



Traverse: To pass over, along or through

March 30, 2017

To: The Office of Minnesota Secretary of State

From: Michael Borowiak, CEO, Traverse Counseling & Consulting, GBC

Subject: Public Benefit Annual Report

The following letter outlines our compliance with our General Benefit Corporation status and has been reviewed and approved by the board of directors.

Corporation Name: Traverse Counseling & Consulting, GBC (TCC)

#### **Our Vision:**

Empower & support life-giving relationships & family leadership through a whole-person & family system approach

#### Our Mission:

- TCC raises the professional level of understanding of dynamics within families in distress to increase professional preparedness and effectiveness in working with all families.
- TCC serves families, couples, and individuals seeking to replace suffering with hope and compassion through clinical and professional excellence.
- TCC strives to create greater understanding in our communities and the world about healthy family dynamics and the ways to create effective family leadership, especially in families with destructive dynamics and suffering.

#### **Our Values:**

- Physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual presence
- Innovation
- Teamwork
- Leadership

TRAVERSE COUNSELING & CONSULTING

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- Freedom and knowledge of choices
- Compassion

#### History:

Traverse Counseling & Consulting (TCC), GBC was formed in July 2015 and began operation on September 1, 2015. The three shareholders all agreed to the General Benefit Corporation status, as it aligned with the vision and developmental direction.

We specialize in relationship repair, healing and growth toward mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellness. We are in our second year of operation and have experienced staffing transitions and new hires. We currently have 3 shareholders/providers, 2 full-time providers, 1 director of outreach, and 1 administrative assistant.

We continue to work with an organizational consultant who has assisted us in building a high-function team and strategic development.

#### Third Party Standards

We are using the IRIS and Center for Health Market Innovations collaboration third party standards as outlined in the URL below:

http://healthmarketinnovations.org/document/standardizing-and-improving-performance-measurement-healthcare-organizations

The performance dimensions being used are:

#### Who is being served?

- IRIS Scale Metric
  - Client Transactions: Number of sales or client transactions during the reporting period.
  - Goodwill Client Transactions: Number of pro-bono sales or client transactions during the reporting period.

#### What is being delivered?

- IRIS Health Output Metric
  - Service Description: Description of the service provided by the organization.

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#### How is it being delivered?

- IRIS Clinical Quality Metric
  - Quality Assurance Mechanisms: Checklists and Logs, Guidelines and Protocols, Peer Review, Consultation, and Supervision
  - Employee Training Hours: Number of training hours provided for employees during the reporting period.
- IRIS Financial Sustainability Metric
  - Governance Policies: TCC has written corporate government policies that have been communicated to shareholders.
  - Financial Statement Review: TCC has a policy that the financial statements are verified and reviewed annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant.
  - Revenue Growth: Growth in value from one reporting period to the next. TCC reviews annually.

These metrics were agreed upon in December of 2016 and we are initiating implementation of these in 2017. The shareholders are all in agreement and we have clear accountability for implementing these Impact Metrics.

## How the Corporation Has Pursued General Public Benefit

TCC has pursued the following:

- We have agreed upon and begun implementing the IRIS and CHMI collaboration thirdparty standards listed above.
- Building a consultation group with faith leaders who minister to families and couples
  focused on increasing their skills in helping them to prevent the onset of high conflict
  distress in families and early access to therapeutic interventions.
- Innovating in the services provided to families that experience extremely high conflict
  that more rapidly reduces the conflict and the immense suffering experienced by the
  children in these family situations. These service innovations include: supervised
  parenting, mediation, parent coaching and family therapy.
- Incorporating an innovation meeting internal to TCC focused on generating new ideas and strategies to improve the effectiveness of our work and reduce the suffering of families in distress.

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The extent of the ways in which the corporation has created general public benefit: The following are ways TCC has created general public benefit:

- TCC continues to support the Second Saturday for Women and Second Monday for Men program that provides information and resources to individuals entering divorce in order to help them reduce the potential damaging impact of divorce. Second Monday for Men was attended for the entirety of 2016. Due to low attendance, this program has since closed, but we continue to support the Second Saturday for Women program.
- TCC continues to facilitate and organize a no cost consultation group for independent school counselors to assist them in increasing their skills in assisting children manage stress. We have expanded this program to include 2 public school counselor groups. All of these groups meet approximately monthly during the school year.
- TCC has created and implemented a Mental Health/Family Law consult group which
  meets monthly. This is a program where we have trained a cohort of family law
  attorneys on the challenges experienced in the divorce process and continue to provide
  them with support.
- TCC has negotiated fees for service and routinely discounted services to accommodate different financial circumstances. This is a policy that we continue to provide to our clients.
- TCC has expanded its pro-bono training to the Ramsey County Family Court in addition to continuing to work with the Hennepin County Family Court on the dynamics of high conflict families and strategies to manage alienation.
- TCC has provided pro-bono training to 12 different treatment centers and providers.
- TCC has provided pro-bono training to 13 different law groups around the Metro area.
- TCC has provided pro-bono training to 3 different Community Coalitions.
- TCC has also provided pro-bono training to the Minnetonka and Hopkins schools to assist parents in addressing the mental health of their children.
- TCC continues to implement a class: "Managing in the Middle." This class works with elementary age children experiencing the struggles of divorce. This program also includes a parent support meeting to assist parents in helping their children through this transition.
- TCC has created and implemented the STRENGTH program to support families with a member coming out of a mental health or addiction center. This is a program to help stabilize the family system.

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- TCC has created and implemented a support group for individuals struggling with excessive or compulsive video gaming and technology use.
- TCC continues to do extensive community outreach in the surrounding communities. TCC has dedicated a full-time staff member to this function.

# Any circumstances that have hindered efforts to pursue or create general public benefit:

TCC is in year two of its startup. The hindrances we experience are those commonly experienced by any startup company, including hiring new staff and service innovation. These—hindrances have been easily overcome through hard work, trust, and teaming.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the chief executive officer of this public benefit corporation. I further certify that I have signed this document no more than 30 days before the document is delivered to the secretary of state for filing, and that this document is current when signed. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Michael Borowiak, MSW, LICSW

Chief Executive Officer

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