For Immediate Release

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Winner of Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Director’s Award

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) was recently chosen as the winner of the 2016 Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Director’s Award for local public health. The MDHHS Director’s Award, established in 1983, is presented annually to a Local Health Department (LHD) in recognition of excellence in public health. This year’s award recognizes LHDs that have implemented and/or are currently implementing innovative programs, interventions or policies that:

- Contribute to a positive outcome in the health status of community residents;
- Demonstrate a spirit of collaboration, integration and sharing;
- Demonstrate evidence-based decision models that ensure effectiveness;
- Are sustainable and replicable in other communities; and
- Demonstrate a new or innovative public health initiative.

GTCHD was specifically recognized for its leadership of the Northern Michigan Regional Public Health Emergency Preparedness (NMPHEP) team and program. The NMPHEP program was developed to provide a fully integrated approach to emergency preparedness that unifies local training and planning, as well as more efficiently leverages grant funding, in order to increase public health’s visibility in local communities across the region. The multi-jurisdictional team of Health Department Emergency Preparedness professionals, led by Mike Lahey of the GTCHD, also includes LHD partners from the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. Mike Lahey, the NMPHEP Regional Director, was also individually awarded the Public Health Preparedness Professional of the year for 2016.

"Both the Grand Traverse County Health Department and our NMPHEP partners are honored to receive this award," said Wendy Trute, Health Officer of the GTCHD. "A lot of work went into creating a regional program and we are sure to have much stronger Public Health Emergency Preparedness services for all of Northern Michigan as a result."

Please feel free to call the Grand Traverse County Health Department with any questions regarding NMHEP or the MDHHS Director’s Award. 231-995-6100.

You can find more information about Public Health Emergency Preparedness at the following:

http://gtchd.org/315/Public-Health-Emergency-Preparedness

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[Courtesy photos, enclosed.]