

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Community Meeting Focuses on Health, Safety, and Welfare Issues**

TRAVERSE CITY, MI – A community meeting in Traverse City will focus on how local policy impacts health, safety, and welfare issues. Those issues include addiction, child welfare, disease prevention, and basic needs such as food and housing. The meeting will be held Friday, January 20 from 7:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Traverse City Northwest Michigan Works! Center, 1209 South Garfield. The meeting is being hosted by Networks Northwest and Addiction Treatment Services.

Local leaders, human service providers, and other community stakeholders are encouraged to attend the meeting which is part of a Community Think Tank Discussion Series. The meeting will include a keynote presentation by James Haveman, the former Director of the Michigan Department of Mental Health. Other items on the agenda will include an update on the region's opioid epidemic, and discussion about how to better connect community policies and needs.

The outcomes of this meeting are intended to guide the development of a Health, Safety and Welfare chapter for the *Framework For Our Future*, a regional resource for communities working to meet local goals. More information regarding the *Framework For Our Future* can be found at: [networksnorthwest.org/framework](http://networksnorthwest.org/framework).

The meeting will include breakfast and there is no charge to attend, but RSVPs are required by contacting Tad Erickson, Networks Northwest, at: [tad.erickson@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:tad.erickson@networksnorthwest.org) or 231-929-5053.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at [dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: [networksnorthwest.org/media](http://networksnorthwest.org/media)

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our web site, [networksnorthwest.org](http://networksnorthwest.org)

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.