

Grand Traverse Addiction & Recovery Council (GTARC) Newsletter

Volume 8 / Issue 8 / August 2025

A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hello council members,

Our next coalition meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, from 3:30-4:30 pm. This meeting will be held **in person only** at the Grand Traverse County Health Department (2600 LaFranier Rd, Traverse City), with **no virtual option** available. Our guest speaker will be Jenn Holm, Police Social Worker Coordinator with the Traverse City Police Department. She will provide an overview of the Traverse City Quick Response Team, including current program statistics. Everyone is welcome, and I hope you are able to join us!

I will be on maternity leave shortly and will return on January 5, 2026. As a result, our September, October, and November coalition meetings will be held **in person only** at the Grand Traverse County Health Department, with **no virtual option** available. Dave Freedman, Coalition Chair, will lead the meetings during my absence. If you have any questions about the meetings or the coalition while I'm away, please contact Dave at david@cleadership.net. Please note that the coalition does not meet in December.

Our October and November guest speakers will be as follows:

- **Wednesday, October 8 from 3:30-4:30pm: Cori Smoker**, Peer Recovery Coach at 217 Recovery, will provide an overview of the organization and talk about Recovery Friendly Workplaces
- **Wednesday, November 12 from 3:30-4:30pm: Paula Lipinski**, Chief Executive Officer of Addiction Treatment Services, will provide an overview of the organization, including recent updates to its Recovery Home program.

On August 4, 2025, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services launched the My Life, My Quit mobile app to help Michigan youth quit tobacco and nicotine products, including e-cigarettes/vapes. This will make it easy for teens to get confidential support from their smartphones. For more information visit: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2025/08/04/my-life-my-quit>

September is National Recovery Month, a time to promote and support prevention efforts, evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the recovery community, and the dedicated service providers and community members who make recovery possible.

Each month, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services releases a report highlighting recent substance use and overdose trends and patterns in Michigan. You can view the June and July 2025 reports at the following link:

- June:
<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiYzY4ZmQ4OTctYWU1ZCooYmMyLWFjZTktOGExMzkxM2Y1ODE4IiwidCI6ImQ1ZmI3MDg3LTM3NzctNDJhZCo5NjZhLTg5MmVmNDcyMjVkMSJ9>
- July:
<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiYzY4ZmQ4OTctYWU1ZCooYmMyLWFjZTktOGExMzkxM2Y1ODE4IiwidCI6ImQ1ZmI3MDg3LTM3NzctNDJhZCo5NjZhLTg5MmVmNDcyMjVkMSJ9>

Be well,

Lauren

7th Annual
**INTERNATIONAL
OVERDOSE
AWARENESS DAY
CEREMONY**

Presented by "Moms on a Mission"

August 31, 2025 at 6 p.m.

**The Botanical Gardens at Historic Barnes Park
1490 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI**

**Join us in the "Walled Garden" in Barnes
Park at 6 p.m. to honor the loved ones
we have lost to substance use disorder
and offer hope to those in need.**

**We will observe a moment of Silence.
Have a Prayer.**

**Find HOPE from our Recovery Speakers.
Light Candles of Remembrance.
Hear from Community Speakers.
End with the "Hope of Recovery."**



Art of Recovery:

BEYOND THE BRUSH

SEPTEMBER | **13** | @ 5:30 PM

City Opera House

106 E. Front St., Traverse City

A Night of Art, Community & Recovery

Join us at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 13 for our Art of Recovery fundraiser. This year we're going beyond the brush and featuring speakers that represent the past, present and future of ATS in honor of our 50th anniversary. Enjoy an art auction, strolling food stations from S2S Sugar to Salt, mocktails and auditorium-style seating while learning more about ATS and the masterpiece that is recovery.

Reserve your spot now! Tickets are free this year. There will be a suggested donation at the door of \$50 for 50 years of ATS.

RSVP now to hold your spot: bit.ly/artofrecoveryrsvp





safeTALK

suicide alertness for everyone

Open to ages 15 years and older

Sept 15, 12:30-4pm

TraverseAreaDistrictLibrary -McguireRoom



610WoodmereAve.Traverse CityMI



\$25 registration-refunded upon completion(minus sm fee)



Materials and light lunch provided by Kiersten's Ride

safeTALK helps participants become alert to suicide.

Suicide-alert people are better prepared to connect persons with thoughts of suicide with life-affirming help.

Over the course of their training, safeTALK participants will learn to:

- Notice and respond to situations where suicide thoughts may be present,
 - Recognize that invitations for help are often overlooked,
- Move beyond the common tendency to miss, dismiss, and avoid suicide,
 - Apply the TALK steps: Tell, Ask, Listen, KeepSafe, and
- Know community resources and how to connect someone with thoughts of suicide to help.

Must Pre-Register

REGISTER TODAY



KierstensRide.org



KierstensRide@outlook.com



231.675.5047



Possible CE:
Social Work,
MIPEERS &
SCECHs



verify @ registration

Community Partners



Kiersten's Ride

*Bringing help, hope and healing
through suicide prevention in
Northern Lower Michigan*



TRAVERSE AREA
DISTRICT
LIBRARY



ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES



SEPTEMBER 26, 2025
10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. | @ THE PORCH

You're invited to join us on our ATS Campus at
1010 S. Garfield Ave. in Traverse City for our
4th Annual Porch-A-Palooza celebration!

This FREE community event will feature a free taco
food truck, resource tables, meetings, workshops,
a dunk tank and more. See you there!

A Special Thank You to Our Recovery Month Sponsors:

Thomas Judd Care Center, Traverse Area District Library
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Cherryland
Electric Cooperative, MSUFCU, Ford Insurance Agency, Jimmy Johns of
TC, Networks Northwest, Edson Farms, Braeburn, Lighthouse
Rehabilitation and NOMI Realtors.



RESOURCES

- The Traverse City Police Department has launched their website for the Quick Response Team (QRT). It contains information on how you can obtain a naloxone kit in our area, how to use naloxone, making a referral to the program, and other information about this program.
<https://www.traversecitymi.gov/government/city-departments/police-department/community-policing/social-services.html>
- The OpiRescue app helps anyone, including first responders, prevent opioid misuse and reduce opioid overdose deaths by addressing education, prevention, and tracking of overdose reversals. This free overdose support is available for Android, iPhone, and on the web.
- The US Drug Enforcement Administration's "Just Think Twice" website provides drug information, news stories, personal stories, consequences, facts, and statistics. <https://www.justthinktwice.gov/>
- The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States.
- The State of Michigan, in partnership with the Connected Nation Michigan, has launched a [statewide Wi-Fi hotspot](#) map to help residents lacking access to broadband internet at home
- 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 number is (888) 733-7753.

NEWS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- The Ticker – County Prepares to Start Distributing Opioid, Marijuana Funds:
<https://www.traverseticker.com/news/county-prepares-to-start-distributing-opioid-marijuana-funds/#:~:text=County%20Deputy%20Administrator%20Chris%20Forsyth,over%20%246.4%20million%20through%202040>
- Up North Live – Traverse City Allocates 300K to Tackle Affordable Housing Needs:
<https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/traverse-city-allocates-300k-to-tackle-affordable-housing-needs>

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

September 4 6-7:15pm – Face Addiction Now (FAN) forum in person at Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City. All are welcome.

September 10 3:30-4:30pm – Grand Traverse Addiction & Recovery Council (GTARC) monthly meeting, in person at the Grand Traverse County Health Department (2600 LaFranier Rd, Traverse City). *Note – we meet on the 2nd WEDNESDAY of each month, excluding July & December*

September 29 from 5:30-6:30pm – Catholic Human Services will hold a Money Management – Early Recovery class on the last Monday of each month at CHS (1000 Hastings St, Traverse City).

Mission: To create a community-wide culture of awareness and action in the prevention, treatment and recovery of substance use disorders.

Vision: A substance use disorder free Grand Traverse County (SUD free GTC)

Contact Us

Lauren Reed, MPH

Coordinator

Grand Traverse Addiction & Recovery Council (GTARC)

Email: GTCdrugfreecoalition@gmail.com

Website: www.gtcdfc.com



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

The Grand Traverse Addiction & Recovery Council is funded through a Liquor Tax Grant from the Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE)

