



**NOELLE R. MOEGGENBERG
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY**

324 COURT STREET
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684-9958
(231) 922-4600 • FAX (231) 922-4698

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Noelle R. Moeggenberg, Prosecuting Attorney

Subject: Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center

On May 11, 2023, the conclusion was made that the Grand Traverse County Prosecutor's Office can no longer partner with the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center (TBCAC) in the intervention and prevention of child abuse.

This decision was based on the practices of TBCAC Board leadership who, in my opinion, have neglected their obligation to ensure that the TBCAC is a well-run, trauma-informed, and financially supported organization that reflects best practices.

While there are no concerns about those at the TBCAC who work each day to help children, I am seriously concerned about the actions of leadership at the Board level. As a former Board member and multi-disciplinary team partner, myself and others repeatedly voiced concerns about expanding too quickly, a lack of transparency and collaboration among and between Board members, a budget that is in the red, and concerns about the treatment of employees and several recent employee resignations. These same concerns have been expressed by long-standing community activists who have generously donated their time and money to the TBCAC. Leadership has been dismissive and unresponsive.

Finally, and most alarming, is that I have seen the center, once a trauma-informed organization, inflict trauma on some of its biggest supporters on more than one occasion. As long TBCAC leadership engages in that type of conduct, my office will not support the organization.

It was my hope that the dissolution of this partnership would be a catalyst for change within the organization leading to a renewed dedication to the mission of the TBCAC. A meeting was held on May 18, 2023, with several members of the TBCAC board and MDT members from the area. I had sincerely hoped that these issues could have been resolved prior to any harm being done to the reputation of the TBCAC.

My office will continue to support the intervention and prevention of child abuse and is actively working with local partners to continue to provide quality intervention using a multi-disciplinary approach to the investigation of child abuse in our community.

Noelle R. Moeggenberg
Prosecuting Attorney

