

OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE SISSETON-WAHPETON  
OYATE

# Tribal Research Office

## Did you know...

the Tribal Research Office is staffed by one person? And did you know the Research Specialist is currently expecting a baby??

I am nine months pregnant with a baby boy due on August 29th, 2018!



I wanted to let the Oyate know that the office will still be operating during this time. However, please expect a delay in response to all requests as I spend time with my newborn.



Thank you for your understanding and patience. Nina wopida tanka!!

Your comments & suggestions are always welcomed. Contact:  
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Agency Village, SD

Location: Tribal Admin. Bldg, Ska (White) Quadrant, Education Suite  
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## Research Updates

From Heather Larsen, Research Specialist



### Research Project recently completed on the Lake Traverse Reservation

At the July monthly meeting, the Local Research Review Board (LRRB) officially 'closed out' a previous research project titled, "Great Plains Partnerships to Improve Community Health (GPPICH)." This project was initially reviewed and approved by the LRRB on April 24th, 2015 and the final results have been returned.

#### Who was involved with this project & what was the purpose?

In September 2014, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board received a Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) cooperative agreement for three years. PICH funding was used to reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, improve nutrition, increase physical activity and improve access to programs for preventing and managing chronic diseases with tribal partners from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate.



#### So how was the project utilized on the Lake Traverse Reservation?

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate received hands on training and technical assistance from the GPPICH program to improve the overall health and wellness in our community. This partnership facilitated the creation of a community driven tribal advisory committee/coalition (TAC). This TAC was then assessed the needs of our community by using GPTCHB's Policy, Systems, and Environment (PSE) Tool. Next, the TAC developed a tribal-specific community action plan to implement culturally relevant strategies that would reach a majority of their (tribally defined) priority population. SWO's PSE focus areas were in tobacco prevention, nutrition and physical activity.

#### What were some of the results of the project?

In the area of tobacco prevention, the SWO TAC and partners were able to educate on the dangers of third hand smoke and draft policy for smoke free housing. They also put up no smoking signage in the Dakota language. SWO was also able to successfully install water filling stations to increase access to healthy beverages. And most recently, the tribe signed a memo dedicating space for mothers to breastfeed or pump while working. These PSE changes will benefit tribal members for years to come as they have made healthier choices more accessible within the community. The successes from this project could be used by SWO to acquire additional funding in tobacco prevention, obesity prevention or nutrition.

### These Dakota values guide our process:

**Woodbdeza**  
(Observation)

**Wowicake**  
(Truth)

**Woohoda**  
(Respect)

**Wowoonsida**  
(Compassion)

**Woksape**  
(Wisdom)

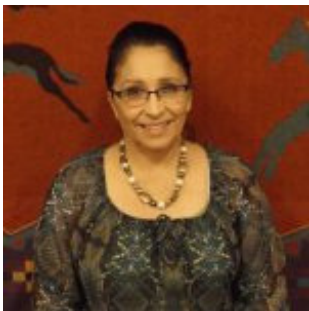
# Highlight of a Local Research Review Board (LRRB) member

In this month's newsletter, we are highlighting the last member of our Local Research Review Board, Sherry Johnson, Ed.D. is an enrolled member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. Currently, she is the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Education Director, providing administrative and coordination support for the Tribal Education Programs.

Dr. Johnson was awarded an AA Degree in General Studies from the Sisseton-Wahpeton College, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from Sinte Gleska University, a Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Science Education and Elementary Principal Certification, Doctorate Degree from the University of South Dakota in Curriculum and Instruction with Educational Administration and Superintendent Certification, a School Improvement Certification Degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



She was instrumental in building the foundation of the Tribal Research Office by writing Chapter 77, the Research Code that established the Research Office, created the Local Research Review Board and provided the procedures for conducting research on the Lake Traverse Reservation. Dr Johnson wrote a grant to fund the Research Office and its activities. She has been a member of the Local Research Review Board since its inception in 2014. Dr. Johnson notes that the two biggest areas of research on the Lake Traverse Reservation are in the fields of health and education. She stays active on the LRRB to ensure that research oversight is provided equally to all tribal schools. We are very grateful to Dr. Johnson for the initial and continued commitment to the Research Office's efforts and by remaining a member of the LRRB!



“ Dr. Johnson states, Safe guarding tribal members, specifically youth, from the numerous requests for research and ensuring that the approved research methods are appropriate is a big responsibility. ”

## Mission

The current mission of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Research Office is to enhance the tribal research infrastructure by continuing to build the research review capacity, education through community engagement, and exercising tribal sovereignty through research data management. The main objective of the Tribal Research Office is to improve the overall status of all Tribal members through relevant, tailored, and culturally sensitive research as outlined in the SWO Code Chapter 77 - "SWO Research Code."

