “State of Emergency” for the Bad River Tribe and accept the resolution presented based on the following:

The opioid crisis in Bad River has led to a loss of life among our tribal members either directly or indirectly. Their deaths have created fatherless and motherless children for other relatives to raise. Some of these children will never know who their parents were and some will remember how drugs have changed their lives forever. There is yet, another percentage of absent parents due to drugs either they are incarcerated or child welfare has removed the child(ren). The local jail is a reflection of the drug activity in the community which averages approximately 60%-55% American Indians on any given day.

The opioid crisis has left children parentless including loss of grandparents, creating a sub culture among abusers that puts our traditional values at risk. Each tribal department has worked directly with the drug issues and determined that we are at a state of emergency:

Social and Family Services Department identified that in the past 4 years 100% of child welfare cases have opened in the court system linked to drug abuse. Today, we have more grandparents raising their grandchildren in the history of Bad River because of drug abuse. Many of these grandparents are in their mid 60's and early 70's caring for infants and toddlers. It is with great sadness to report that there are grandparents that are as addicted to prescription pills, methamphetamine, or heroin. Our extended family values are being replaced by the drug culture, teaching our children to not have hope. TANF program implemented a drug testing criteria and since then the number of clients dropped to 75% under a year prior to implementation. Clients transferred to Ashland W2 program because they do not want to do the drug test yet, they seek services when utility disconnect notices are served. SFS provides seasonal pipe ceremony & feasts to pray for those that are struggling with this addiction; for the families that have to care for children whose parents are lost to drugs; and for our leaders to make culturally sound decisions. Abinoojiyag Resource Center (ARC) has witnessed parents choose drugs over their children never meeting with a worker to do an assessment or case plan; no visits with their children; nor attending court hearings.

Tribal departments received monthly reports and surveys that indicate our tribal members began using drugs at Middle School age; learning from their parents, older sibling, and/or other relative. The Adverse Childhood Effects (ACEs) for these children will remain with them into adulthood; negatively impacting their lives until healing restores their spirit. Education has become a value that is slipping away from these children. Parents value drugs over education which leads to children absent and/or truant. This is a step backwards into illiteracy a direction our ancestors did not intend when signing the treaties. As employees of the tribe we have witnessed our tribal/community members deteriorate as their use of drugs increases.

Community members and tribal programs have come together to address the drug problem in the community that is getting worse than better. The Health & Wellness Department has seen the number of intravenous drug users rising. Even with the Needle Exchange program available tribal members walk throughout the community seeing needles discarded on the streets and trails throughout the villages. The number of clients that know they have Hepatitis C but refuse to get tested. We have Tribal employees that have been trained on how to use Narcan in order to save a life. An out-patient program developed at the Health & Wellness Center has a waiting list in which we need an in-patient treatment center to address the level of addiction that is present in the community. These are only a few examples that describes how the programs and community is addressing the opioid crisis. Yet, we are unable to keep up with the case loads and level of addiction that has surpassed our services.

Housing implemented a methamphetamine testing project in which 10+ homes tested positive for meth that resulted in families losing their homes; children displaced to other relatives and/or placed in foster care. Houses totally destroyed due to drug use costing Housing funds to restore to safe sites. Families become homeless due to drugs moving from house to house or living in the wooded areas due to drug use.

Natural Resource Department is the sponsor for the Annual Earth Day event which is celebrated by the community however, it begins with instructions on how to discard needles when found while picking up garbage. Some families discontinue participating because they do not want to expose their children. Most recently Bad River has had a homicide that can be linked to drug use which has created civil unrest among our young people exploding into the school systems.

This is a testament to the changes that we as employees and tribal members have experienced to accommodate the drug world. We can no longer do this alone we request the powers above us to declare a State of Emergency to save our future generations.

*In the Anishinabe teachings it is said the Creator gave us 4 gifts when we are sent to Ni mamaki, one of these gifts is freewill. It is the freewill of our tribal members to engage with opioid use however, once addicted their freewill is no longer theirs. Mii omaa aakozid geget gii-kidimaagiziwag ongow anishinaabeg.*

# Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

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CHIEF BLACKBIRD CENTER

P.O.Box 39 • Odanah, Wisconsin 54861

Resolution No. 11-1-17-914.

## RESOLUTION FOR DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PRESCRIPTION OPIATE MEDICATION AND IUEGAL DRUG USE

**WHEREAS**, the Bad River Band of the lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe organized under Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 25 U.S.C. §476, and Bad River Tribal Council is the governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bad River Tribal Council is charged with the responsibility of protecting and advocating for the health, safety and welfare of Bad River Band members within the Bad River Reservation boundaries and ceded territory; and

**WHEREAS**, the abuse of prescription opiate medication and illegal drugs has been well documented on the Bad River Reservation. The impacts of this drug abuse and use are being felt in our homes, in our schools, in our workplace and in our daily lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council hereby finds that many impacts of the abuse of prescription opiate medication and use of illegal drugs lead to: child welfare cases opened in the court system linked to drug abuse; our family networks replaced by illegal drugs; disproportionate criminal incarcerations of members resulting from illegal drugs; and significant disruptions in our education system including individual and school wide behavioral issues; and

**WHEREAS**, our life is rooted in connection to the natural world, the source of health and wellness for past, present, and future generations, making our relationship with the natural world sacred; Mashkii-Zibi (Bad River) is a place that is special in which the circle of life is full, and provides the elements that continue to give us life and blesses us with food and medicine necessary to sustain our health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the abuse of prescription opiate medication and use of illegal drugs has risen to crisis proportion and threatens to break our connection to the natural world, threatens to deprive us of the elements that gives us life and threatens the health, welfare, and safety of all the residents of the Bad River Reservation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Bad River Tribal Council hereby declares a State of Emergency on the Bad River Reservation as a direct result of the abuse and use of prescription opiate medication and illegal drugs by many tribal members and, the impact these drugs have on our children, families, and community; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, all Bad River Tribal agencies, departments, and entities must make this State of Emergency their top priority by collaboratively using their resources in developing solutions to the massive and complex problems caused by prescription opiate medication abuse and the use of other illegal drugs; and

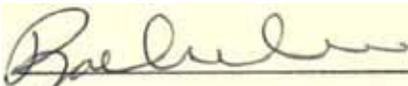
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council is hereby creating a task force to address opiate abuse and other illegal drugs impacting our children, families, and community. The Task Force shall consist of five (5) members: the Health & Wellness Director, Social & Family Services Director, Education Director, Housing Director, and a Chairperson appointed by Tribal Council. The Task Force is charged with developing and presenting a comprehensive, coordinated strategy to respond to the opiate abuse and other illegal drugs by working with all areas of tribal government on prevention of overdose deaths, finding additional resources for treatment of addicts. The Task Force shall further cooperate with Federal, State, and local entities in carrying out its mission. The Task Force shall be authorized to call upon any department or program of the Tribe to supply it with information, personnel, or other assistance available necessary to discharge its duties under this Resolution. The Task Force shall organize and meet as soon as practicable to begin performing its duties.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution shall be served upon the following federal and state agencies with a request for assistance in combating this emergency, including: the National Institute of Drug Addiction, the Veteran's Administration, the Department of Education, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Indian Health Service, the Wisconsin Attorney General's office, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and, the Wisconsin Department of Children, Families and Youth Services; and

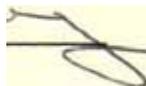
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the Bad River Justice Program is hereby directed to report options for holding the pharmaceutical companies responsible through education, financial, logistical and legal solutions that may be available as a result of this State of Emergency.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 7 members, of the whom \_\_\_\_\_ constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly called, noticed, and held on the 1 day of November; 2017, that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 4 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.



Rae Ann Maday, Tribal Secretary



11-1-17-91M

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