

Grand Traverse County Drug Free Coalition Newsletter

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A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hello coalition members,

Our next coalition meeting is on Thursday, May 13 from 4-5pm via Zoom. We will be having a community discussion on Narcan distribution with representatives from Addiction Treatment Services, Harm Reduction MI, Munson, The Northwest Michigan Regional Medical Control Authority, and Up North Prevention/Catholic Human Services. Everyone is welcome and I hope that you are able to join us! The agenda will be sent out in an email early next week.

The Traverse City Narcotics Team has launched a website: <https://www.traversenarcoticsteam.com/>. The website contains a lot of useful information and may be a great resource to you and others that you know, so please feel free to share this within your network.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced that Michigan is reporting its second consecutive year of decreasing opioid overdose deaths and drug overdose deaths overall, for the years 2018 and 2019. For the full press release, visit: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2021/04/15/file_attachments/1756291/2019%20Drug%20Overdose%20Press%20Release.pdf.

Be well,

Lauren

COLOR FOR HOPE

We have received a lot of community support so far and our Color for Hope fundraiser continues! These 18"x24" colorable posters come in four unique designs, two Traverse City and two Leelanau posters. The designs include businesses, landmarks, and scenery specific to these areas. The local artist, Susan Alexander, spent hours in the natural areas, businesses, and landmarks of Traverse City and Leelanau County areas to capture the beautiful details. Susan Alexander lost her daughter to the disease of addiction. She is a passionate supporter of this cause and donated these posters as a way to further efforts to curb addiction and increase availability of resources related to education, prevention and treatment. All proceeds from the sale of these posters go to support SUD education, prevention, and treatment in our community.

The cost is \$15 for a set of two posters. The posters are currently available at both Oryana locations, ATS' The PORCH, The Red Dresser, Haberdashery, Premier Floral Design & Gift Emporium, Solitude Float and Wellness Spa, Peninsula Market, The Botanical Gardens, and the AREA Posters Facebook page. You can also email me directly and I can coordinate a pickup with you. Cash or checks, made payable to Catholic Human Services, are accepted.

We have recently collaborated with the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority for this project. They will be promoting and selling our posters for \$20; \$15 will be going towards our fundraiser and \$5 will go towards the Downtown Relief Fund. You can visit their website (<https://www.downtowntc.com/relief/>) to purchase or stop into Great Lakes Bath and Body or Spice and Tea Merchants.

The Red Dresser has donated a booth and invited us to sell our Color for Hope posters and have a resource table at their Barn Market Event at the NW Michigan Fairgrounds on May 28th & 29th! We have also been offered the opportunity to help with parking for the event, by doing this we would receive a donation of more than \$500.00 to go towards prevention, education, and treatment of SUD in our community. We are looking for volunteers for Friday, 5/28 from 3-7pm & Saturday, 5/29 from 8am-2:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lauren Reed at gtcdrugfreecoalition@gmail.com.

We have raised just over \$3,000 so far and have purchased Naloxboxes that have been installed at the Woodmere (2nd floor), East Bay, Peninsula, and Kingsley libraries as well as at Living Hope Church.

STUDENTS TOGETHER AGAINST NEGATIVE DECISIONS (STAND)

Reegan Graham and Madelynn Johnson, STAND Club members from Traverse City West Senior High, recently won the Governor's Traffic Safety Award! To qualify for this award, the student(s) must hold some type of event, make a video, etc. showing the dangers of alcohol/drugs/texting and shed light on saving lives. Trooper Dave Prichard nominated them for the Drug Awareness Basketball Game that they planned and implemented as a part of STAND Club in January 2019.

EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Starting in February, we started virtually meeting with a different eighth grade class at East Middle School each week. Prior to the session, the students watch the Predator and Prey documentary. Predator and Prey is a documentary that was created by East Middle School Digital Media Students in 2018 that talks about the opioid crisis in our area, you can view it for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZU2FcsFg4HI>. During our meetings with the students, we have two guest speakers who have lived experience with addiction tell their stories and then answer any questions the students have. The Middle School Library Media Coordinator recently created a display in the East Middle School library that contains resources and age appropriate books about addiction.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Up North Prevention has upcoming virtual Naloxone trainings that are free of charge. To view the full list of trainings, more details, and to register go to <https://upnorthprevention.org/events/>.

The Michigan Substance Use Prevention, Education, and Recovery (MiSUPER) is hosting a Prevention Week Community Opioid Education Webinar on Friday, May 14 from 12-1pm. This 1-hour webinar provides a foundational overview on opioid misuse prevention, treatment options, and recovery support so rural community members and healthcare professionals can recognize signs of misuse, understand options for professional treatment, and support those in recovery. Learn more and register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=DB58BDC972C78E3D841926D935531B9C37791C DFA66AF3A8707BACD13F1BEA34>.

RESOURCES

- The State of Michigan, in partnership with the Connected Nation Michigan, has launched a [statewide Wi-Fi hotspot](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIMSP/2020/06/09/file_attachments/1470122/JIC%20News%20Release%20259_State%20of%20Michigan%20Launches%20Online%20Map%20of%20Free%20Wi-Fi%20Hotspots%20to%20Help%20Residents%20Lacking%20Access%20to%20Broadband%20Internet.pdf) map to help residents lacking access to broadband internet at home: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIMSP/2020/06/09/file_attachments/1470122/JIC%20News%20Release%20259_State%20of%20Michigan%20Launches%20Online%20Map%20of%20Free%20Wi-Fi%20Hotspots%20to%20Help%20Residents%20Lacking%20Access%20to%20Broadband%20Internet.pdf
- The State of Michigan has put together a list of resources if you're feeling emotional distress caused by COVID-19, the page offers many ways to connect to emotional-support services without leaving your home: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_99557---,00.html
- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has established a warmline for persons with mental health conditions. The warmline will be operated by Certified Peer Support Specialist. Individuals calling the warmline will be provided with support by peers who have their own lived experience with mental health issues. They will be providing wellness support and a listening ear. Here is the link to the warmline: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2941---,00.html. The phone numbers is (888) 733-7753.
- Matt Zerilli and Madie Begley from Addiction Treatment Services' The PORCH co-host regular Facebook live check-ins to help people stay connected and to cope with the current physical distancing requirements. For updates on upcoming live events or to watch recorded videos, visit and join the "The PORCH Community Center: A Project of ATS" Facebook group.
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has put together a list of resources for people with substance use disorders and those in recovery to address the unique challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/covid-19-resources>
- The NIDA for Teens has a free online toolkit that offers science-based activities and resources on drug use and addiction for educating teens while they are out of school: https://teens.drugabuse.gov/teachers/out-of-school-time-toolkit?utm_source=teeneblast&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nf&utm_term=NPnp&utm_campaign=teen-NDAFW2020

NEWS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- The Daily Mining Gazette – Attorney General Nessel Partners with Responsibility.org to Prevent Underage Drinking during Alcohol Responsibility Month :
<https://www.mininggazette.com/news/michigan-news-apwire/2021/04/attorney-general-nessel-partners-with-responsibility-org-to-prevent-underage-drinking-during-alcohol-responsibility-month/>
- Washington Monthly – As Overdoses Reach New Highs, Messaging on Addiction Needs More Nuance:
<https://washingtonmonthly.com/2021/03/05/as-overdoses-reach-new-highs-messaging-on-addiction-needs-more-nuance/>
- Up North Live – Traverse City Police Participate in 2021 Prescription Take Back Day:
<https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/traverse-city-police-participate-in-2021prescription-take-back-day>
- Psychiatric Times – A Tale of Two Crises: Fighting the Overdose Problem during the Pandemic:
<https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/a-tale-of-two-crises-fighting-the-overdose-problem-during-the-pandemic>

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

May 6 6:00pm – Families Against Narcotics monthly forum (meeting will be held virtually - Zoom link: <https://misczo.zoom.us/j/2423050413>. <https://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/grand-traverse>

Note - this group meets the 1st Thursday of each month

May 13 4-5pm – Grand Traverse County Drug Free Coalition monthly meeting, held virtually – Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/95640237687?pwd=aXNTNoc2QUJ6WGpaQ3h3Y215WmFxUT09> *Note – we meet on the 2nd

Thursday of each month*

Contact Us

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**Grand Traverse County
Drug Free Coalition**

If you have news or events you would like to share or are interested in participating in the Coalition, please contact Lauren Reed via email at GTCdrugfreecoalition@gmail.com