



Who we are

Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority (NLCMHA) was formed in 2003 as a Mental Health Authority by six counties (Crawford, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Missaukee, Roscommon, and Wexford) and is contracted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services ([MDHHS](#)) as a Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP), for the purpose of providing services to people in its designated geographic area. As the CMHSP, NLCMHA serves community members by assuring local access to behavioral health and crisis services, organizing and integrating the provision of these services, coordinating care, implementing public policy, ensuring interagency collaboration, and preserving public interest.

In its CMHSP role, defined by the Michigan Mental Health Code, NLCMHA provides and manages services for four priority populations: adults with serious mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and individuals with a co-occurring substance use disorder. There are 46 CMHSPs in Michigan.

NLCMHA is a member of the 21-county Northern Michigan Regional Entity ([NMRE](#)). The NMRE is one of ten Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs) in the state of Michigan that manage Medicaid funding for behavioral health and substance use disorder services for special populations. The NMRE is jointly owned by its member CMHSPs (NLCMHA, North Country, Au Sable Valley CMH, Centra Wellness, and Northeast CMH). See [nmre.org](#) for more information.

What we do

Our mission is to improve the overall health, wellness, and quality of life of the individuals, families, and communities we serve. NLCMHA values serve as an ethical compass which support us as we strive to carry out our responsibilities with integrity at all levels: treating people with compassion, dignity, and respect; respecting diversity and individuality; and by visionary public leadership, local decision-making, and accountability for our actions and decisions. NLCMHA is an important convener for interagency collaborations to meet the unique local needs of rural northern Michigan.

As examples, we work collaboratively with law enforcement, to divert individuals with mental illness away from incarceration and detention and into needed treatment; with jails, to help link inmates with behavioral health and social services to support their successful reentry into the community; with schools, to identify and link children and youth with serious emotional disturbance or intellectual/developmental disability (such as autism) with needed services; with first responders, to provide them with mental health training and Carter Kits for people with

autism experiencing a traumatic event; and with healthcare organizations, to improve the crisis continuum of care and increase integrated care options. Our clubhouse programs work with food rescue, housing organizations, and educational institutions to support members' needs. Our drop-in programs provide a safe haven for people who have experienced mental health issues; they provide a place to go, a place to be.

NLCMHA is the public safety net for our local communities, providing 24/7 crisis intervention services to anyone in the community experiencing a mental health crisis (self-defined), regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

Services offered

NLCMHA directly provides and contracts with a host of provider organizations to accomplish its mission. Services are listed at <https://www.northernlakescmh.org/services/> and include psychiatry, therapy and counseling, case management, assessment, autism treatment, specialized residential services, and much more. NLCMHA programs and services are accredited by [CARF International](#).

Who we serve

Under its contract with MDHHS, CMHSPs must serve people with the most severe conditions, in these four priority populations: Adults with Serious Mental Illness, Children with Severe Emotional Disturbance, Individuals of all ages with Intellectual/Developmental Disability, and Individuals with Co-occurring Substance Use Disorder.

In order to expand reach to those with mild to moderate mental health issues beyond its purview, NLCMHA provides primary care services to anyone in the community through its [Integrated Health Services](#), including the NLCMHA Integrated Health Clinic, and Comprehensive Health Assistance Team (CHAT) behavioral health home and opioid health home programs. In addition, through its [Northern Health Care Management](#) division, NLCMHA provides MI-CHOICE Waiver services to the elderly and disabled in 10 counties and Navigator services in 22 counties, with a purpose of assisting eligible individuals to remain living in a place of their choice within the community instead of a nursing facility.

How to reach us

- 24/7 crisis line: 833-295-0616
- Access to Services: (800) 492-5742
- Customer Services: (800) 337-8598
- Drop in during business hours at any NLCMHA office, located in Traverse City, Cadillac, Houghton Lake, and Grayling.
- 24/7 Crisis Welcoming Center drop in: Always open at 105 Hall Street in Traverse City.