

# GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY DRUG FREE COALITION (GTCDFC) NEWSLETTER

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## LOCAL HARM REDUCTION EFFORTS

*Guest Writer: Maya Doe-Simkins,  
Harm Reduction Michigan*

Traverse City and Grand Traverse County recently approved safe syringe programs (SSPs). Safe syringe programs reduce infections like HIV, viral hepatitis, endocarditis, and soft tissue infections. SSPs also link people to medical and substance use disorder treatment. SSPs also reduce the risk of accidental needle sticks, are cost effective, and do not encourage drug use. Harm Reduction Michigan offers free, legal syringes and other harm reduction materials at their drop-in and by home delivery. For more information, outreach materials, and ways to refer people, contact [info@harmreductionmi.org](mailto:info@harmreductionmi.org). Expansion and additional local programs are likely, so stay tuned!

## A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Happy summer!

I am excited to share with you great successes on behalf of the coalition over the last several weeks. First, the mid-June FAN kick-off event brought in over 125 people from the community. In addition, the coalition received a \$6,500 grant to fund a Student Summit in the community and expand our Youth Engagement Liaisons to three additional high schools in the county. See more info on both highlights later in this newsletter.

In addition to our website that was launched in May, we now have a **Facebook page** as well. Please be sure to [click here](#) to like the page and share with you friends and networks.

Please note the coalition is not meeting in July, but will resume meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> as usual 3:30-5pm, however from 3:30-4pm the executive committee will hold their business meeting. All are welcome to the business portion of the meeting, but not required.

Be well,

- *Renae*

## COALITION RECEIVES FUNDING FOR STUDENT SUMMIT

GTCDFC Coordinator, Renae Fogarty and Youth Chairperson, Lisa Anderson presented a grant request at the end of June to the Kiwanis Foundation of Traverse City. Shortly after presenting this request for funds, \$6,500 was awarded to the coalition to host a local Student Summit and expand the Youth Engagement Liaison initiative into three additional high schools including Kingsley High School, St. Francis and Grand Traverse Academy. We currently have Youth Engagement Liaisons in Traverse City West Senior High School, Traverse City Central High School, and Traverse City High. Training for our Liaisons will take place this summer. **Thank you Kiwanis** for your support!



## FAN KICK-OFF EVENT SUCCESS

On June 21<sup>st</sup> the newly established Grand Traverse Families Against Narcotics (FAN) hosted their kick-off event at Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City. Over 125 members of the community gathered together to hear guest speakers Judge Linda Davis, Phil Pavona, and Katie Donovan speak about FAN's mission and role in communities. FAN's mission is "Saving lives by empowering individuals and communities to prevent and eradicate addiction." FAN also believes they serve the following purposes in their communities: raise awareness of the dangers of prescription narcotics, support those affected by narcotic addiction, and erase the stigma of addiction. The Grand Traverse FAN chapter will hold their first family forum meeting on Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30-8pm at Central United Methodist Church and will continue holding monthly meetings the first Thursday of each month 6:30-8pm. For more information and to get involved, please visit the [FAN website here!](#) Also be sure to check out their [Facebook page here.](#)



*In the photo to the left, FAN Executive Vice-President and event guest speaker, Katie Donovan invites those in recovery to come forward to recognize and celebrate their recovery journey.*



**Families Against Narcotics**

Your **connection** for information, resources, and support.

See clip and article from 7 & 4 News from the June 21<sup>st</sup> event here: <http://upnorthlive.com/news/moms-on-a-mission/stories/families-against-narcotics-launches-in-grand-traverse-county>

## NEWS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- CMS Opioid Roadmap: <https://blog.cms.gov/2018/06/11/cms-opioids-roadmap/>
- Facebook to redirect users searching for opioids to federal crisis help line: <https://www.statnews.com/2018/06/19/facebook-to-redirect-users-searching-for-opioids-to-federal-crisis-help-line/>
- MLive – See trend of opioid prescriptions in your Michigan county: <https://www.mlive.com/expo/erry-2018/06/1320b89ae63113/see-trend-of-opioid-prescriptio.html>
- Record Eagle – Commissioners OK needle exchange program: [http://www.record-eagle.com/news/local\\_news/commissioners-ok-needle-exchange-program/article\\_d62c8882-2930-5f51-93fe-88a6fd72e2a6.html](http://www.record-eagle.com/news/local_news/commissioners-ok-needle-exchange-program/article_d62c8882-2930-5f51-93fe-88a6fd72e2a6.html)
- Website of interest – addictioncampuses.com: Michigan has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest drug abuse rate in the nation. Check out this website for information including statistics, programs and treatment <https://www.addictioncampuses.com/michigan/>
- CBS News: Researches raise concerns about teens and vaping: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/researchers-raise-concerns-about-teens-and-vaping/>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse – What are electronic cigarettes: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/electronic-cigarettes-e-cigarettes>

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

**July 7<sup>th</sup> 10-11am** – Beginning July 7<sup>th</sup> and continuing the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. Interested volunteers are invited to join the monthly needle and syringe scouting walk-about

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/HarmReductionMI/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/HarmReductionMI/events/?ref=page_internal)

**July 21<sup>st</sup>** – 2018 Advent Charity Golf Outing: Benefiting “families in transition” at Interlochen Golf Club in Interlochen, MI. Contact Jim Harris to register: [4moosetraffic@gmail.com](mailto:4moosetraffic@gmail.com) or [office@adventlakeann.org](mailto:office@adventlakeann.org) (flyer info [here](#))

**July 25<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-4pm**– MIHEN Conference: Learning from Others Working Together on Prevention in the Current Campus Climate, Comfort Inn & Suites and Conference Center, Mount Pleasant MI

[https://cmham.ungerboeck.com/prod/emcoo/PublicSignIn.aspx?&SessionID=fb8fh6fh3fakfg6&Lang=\\*](https://cmham.ungerboeck.com/prod/emcoo/PublicSignIn.aspx?&SessionID=fb8fh6fh3fakfg6&Lang=*)

**August 18<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-3:30pm** – Recovery Messaging Training: Telling Your Story of Recovery. NMSAS Recovery Center event will take place at the Gaylord University Center, Gaylord MI. For more information and registration [click here](#)

**August 31<sup>st</sup>** – International Overdose Awareness Day: <https://www.overdoseday.com/>

**September 13<sup>th</sup> 8am-4pm** – Rethinking Addiction: Creating Change put on by Addiction Treatment Services at the Dennon Museum Center, Traverse City MI <https://www.rethinkingaddiction.org/>

**September 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30am-12:30pm** – SCOPE of Pain: Safe and Competent Opioid Prescribing Education, Little River Casino Resort, Manistee MI. For more information [click here](#) or register at the following link:

<https://www.scopeofpain.org/in-person-training/select-a-conference.php>

### 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 Renaë Fogarty via email at [Renaë.Fogarty@gmail.com](mailto:Renaë.Fogarty@gmail.com)*