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Health Department of Northwest Michigan News Release

4 Health Department staff members graduate from national anti-drug coalition

Four staff members from the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and SAFE in Northern Michigan recently graduated from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). CADCA is a rigorous training program designed to increase the effectiveness of community substance use and misuse programs and leaders.

Graduating from CADCA's National Graduate Academy were Susan Pulaski, Health Department Community Health Supervisor and Project Director for SAFE in Northern Michigan; and Nichole Flickema, Health Department Community Health Coordinator and SAFE in Northern Michigan Project Coordinator.

Graduating from CADCA's National Coalition Academy were Amy Horstman, Health Department Community Health Coordinator and SAFE in Northern Michigan Youth Advisor; and Ellen Templeton, Health Department Community Health Coordinator and SAFE in Northern Michigan Youth Advisor.

SAFE in Northern Michigan members were part of 178 community coalitions honored during the January 31 graduation ceremony at 32nd Annual National Leadership Forum, just outside of Washington, D.C.

"It was quite an honor to represent the health department and SAFE in Northern Michigan at this prestigious event," Pulaski said. SAFE in Northern Michigan exists to prevent youth substance use, increase community awareness, and create change through collaboration, education, prevention initiatives and environmental strategies of tobacco, alcohol, and other substance use. Services are provided in Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet counties.

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 coalition development 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 Graduate Coalition Academy (GCA) completed its inaugural year and was designed to take coalitions to the next step of tracking implementation and reporting the long, intermediate and short-term outcomes of their efforts. Participants of the GCA were taught and mentored to enhance their effect in the community by improving their community assessment and logic models, developing

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. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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comprehensive strategies targeting local conditions and monitoring and tracking coalition and community implementation efforts to achieve coalition objectives.

Cutline:

Four Health Department of Northwest Michigan staff members and members of SAFE in Northern Michigan graduated from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). Pictured are (from left) Pat Castillo with the National Coalition Institute; CADCA board member Jeannie Hovland; Susan Pulaski from the health department and SAFE in Northern Michigan Project Director; Amy Horstman from the health department and SAFE in Northern Michigan Youth Advisor; Nichole Flickema from the health department and SAFE in Northern Michigan Project Coordinator; and CADCA President/CEO General Barrye L. Price. Not pictured but also graduating was Ellen Templeton from the health department and SAFE in Northern Michigan Youth Advisor.