

Dementia in Indian Country: Gathering together for Brain Health



Wisconsin Alzheimer's
Disease Research Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior invites you!

FREE EVENT

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

12:00-6:30 pm

Legendary Waters Resort & Casino

37600 Onigamiing Dr, Bayfield, WI 54814

This is an education and fellowship program held in conjunction with the Great Lakes Native American Elder Association GLNAEA quarterly meeting. The program is supported by the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, with a focus on building awareness about Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia in Indian Country.



Will Funmaker is the Director of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center and Executive Director of the Great Lakes Area Tribal Health Board. With extensive experience in healthcare and public health, he has dedicated his career to advancing Tribal health initiatives and strengthening epidemiological efforts in Native American communities. His leadership focuses on improving health outcomes, advocating for tribal sovereignty in healthcare, and fostering collaborations among tribal, state, and federal agencies. Before his work in tribal public health, Will served five years as a Navy hospital corpsman, gaining practical experience in medical care, emergency response, and military health operations. He holds an MBA, a Bachelor's in Applied Leadership with a focus on Non-Profit Management, and an Associate degree in Medical Laboratory Technology. His combined experience in healthcare, leadership, and public health has shaped his approach to advancing Tribal health initiatives and advocating for the well-being of Tribal communities.

Panelists



Khou Xiong is a physician assistant. She has been a familiar face at the Red Cliff Health Center since 2012.



Sarah Tourdot has been the Elderly Services Director in Red Cliff since December of 2022. With a spirit of ongoing learning, she leads efforts to support elders and caregivers through culturally rooted programs. In her talk, she'll explore services available in Red Cliff—what's unique to the Tribe, and what should be accessible across other Tribes and Counties. Topics include financial relief through the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program, long-term care resources, dementia caregiver support groups, local programming outside of the Elderly Department, and the challenges faced by aging units in bridging gaps in dementia care.



Denise "Dee" Sweet (Anishinaabe, White Earth) will be serving as the Red Cliff Band of Chippewa's first Memory Care Coordinator. Her role at Family and Human Services involves coordinating individual screening for cognitive disorders (primarily dementia and Alzheimer's disease) and assisting with community outreach and public awareness. Sweet will also lend support to individuals (especially elders) who are afflicted with diminishing cognition as a result of dementia. Sweet will lend her support to caregivers, extended families, and, of course, the clients themselves.

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Agenda

12:00-1:00pm

Food will be served

1:30-2:30pm

Will Funmaker

"Dementia & Alzheimer's Today: A Data
Brief in Native America"

2:30-3:00pm

Break and social time

3:00-4:30pm

Panel

"The Effects of Dementia & Alzheimer's from
the Local Tribal Level - Red Cliff"

4:30-5:00pm

Break before dinner

5:00pm

Food will be served

5:30-6:30pm

Veterans' Gathering