



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 23, 2017

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HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
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SAFE in Northern Michigan Honored at CADCA National Leadership Forum

HARBOR SPRINGS, Mich. – On Feb. 7, SAFE in Northern Michigan was one of 171 community coalitions honored during a graduation ceremony at CADCA’s (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) National Leadership Forum, just outside of Washington, D.C. The coalitions received a graduation certificate for completing CADCA’s National Coalition Academy, a rigorous training program designed to increase the effectiveness of community drug prevention leaders.

“We are so proud of our coalition for investing the time and resources to take advantage of the best community coalition training in the world. To graduate from this year-long intensive course is no small feat and SAFE in Northern Michigan is more prepared today to be an effective, sustainable coalition because of this training,” said Susan Pulaski, SAFE in Northern Michigan’s project coordinator. “We look forward to applying our knowledge and strategies to ensure the youth in our community live drug free.”

The coalition recently worked on a “Lock it Up” campaign in northern Michigan. The campaign involved local youth who produced short PSAs asking parents to lock up their alcohol. Coalition staff attended school events, where parents were asked to sign a pledge to lock up their alcohol supply. SAFE in Northern Michigan has also distributed locks for alcohol to parents across the region.

CADCA’s National Coalition Academy (NCA) is a comprehensive, year-long training program developed by CADCA’s National Coalition Institute. The NCA incorporates three, week-long classroom sessions, a web-based distance learning component, an online workstation where participants network and share planning products and free ongoing technical assistance. To graduate, coalitions must complete a rigorous curriculum. They must participate in all components of the NCA and complete five essential planning products that serve as the foundation of their comprehensive plan for community change.

CADCA’s National Leadership Forum is a four-day event packed with opportunities to learn the latest strategies to address substance abuse and hear from nationally-known prevention experts, federal administrators, and concerned policymakers. The Forum brings together approximately 3,000 attendees representing coalitions from all regions of the country and internationally, government leaders, youth, prevention specialists, addiction treatment professionals, addiction recovery advocates, researchers, educators, law enforcement professionals, and faith-based leaders. It is the largest training event for the prevention field.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties.

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