

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, April 8 from 4-5pm via Zoom. Kathy Sanders, from Before, During & After Incarceration (BDAI), will be presenting at the meeting. Everyone is welcome and I hope that you all can join us! The agenda and Zoom details will be sent out in an email early next week.

The U.S. Senate Drug Caucus released a new report on cannabis, “Cannabis Policy: Public Health and Safety Issues and Recommendations.” The five key recommendations from the report were:

1. Remove barriers to research
2. Study the impact of increasing THC levels
3. Study the impact of cannabis on the developing brain
4. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should continue exercising its enforcement authority regarding unregulated cannabis products
5. More effectively detect cannabis-impaired driving

Here is the link to the full report:

<https://www.drugcaucus.senate.gov/sites/default/files/02%20March%202021%20-%20Cannabis%20Policy%20Report%20-%20Final.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, 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.

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/>.

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

- mLIVE – \$1M in Federal Funding to Help Northern Michigan Respond to Opioid Crisis: <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2021/03/1m-in-federal-funding-to-help-northern-michigan-respond-to-opioid-crisis.html>
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) – MDHHS Launches Campaign to Promote Harm Reduction Services: <https://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-29942-553310-,00.html>
- Up North Live – Group Working to Bring Healthier Drinking Culture to Traverse City: <https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/group-working-to-bring-healthier-drinking-culture-to-traverse-city>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – With Pandemic Worsening the Mental Illness and Addiction Crisis, Biden Administration to Provide Nearly \$2.5 Billion to States, Territories for Treatment, Prevention Aid: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/202103110230>
- National Institutes of Health – Younger Age of First Cannabis Use or Prescription Drug Misuse is Associated with Faster Development Substance Use Disorders: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/younger-age-first-cannabis-use-or-prescription-drug-misuse-associated-faster-development-substance-use-disorders>

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

April 1 6:00pm – Families Against Narcotics monthly forum (meeting will be held virtually - Zoom link: <https://miscao.zoom.us/j/2423050413>, <https://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/grand-traverse>

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

April 8 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