

2023

PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

Together building the health and wellbeing of all Hoosiers

INDIANA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, INC. P.O. BOX 875 CARMEL, IN 46082 INDIANACOUNCIL.ORG





The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers represents the collective interests of all community mental health centers (CMHCs) currently certified and accredited to provide community-based behavioral health services across all ninetytwo counties in Indiana. CMHCs in Indiana served over 300,000 behavioral health consumers in 2022. CMHCs provide services primarily to those suffering from severe behavioral health and substance abuse conditions which further reduce additional costs to society by directing coordinated care to our most vulnerable citizens.

2023 PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS (CCBHC):

During the 2022 legislative session, HEA 1222 provided a mechanism to develop the roadmap for CCBHC implementation statewide. The preferred pathway is through the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) "Demonstration" program. Ten states had previously received demonstration status, but the status was closed to new states until the recent passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Other vehicles for permanent CCBHC implementation are a Medicaid State Plan Amendment or 1115 Waiver where FSSA requests that the federal government approve a permanent CCBHC model and rate within the Medicaid State Plan.

- Implement the recommendations and action items provided in the CCBHC Legislative report due from FSSA to the General Assembly by November 1, 2022. Introduce legislation requiring FSSA to apply for CCBHC demonstration status as allowed by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. The legislation should specify that if Indiana is not awarded demonstration status, FSSA shall initiate another process to implement the CCBHC model, including but not limited to a State Plan Amendment (SPA) within six months of receiving notice that demonstration status was not awarded.
- The General Assembly should be encouraged to increase appropriate adequate, funding to support permanent CCBHC expansion in Indiana.

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR 988 EXPANSION THROUGH MOBILE CRISIS TEAMS:

Currently, through federal grant dollars, the CMHC system is supporting several mobile crisis teams. However, this is not a sustainable system through federal funds alone, therefore the Council supports the recommendation from the Behavioral Health Commission to initiate a 988 surcharge similar to 911 to support the sustainability of these services.

 988 transition must take place over a period of several years and must be consistently supported throughout any transition of state administration.

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR GROUP HOMES FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY ILL:

Currently there is not a room and board rate for group homes in the CMHC system. Therefore, CMHC must rely on a complex and fragile braiding of funding to provide care.

- The investment needed is capital and/or room and board per diem for our group homes for more sustainable funding. With the current funding largely being dependent on grants, donations, and limited fee for service revenues, a per diem would assist in the safety net. This would meet the needs of the changing client demographics at the aging physical group homes that are currently an average age of over 40 years.
- Without capital and/or per diem rate the system is at risk of beds shutting down leaving longer wait times for the severely mentally ill within our State Hospital system in addition to this per diem the Council supports the advancement and a shift to full Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics by 2025.



BUILDING SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

There are numerous challenges for recruiting and retaining a quality workforce necessary to meet the needs of Hoosiers with behavioral health concerns. Particularly in, underfunding of behavioral health safety net; low wages; high caseloads resulting in high burnout; and high turnover rates.

- Increase Medicaid rates to support the competitive hiring and retention process.
- Undertake a Medicaid rate study of select behavioral health and substance use specific services.
- Expand universal licensure recognition language to behavioral health licenses issued under the State Psychology and Behavioral Health and Human Services Board.
- Facilitate the implementation of physician and psychology compacts as well as other future compacts advocated for by other IPLA- recognized behavioral health professions.
- Reduce administrative burden on the CMHC system.
- Appropriate funds for a long-term student loan repayment or tuition reimbursement program for behavioral health professionals committed to working in Indiana and serving underserved communities.

Please visit our website, www.indianacouncil.org for more information. With your support we will continue to improve the mental wellbeing of Hoosiers!



For more information on how CMHCs benefit our Communities, snap the QR code here! INDIANA COUNCIL KEY CONTACTS:

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To download the Indiana Behavioral Health Commission report, snap the QR code here!