

For the 2023 legislative session, the Indiana Council has identified four primary areas of advocacy on behalf of the community-based mental health and substance use treatment system in Indiana. [Read more ...](#)

## Welcome to our first issue!

At Indiana Council we want to reach out in a new way to our membership and the wider mental health provider community in Indiana. This will be a regular publication, bringing you a round up of our activities, policy updates and initiatives, plus news and views from any and every corner of our State and community.

We hope you will find this publication useful and informative. If you have content you would like to see appear in future issues, please [contact us!](#)

### Also this issue:



**Committee update**  
*Get up to speed with our teams*



**Community update**  
*with Hamilton Center*

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 ninety-two 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.

Click the image below to view /download our flyer on the benefits provided to our communities by our network of CMHCs.

**INDIANA COUNCIL** How do CMHCs benefit their communities?

Indiana's Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) provide comprehensive mental health care to persons of all ages who suffer from mental illness or substance use disorders.

- The 24 CMHCs focus on serving economically disadvantaged Hoosiers and those who typically encounter difficulties accessing care.
- The services CMHCs provide to their communities include: inpatient and outpatient treatment, crisis services, services for children and adolescents, elderly people, substance use services, residential services, peer-led services and more.
- CMHCs provide life-improving, critical mental health services to Hoosiers who otherwise might never receive care, including the economically disadvantaged, persons involved in the criminal justice system, and persons who are experiencing homelessness.

**CMHCs have a positive impact on Indiana's economy.**

- The overall economic footprint of CMHCs statewide is nearly **\$1.4 billion**
- CMHCs directly employ **11,829** Hoosiers, and indirectly support the jobs of an additional **3,511** Hoosiers through the supply chain, and via income generated by the CMHCs.
- Every **\$1.00** invested by CMHCs generates another **\$0.59** in additional economic activity.
- CMHCs help improve the state's mental healthcare workforce by providing internships to graduate students to learn skills needed to work in a community mental health environment.

**Total Economic Impact for Indiana**  
**\$1,382,440,371** ANNUALLY  
\$510,369,303 NON-DIRECT    \$872,080,068 DIRECT

**Tax Revenue Generated**  
**\$186 Million** ANNUALLY  
\$35.5 Million STATE & LOCAL    \$150.6 Million FEDERAL

**Employment**  
**15,3040** TOTAL JOBS  
3,511 NON-DIRECT    11,829 DIRECT

**How can you support Indiana CMHCs?**

CMHCs face many challenges, the biggest of which are acquiring and retaining a quality workforce, lack of adequate funding, and administrative burdens. The following measures would assist CMHCs to provide Hoosiers with more effective and timely services...

- Continue telehealth supports, alongside face-to-face services, as during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Continue and expand the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) grantee program; implement Prospective Payment System rate methodology.
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to reflect the true cost of services.
- Provide incentives to work at CMHCs, such as student loan repayment or tuition reimbursement.
- Improve the licensure process by removing barriers to get a license more quickly.
- Reduce the administrative burden to CMHC staff by streamlining processes and reducing paperwork.
- Allow reimbursement of support services for consumers, such as transportation to and from the CMHC.
- Improve Hoosiers' mental health literacy to help them recognize, manage and prevent mental health and substance use disorders.

Text adapted from *The Impact Of Indiana's Community Mental Health Centers* by the Center For Health Policy.  
View /download the full report here

Indiana Council of Community Health Centers, 301 West Ohio Street Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 684-5684 [indianacouncil.org](http://indianacouncil.org)

or scan this QR code:



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The Corydon Group  
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## LETTER FROM ZOE



### To our wonderful members:

**As the leaves and seasons are changing,** over the last 11 months the Indiana Council has changed and evolved as well. The Council has promoted

**Denise Wade** to Chief Administrative Officer. Her role has grown through her work and dedication at the council. With our growing staff she will help with Human Resource needs and other key operations of the Association. We have also added **Lee Ann Jordan** as our creative and thoughtful Director of Communications and Membership. And last, but certainly not least, the Council's most recent hire is our analytical and attention to detail Grant Administrator and Policy and Research Analyst, **Andy Zellers**. We have done all this to bring you, our members, an increase in membership value by enhancing our communication, our services, and our advocacy.

**None of this could have been made possible without our supportive Council board and their leadership.**

Two of our esteemed members have wrapped up their board terms. I want to personally thank them for their vision, time, and support. Tom & Barb, I cannot THANK YOU enough for your continued support throughout the years and ongoing guidance. You both will be missed! Although the shoes to fill are large, I look forward to welcoming our new board members that will be taking their seats in November.

**The vision for this newsletter** is to help show the important work that each of you do, and how the Council comes alongside you in supporting the crucial safety net to those we serve.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming conference in Bloomington where we will together see not only the colorful leaves that have changed, but the colorful work of our system becoming stronger and better because of all of you.

**In gratitude,**

**Zoe**

*President, CEO*

[zfrantz@indianacouncil.org](mailto:zfrantz@indianacouncil.org)

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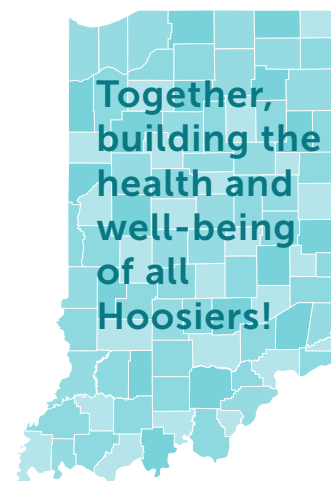
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Community Mental Health Centers

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[indianacouncil.org](http://indianacouncil.org)



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## 2023 Public Policy Platform

**For the 2023 legislative session, the Indiana Council has identified the following primary areas of advocacy on behalf of the community based mental health and substance use treatment system in Indiana.**

### **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.



## OUR PLATFORM FOR 2023

### 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.

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



### 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.



View / download this policy document [on our site here](#)





## Racial Equity & Leadership Committee

- **Representatives from the REL committee have been appointed to sit on the steering committee in the late Fall of 2021.** The steering committee is made up of representatives from *DMHA* and the Indiana Council REL Committee. The committee has worked collaboratively to discuss and define an assessment plan for the first-ever CMHC Assessment of Federal Class Standards. Since the approval of the contract, appointed committee members have been trained to be a part of the evaluation team to review and score of contract proposals.
- **The REL committee has a representative on the 988 Equity Committee.** The 988 Equity Committee aims to identify gaps and barriers to receiving equitable treatment. The committee is currently developing focus groups to address gaps in resources within underserved and marginalized communities.
- **The REL committee remains committed to mentoring and growing racially diverse leaders** within the CMHC system and invites centers to refer BIPOC-identified CMHC staff to contact our committee chairs if they are interested in learning more.

### RACIAL EQUITY & LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Co-Chair:

Cedalia Ellis, Southwestern  
[Ellisc@Southwestern.org](mailto:Ellisc@Southwestern.org)

Co-Chair:

Letecia Timmel, Four County  
[Ltimmel@Fourcounty.org](mailto:Ltimmel@Fourcounty.org)



## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Child & Adolescent Committee

#### CHILD AND ADOLESCENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Vanessa Pataky, Aspire  
[vanessa.pataky@aspireindiana.org](mailto:vanessa.pataky@aspireindiana.org)

**Hello everyone! We are so excited about this year as we have 3 goals we are focusing on.**

The first goal is to **reduce administrative burden.**

This goal specifically focuses on the training requirements by the *Department of Child Services* and how this is a duplicate for CMHC's due to other accreditation requirements we have to meet. We are working alongside the Quality committee on this goal.

Secondly, we are **championing mental health resources within schools.**

We know the needs of our youth in schools continue to be significant and by focusing our efforts on the role that we play within school systems we will increase the support for youth in need. Our goal is to ensure policies and roles of our CMHC staff are clearly defined and work in tandem with supporting needs.

Lastly, with the addition of CCBHC, we want to **monitor outcomes** associated with CCBHC you-focused data and make recommendations as needed.

**We welcome guests during our meetings** to stay on top of youth focused areas that include FSSA, CMHW and statewide access site, DCS, etc. This ensures we have the right people to discuss successes, barriers and needs for children and adolescents across the state.

Finally, we were so pleased with the **Summer Conference.** We had a great turn out, excellent topics and speakers focused on Indiana Youth. Thank you to all who attended and presented!

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### HR Committee Update

#### HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Chair: Angie Gibson, Valley Oaks  
[agibson-ne@valleyoaks.org](mailto:agibson-ne@valleyoaks.org)

**The HR Committee is working through actionable items related to the Indiana Council Strategic Plan.** Specifically, we are putting together common concerns and trending issues involving the IPLA.

We are also working through different options regarding Student Loan Repayment/Forgiveness options that each center currently utilizes and how we can further advocate for enhancements.

> *Vist our site for more information on our boards and committees*



## Meet Them Where They Are

**Hamilton Center goes mobile to meet the community's needs.**

*Hamilton Center, Inc., serves thousands of consumers each year.*

For those in need but unable to reach a facility, **Hamilton Center can now meet people right where they are** – a home, or a park, or wherever a crisis is occurring in the community. This mobile crisis unit debuted in August 2020 and has made over 150 trips to address mental health related problems in Vigo County. The development of the unit was made possible through the **Certified Community Behavioral Health Center** (CCBHC) grant. HCI is working hard to be able to expand the program and extend it to surrounding counties.



*September 9, 2022*

**Contact: Chelsea Wells,**  
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Hamilton Center, Inc.  
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(812) 798-1646 (cell)  
Email: [cwells@hamiltoncenter.org](mailto:cwells@hamiltoncenter.org)

“Our mission is to provide excellent healthcare, wellness, and human development services to the community,” said **Melvin L Burks**, President and CEO of Hamilton Center, Inc. “Through the development of the mobile crisis unit we have pursued our vision of executing that mission through customer responsiveness, innovation, and flexibility – meeting our consumer where they are.”

Hamilton Center collaborates with both the **City of Terre Haute Police Department** and the **Vigo County Sheriff's Department**. One of the benefits of the program for local law enforcement is to reduce the amount of time that officers spend on non-criminal activity and allow them to focus on preventing and solving crimes. Before the program was initiated, law enforcement officers were tasked with transporting individuals with mental health related issues to Hamilton Center. Although officers do still transport consumers to Hamilton Center on occasion, this allows an alternative to law enforcement involvement and can be a diversion to incarceration and/or hospitalization.



## COMMUNITY UPDATE

People involved with other community agencies, *Lighthouse Mission*, *Council on Domestic Abuse*, and *Hickory Treatment Center* have also benefited from this partnership.

"In the past our community partners would have relied on law enforcement as the only option to respond to mental health crises," said **Art Fuller**, Chief Human Services Officer. "Now we work in partnership with law enforcement to assist our community in receiving expanded access to crisis care."

Fuller went on to talk about the improved outcomes of crisis response using mobile crisis services. "We are maximizing the opportunity to de-escalate crisis through the expanded hours of our Access Center (24/7) and mobile crisis services," he said. "We are adapting to the complex needs of our community, so that the patient remains first."

Based out of *Hamilton Center's Access Center*, the mobile crisis unit dispatches on-site and on-call staff to serve people of all ages, people with no access to transportation, or those unable to make it to the facility. **Open 24/7, 365 days a year**, Access acts as a central hub for everything that goes on within Hamilton Center.

Earlier this year, the *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline* shortened its traditional 10-digit phone number to just **9-8-8**, for one basic reason – it's easier to remember.

Whether its **9-8-8** or **Hamilton Center's Access Line, 800.742.0787**, anyone experiencing mental health-related distress should make the call – whether that is thoughts of suicide, a mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Friends and family members are also encouraged to make the call if they are worried about a loved one or identify someone in emotional distress or at risk of experiencing crisis.

**Hamilton Center, Inc. is a regional behavioral health system in central and west central Indiana with corporate offices located in Terre Haute, Indiana.** *Services are provided to children, youth, and adults, with specialized programs for expectant mothers, infants, and people who may be struggling with stress, life changes, or relationship issues, as well as more serious problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, and serious mental illnesses.*



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*"Our mission is to provide excellent healthcare and wellness to the community"*

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### **12 Hamilton Center, Inc.**

620 Eighth Avenue, Terre Haute IN 47804

Designated in: **CLAY, GREENE, PARKE, SULLIVAN, VERMILLION, VIGO**

Also serving: **HENDRICKS, MARION, MORGAN, OWEN, PUTNAM**

HAMILTON CENTER:

## *National Recovery Month Butterfly Release*

On Friday, September 9, *Hamilton Center* partnered with the *Wabash Valley Recovery Center* (WRC) for a butterfly release at WVRC's annual **Blackout Addictions Glow Run**.

188 butterflies were released in remembrance of the 188 lives lost to opioid overdose each day in the United States.

### **Opioid Use Disorder is a disease.**

Whether opioids are prescribed by a doctor or acquired illegally, they can cause serious changes to the brain and body.

**Treatment is available, and recovery is possible.** People are able to regain their lives, heal their families, and really live again.



## *Diversity Walk*

Thousands of people were in downtown Terre Haute to “walk the walk” and celebrate diversity and inclusion on August 27 for the **8th annual Diversity Walk**. President/CEO Melvin L. Burks, along with fellow community leaders, began the event with a message on the strength of a community when we break down barriers, build relationships, and are welcoming to all.

The event included a 1.5 mile walk, music, food, and a celebration of the community coming together and representing varying ages, races, creeds, colors, orientations, backgrounds, and abilities in support of a diverse community.



## 2023 Political Action Committee

**Optimizing the health and wellbeing of all people in Indiana through mental health leadership, collaboration & advocacy.**

**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 ninety-two counties in Indiana.**

In 2019, CMHCs in Indiana served close to 300,000 behavioral health consumers. 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.

Along with the consumers served in 2019, CMHCs employed over 15,000 staff throughout Indiana.

**We look forward to the 2023 Legislative session, and we have set significant goals!**

**Our focus for this Legislative session are:**

- **Telehealth improvements around audio and IOT**
- **Group Home Room and Board Per Diem Rate**
- **Locking in CCBHC for 2025**
- **IPLA improvements and supports**
- **988 sustainability**
- **Workforce supports**

**With your support of the Indiana Council's PAC (Political Action Committee), our voice will be elevated at the Statehouse.**

**>> *Click here to support the Indiana Council's PAC, or scan the QR code.***



• Numbers show head office locations. • Click provider logos to visit their sites



**1 Adult and Child Center**  
603 E. Washington St. – 9th Floor,  
Indianapolis IN 46204  
Designated in: **MARION, JOHNSON**



**2 Aspire Indiana Health, Inc.**  
17840 Cumberland Road, Noblesville IN 46060  
Designated in: **BOONE, HAMILTON, MADISON, MARION**  
Also serving: **GRANT**



**3 Otis R. Bowen Center for Human Services, Inc.**  
850 N. Harrison Street, Warsaw IN 46581  
Designated in: **HUNTINGTON, KOSCIUSKO, MARSHALL,  
WABASH, WHITLEY**  
Also serving: **ALLEN, DEKALB, LAGRANGE, NOBLE, STEUBEN**



**4 Centerstone of Indiana, Inc.**  
645 S. Rogers Street, Bloomington, IN 47403  
Designated in: **BARTHOLOMEW, BROWN, DECATUR, FAYETTE,  
JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JENNINGS, LAWRENCE, MONROE,  
MORGAN, OWEN, RANDOLPH, RUSH, UNION, WAYNE**  
Also serving: **CLARK, HENRY, MARION, PUTNAM**



**5 Community Health Network  
(Behavioral Health Services) - Gallahue**  
6950 Hillsdale Court, Indianapolis IN 46250  
Designated in: **MARION, HANCOCK, SHELBY**  
Also serving: **MADISON, JOHNSON**



**6 Community Health Network  
(Behavioral Health Services) - Howard**  
P. O. Box 9011, Kokomo IN 46904  
Designated in: **CLINTON, HOWARD, TIPTON**



**7 Community Mental Health Center, Inc.**  
285 Bielby Road, Lawrenceburg IN 47025  
Designated in: **FRANKLIN, OHIO, RIPLEY, SWITZERLAND**  
Also serving: **DEARBORN**



**8 Cummins Behavioral Health Systems, Inc.**  
6655 East US 36, Avon IN 46123  
Designated in: **HENDRICKS, PUTNAM**  
Also serving: **BOONE, MONTGOMERY, MARION**



**9 Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living, Inc.**  
1100 West Sixth Avenue, Gary IN 46402  
Designated in: **LAKE** Also serving: **PORTER, LAPORTE**



**10 4C Health**  
401 E. 8th Street, Rochester, IN 46975  
Designated in: **CASS, FULTON, MIAMI, PULASKI**  
Also serving: **HOWARD, TIPTON, CLINTON, CARROLL, WHITE,  
MARSHALL, WABASH, GRANT, JASPER, TIPPECANOE, KOSCIUSKO**



**11 Grant-Blackford Mental Health, Inc.**  
505 N. Wabash Avenue, Marion IN 46952  
Designated in: **GRANT, BLACKFORD**



**12 Hamilton Center, Inc.**  
620 Eighth Avenue, Terre Haute IN 47804  
Designated in: **CLAY, GREENE, PARKE, SULLIVAN,  
VERMILLION, VIGO** Also serving: **HENDRICKS, MARION,  
MORGAN, OWEN, PUTNAM**



**13 LifeSpring Health Services**  
460 Spring Street, Jeffersonville IN 47130  
Designated in: **CLARK**  
Also serving: **FLOYD, CRAWFORD, DUBOIS, ORANGE, PERRY,  
SPENCER, JEFFERSON, HARRISON, SCOTT, WASHINGTON**



**14 Meridian Health Services**  
240 N. Tillotson Avenue, Muncie IN 47304  
Designated in: **DELAWARE, HENRY, JAY**  
Also serving: **RUSH, WAYNE, RANDOLPH**



**15 Northeastern Center, Inc.**  
220 South Main Street, Kendallville IN 46755  
Designated in: **DEKALB, LAGRANGE, NOBLE, STEUBEN**



**16 Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, Inc.**  
330 Lakeview Drive, Goshen IN 46527  
Designated in: **ELKHART, ST. JOSEPH**



**17 Park Center**  
909 East State Boulevard, Fort Wayne IN 46805  
Designated in: **ADAMS, ALLEN, WELLS**



**18 Porter-Starke Services**  
601 Wall Street, Valparaiso IN 46383  
Designated in: **PORTER & STARKE**



**19 Regional Mental Health Center**  
3903 Indianapolis Boulevard,  
East Chicago IN 46312  
Designated in: **LAKE**



**20 Samaritan Center**  
515 Bayou Street, Vincennes IN 47591  
Designated in: **DAVISS, KNOX, MARTIN, PIKE**



**21 Sandra Eskenazi Mental Health Center**  
720 Eskenazi Avenue, Indianapolis IN 46202  
Designated in: **MARION**



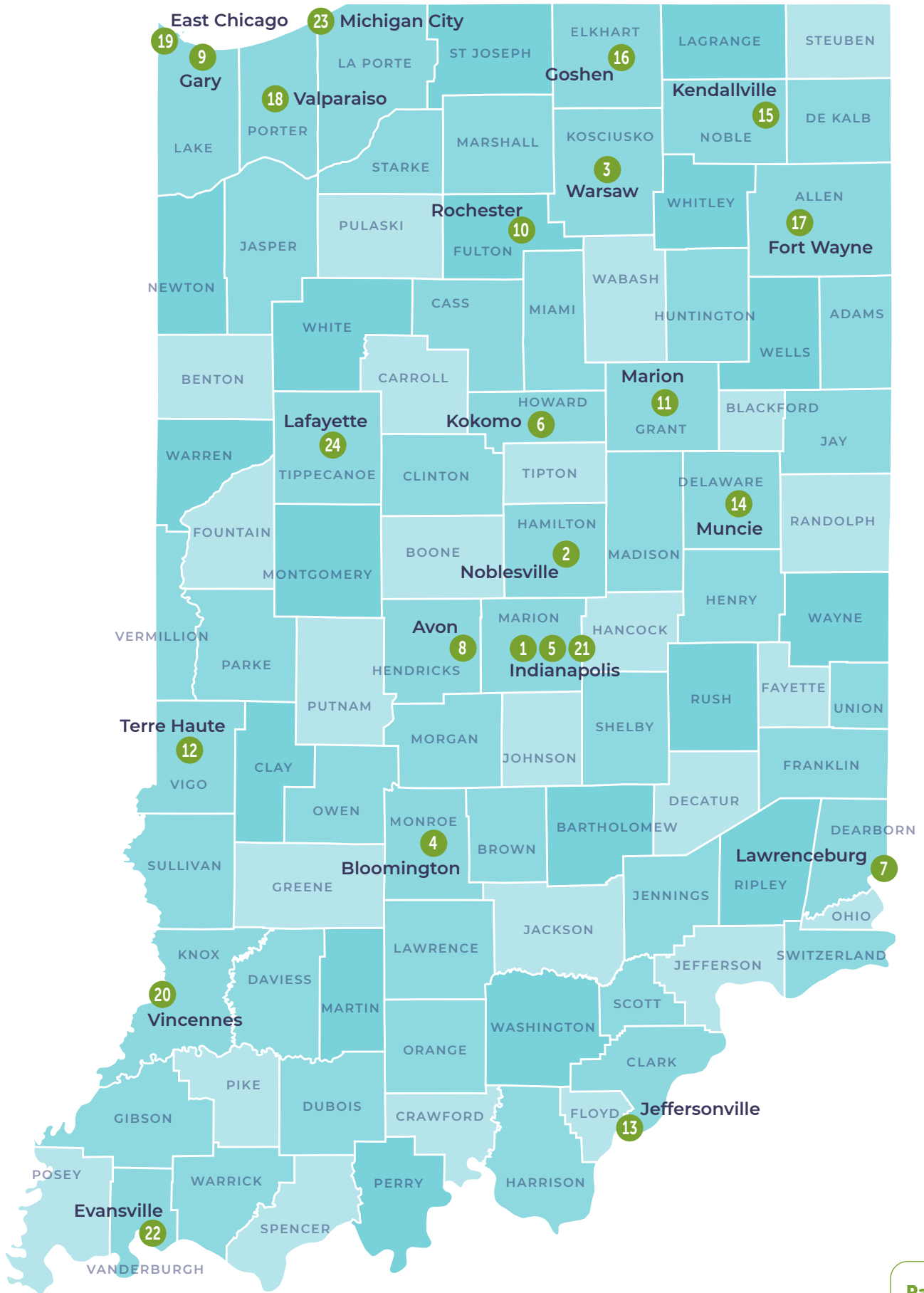
**22 Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.**  
415 Mulberry Street, Evansville IN 47713  
Designated in: **GIBSON, POSEY, VANDERBURGH, WARRICK**



**23 Swanson Center**  
7224 W. 400 N., Michigan City IN 46360  
Designated in: **LAPORTE**



**24 Valley Oaks**  
415 N. 26th Street, Lafayette, IN 47904  
Designated in: **BENTON, CARROLL, FOUNTAIN, WARREN,  
JASPER, NEWTON, WHITE, MONTGOMERY, TIPPECANOE**



# Calendar 2023 Save the dates!

(Updated 12-21-22 - changed dates are in red)



## Cup of Joe with Zoe

Half hour State leader meet and greet with our members and partners, meets first Tuesday each month at 8:30am EST via Zoom.

|                   |            |         |
|-------------------|------------|---------|
| January <b>10</b> | February 7 | March 7 |
| April 4           | May 2      | June 6  |

>> [Click here for Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 210-953-5684 / Password: ICCMHC



## Legislative Lunch

Wednesday, February 8 @ **12pm.**

Educating legislators on Behavioral Health  
Commission report and public policy platform.



## Quarterly Meetings Locations TBD

Educational opportunities for members and partners to learn about Federal and State wide policy and Behavioral Health initiatives

\*\*Continuing Education Credit offered for members only /

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Winter: February 8–10 | Spring: <b>May 10–12</b> |
| Summer: July 26–28    | Fall: October 25–27      |



For further information on any of these events please contact [LeeAnn Jordan](#)

>> [All Indiana Council event information can be found here](#)