

Grand Traverse Addiction & Recovery Council (GTARC) Newsletter

Volume 8 / Issue 4 / April 2025

A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hello council members,

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14, from 3:30–4:30 PM at the Grand Traverse County Health Department, with a hybrid Zoom option available. We're pleased to welcome Michael Corby, Behavioral Health Director for the Grand Traverse Mental Health Crisis and Access Center, and Terri Lacroix-Kelty, Executive Director of Behavioral Health for Munson Healthcare. They will provide an overview of the Crisis Center and share updates. An agenda and Zoom link will be sent out closer to the meeting date. Everyone is welcome—I hope you can join us!

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is seeking feedback to help update the Do Your Part Michigan Strategic Plan to Reduce Underage Drinking. If you are aware of or are doing any work to address underage drinking in communities, please take about ten minutes to complete this survey. The deadline to submit responses is **May 7, 2025**. Here's the survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLKWZRC>

Inseparable has released the April 2025 School Mental Health Report Card. To view the Michigan state snapshot, visit: https://www.inseparable.us/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2025/04/Inseparable-2025SchoolMHReportCard-041625-MI.pdf.

There is an upcoming Doula training in August in Traverse City, sponsored by District Health Department #10's Perinatal SUD Project. They would like to have some peer recovery coaches trained as Doulas. When filling out the application, please put "Donna Norkoli" or the "District Health Dept. #10" in the "referred by" box. It is important to take the application process seriously by answering all questions completely, thoughtfully, and in detail. For more information, to apply, and to explore scholarship opportunities, please visit: <https://heartsoulbirthpros.com/nomischol/>.

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 February 2025 report at the following link:

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiYzY4ZmQ4OTctYWU1ZCooYmMyLWFjZTktOGExMzkxM2Y1ODE4IiwidCI6ImQ1ZmI3MDg3LTM3NzctNDJhZC05NjZhLTg5MmVmNDcyMjVjVkMSJ9>.

Be well,

Lauren

COLOR FOR HOPE – CLOSING SUMMARY

After nearly 4.5 years, the *Color for Hope* fundraiser is coming to a close and has been passed on to new leadership. This grassroots initiative began with the goal of supporting substance use disorder (SUD) education, prevention, and treatment in our community—and it has made a meaningful impact thanks to widespread local support.

The fundraiser featured 18”x24” colorable posters designed by local artist Susan Alexander, who created four unique illustrations capturing iconic landmarks and scenery from Traverse City and Leelanau County. Susan, who tragically lost her daughter to addiction, generously donated her artwork to help advance community efforts in the fight against substance use.

Each \$8 poster sale contributed directly to local initiatives, and together we’ve raised over **\$30,000**. These funds have provided life-saving Naloxone Safety Kits at over 20 community locations and supported recovery programs like Phoenix House, where women and their children can heal together. The Grand Traverse Pie Company’s \$3,000 match was a powerful example of community partnership—and now, as we close, we’ve made a final \$10,000 donation to the Guardians of Hope Scholarship Program at Addiction Treatment Services to help make recovery accessible to everyone, regardless of insurance status.

Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraiser and helped color our community with hope!

STAND UPDATE

The Kingsley High School STAND students celebrated National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week with a series of engaging activities designed to raise awareness and promote healthy choices. Throughout the week, students participated in dress-up theme days, showing their commitment to the cause. Important facts about drug and alcohol use were shared during school announcements and displayed on the whiteboard as students entered the building, ensuring that crucial information was readily available to all. Additionally, the STAND group presented videos from NaturalHigh.org, offering compelling messages about staying drug- and alcohol-free. To make learning fun, they also created a Kahoot quiz, encouraging students to test their knowledge on the topic. In a spirit of giving, the students hosted a Hat Day event, with the proceeds being donated to Addiction Treatment Services. These activities helped educate students while also making a positive impact on the community.





UPCOMING EVENTS

There will be a Pines clean-up on Monday, May 5 at 9:00 AM, and volunteers are needed! The goal is to remove trash from abandoned sites and assist individuals who wish to clean up their areas. No enforcement will occur during the clean-up. Volunteers are encouraged to bring thick gloves, boots, rakes, and shovels—trash bags and Nitrile gloves will be provided. Serving Up Love will provide lunch.

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

- Up North Live – Women Turn Loss into Hope with \$10,000 Donation to Addiction Services: <https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/traverse-city-women-turn-loss-into-hope-with-10000-donation-to-addiction-services>
- KFF Health News – Moms in Crisis, Jobs Lost: The Human Cost of Trump’s Addiction Funding Cuts: <https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/addiction-recovery-mental-health-funding-cuts-covid-hhs-trump/>

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

May 1 6-7:15pm – Face Addiction Now (FAN) forum in person at Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City. The topic of Recovery Friendly Workplaces will be covered. All are welcome.

May 14 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); Virtual option: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89210306992?pwd=MojRjNOcmhXiGLp7ktLhyKtAykqkxc.1> *Note – we meet on the 2nd WEDNESDAY of each month*

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)

