

NMORC NEWSLETTER

September 2026



Updates and reminders regarding NMORC efforts to support and promote Substance and Opioid Use Disorder events, resources and information. Links provided will connect you to associated pages with more information, such as registration pages, full FOAs, or complete documents.

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General Education, Trainings and Resources

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General Announcements

NMORC Program Updates and Upcoming Quarterly Meeting Information

Over the past 8 years, since 2018, the Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC), a program developed by the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH), operated under a number of federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Community Opioid Response Program (RCORP) grants. As of August 31, the funding under those grants has been completed. But NMORC work is far from over, so through several other initiatives, MCRH will keep the NMORC organization moving forward to address and advocate for opioid and substance use prevention, treatment, recovery and workforce initiatives in rural Michigan communities.

Continuing the impactful presentations to which you've grown accustomed, the next NMORC Quarterly Meeting will take place on September 11, 2026 from 10:00 AM - Noon. The format remains unchanged offering both an in-person option as well as a

Zoom link for remote access. Details for both of these modes of attending are included on the Quarterly Agenda link below. (But remember, there's a networking lunch with a taco buffet for those who attend in person!)

The meeting will devote some time to each of the NMORC team members providing an overview of the new roles they will be taking on as well as providing insight and updates as to current and future NMORC operations.

The content will also feature a presentation on the MDHHS Recovery Housing Assistance Fund from Dan Kelly, Technical Assistance Specialist with the Michigan Association of Counties. We hope you will join us for this event whether in-person or online! Make sure to put it on your calendar TODAY!

[See Quarterly Meeting Agenda](#)

SEPTEMBER IS RECOVERY MONTH!

National Recovery Month is a nationwide observance that began in 1989. It's roots go back to the goals of increasing awareness of behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorders). Celebrating people in recovery and highlighting treatments that make recovery not only possible, but probable! September includes "National Sober Day" on the 14th of the month. This helps highlight the resilience of people living substance-free.

This nationwide observance has been instrumental in helping more people understand that addiction is a health condition, a chronic health condition (like diabetes or cancer) and not a moral failing. No one should walk this road alone which is why it is said that the opposite of addiction is **connection**.

Many communities are celebrating with special events! Here are some of the happenings this month in northern Lower Michigan:

- 9/12/26 - Harbor Springs: My Recovery Life "**A Recovery Awareness Month Celebration**"
 - 9/16/26 - Traverse City: **RESILIENCE NIGHT**
 - 9/19/26 - Kalkaska: **The Talents of Recovery Flyer** and **Artists Registration**
 - 9/24/26 - Gaylord: **3rd Annual "AIR Fair"** and **Chili Cook-off** and **Registration**
 - 9/26/26 - Traverse City: **Porch-A-Palooza**
 - ALL MONTH - Play Recovery Bingo with **Community Recovery Alliance (CRA)**
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Recovery Housing Technical Assistance Offered

Balancing many tasks and obligations has long been a forte of Joyce Fetrow. A new initiative on which she recently embarked is working to provide "Recovery Housing Technical Assistance" which is a funded opportunity through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund.

This opportunity is available to provide assistance to rural Recovery Home operators interested in getting a house started or helping an existing house stay compliant and serve their community. Some of the aspects with which Joyce can assist are:

- Adoptable policies to support MARR certification.
- Community Health Worker certification opportunities.
- Funding for fire safety equipment (e.g., smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors).
- Funding for office equipment to support professional development for residents.
- Location and site evaluation for possible recovery homes.
- Naloxone safety supplies at no cost.
- On-site technical assistance.



Assistance includes:

- Adoptable policies to support MARR certification.
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You can join us for an NMORC Recovery Housing Forum on September 22 from 4:00-7:00 PM. There is no cost to attend. For more information and to register, please follow this

[LINK.](#)

Behavioral Health Workforce Training Ongoing

Michigan Center for Rural Health is offering **On-Demand Behavioral Health Workforce Training!** This program launched in August and is designed to support the clinical staff at organizations providing behavioral health (mental health or substance use disorder) services to rural communities across Michigan. Available in both in-person and virtual formats, the free **one-hour** trainings can be scheduled to fit your team's needs.

Topics for this training cover a wide range of essential clinical skills, including Assessments, Treatment Planning, Documentation, Medical Necessity in Addiction Treatment and ASAM 4th Edition Updates, Discharge Planning, and Crisis Interventions & Safety Planning. This program is available to organizations located in rural counties in the Lower Peninsula or those serving clients who live in rural counties.

To request a training or learn more, contact **Gennie Groover** at genevieve.groover@affiliate.msu.edu. Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen

your team's skills- at no cost to you!

Download & Share

Poverty Solutions Offers Mapping Opioid Use Across Michigan Data

A recent newsletter from **Poverty Solutions** at the University of Michigan provided information on a newly released white paper and updated landscape map of opioid use and socioeconomic data across Michigan. The information is made available for anyone to access and explore the connections between economic opportunity and substance use.

The article calls out that while opioid overdose deaths in Michigan have dropped by 41% between 2023 and 2024 (the most recent data available) there remains much work to be done. There are hotspots within the state where opioid related crisis indicator rates continue to remain higher than in other parts of the state.

Since 2023, Poverty Solutions has tracked use and poverty metrics county-by-county across Michigan, in part this work helps inform the work done by the Overdose Prevention Network (OPEN).

To find out more and review the county-by-county data as well as access the white paper, follow this **LINK**.

Palliative Care Summit Coming to Grayling

A first event of its kind in Michigan, MCRH is excited to host a one day educational Palliative Care Summit. Welcoming all rural healthcare providers and administrators who are currently or looking to provide palliative care services. This summit offers a birds eye view down to grass roots community led examples of developing community based palliative care.

Palliative care improves quality of life and quality of care for those with serious illness and complex care needs and their families/caregivers. It customizes treatment to meet the needs of each person, such as those with multiple chronic conditions, a long-term cancer diagnosis, or the frail elderly. This whole person care seeks to relieve pain, anxiety, and other symptoms, as well as provide emotional and spiritual support, so people can live more comfortably with their illnesses. Studies have shown that palliative care can increase patient satisfaction and reduce 30-day rehospitalizations and emergency department visits.

The goal of this Summit is to strengthen rural Michigan's capacity to deliver age-friendly, person-centered, and interdisciplinary palliative care by equipping healthcare and community providers with practical tools, partnerships, and evidence-based strategies to better support older adults and individuals with dementia.

For more information or to register, use the buttons below!

Agenda

Register

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

27th Annual Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder Hybrid Conference

"Finding Our Way: Growth, Hope & Resilience is the theme of this year's event. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) are excited to bring this event once again to Lansing, MI.

Sept. 27, 2026 - Pre-Conference

Sept. 28-29, 2026 - Main Conference

Join in-person at the Lansing Center or virtually through the conference app platform!

This conference attracts more than 1,200 in-person and virtual attendees including board members, oversight policy board members, administrators, financial directors, medical directors, clinical directors, prevention, treatment, and recovery professionals, case managers, recovery coaches and those with lived experience. This educational opportunity is intended for providers in the substance use and co-occurring disorders field at all levels of practice (beginning, intermediate and/or advanced).

In-person conference registration includes training materials, admission to all keynote speakers and breakout sessions, two breakfasts, two lunches, all breaks, and the Healing Space (optional). The pre-conference rate includes admission to one pre-conference workshop of your choice.

Virtual conference registration includes training materials, access to all keynote sessions, and two prevention and two treatment sessions per concurrent block of breakout sessions.

Conference Brochure

Registration for Event

General Education, Training & Resources

Traverse City Police Department and the Grand Traverse Addiction and Recovery Council host RESILIENCE Night

This event is designed to bring the community together while promoting awareness, connection, and support around substance use and recovery. The event will feature interactive activities for all ages, community partner booths, live music from artists in recovery, and a variety of attractions designed to engage attendees throughout the evening.

The RESILIENCE Program is a collaborative, community-based initiative led by the Traverse City Police Department that connects individuals experiencing challenges related to substance use, mental health, or other life circumstances with local resources and support services. The program works with over 60 partner agencies to reduce barriers, improve well-being, and strengthen coordination of care within the community. View the program flyer [here](#).

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, September 16

Time: 4:00–8:00 PM

Location: Hull Park, Traverse City

Michigan Overdose Prevention Coalition releases a new toolkit. Whether you're in a conversation with a community leader, or you come across someone who wants to help but isn't sure where to start or doesn't quite have the language for it yet, MOPC's Local Policy Change Toolkit is a resource you can use and share. Access the toolkit [here](#).

Michigan Center for Rural Health offers a robust docket of educational opportunities for many different professions through Grand Rounds, Project ECHO and EMS Continuing Education. For more information, follow this [link](#).



Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) is a program under the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH).

More information on MCRH may be found at: www.mcrh.msu.edu

Contact Us

Joyce Fetrow, CPRM, CPRM-M, CHW
joyce.fetrow@affiliate.msu.edu

David McGreaham, MD
Medical Director
dsmcgreaham@gmail.com

Jeanne Marriott
jeanne.marriott@affiliate.msu.edu

Gennie Groover, MSW
genevieve.groover@affiliate.msu.edu

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Michigan Center For Rural Health | 909 Wilson Road B-218 W Fee Hall Michigan State University | East
Lansing, MI 48824 US

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