

Newsletter March / April 2024

News, programs and training opportunities / Distributed to all members

Together, building the health and well-being of all Hoosiers!

Fit for the future!

Aspire Indiana Health

We are delighted to welcome Aspire Indiana Health for this month's Member Spotlight feature...

Aspire Indiana Health has been serving vulnerable Hoosiers since 1966, creating a legacy of compassionate care across a robust spectrum of comprehensive healthcare services.

Read more... See page 6 - 9

Also this issue:



State & Federal updates



At the Capitol

LETTER FROM ZOE



Hopefully Spring is in the air by the time you are reading this.

The 2024 legislative session wrapped on Friday of last week. During this session we had many members step up to help in advocating for the bills that the Indiana Council led. Whether you came to our day at the statehouse, provided testimony or connected with your local legislature regarding our policy, your voice mattered in our efforts this session.



We highlight our legislative session and all of you who participated on page 26.

As part of our CCBHC strategy the Indiana Council has formally engaged with a federal lobbyist team to assist us and our members with federal relationships as we advocate for Indiana to be a part of the federal CCBHC Demonstration. Please join us at **Cup of Joe on May 14th** to meet our new federal lobbyist team from Render & Hall. The federal team consists of John Williams III, Abigail Kaericher and Andrew Coats.

In March the State will submit the **CCBHC demonstration application**. It has taken a lot of work from DMHA and Medicaid as well as the eight selected CMHC members. The Indiana Council is grateful to provide support for this work as well as advocacy. Thank you to the members of our State and our CMHC members for your work on ensuring Indiana has a strong application. **More State and Federal Updates around CCBHC and other items can be found on pages 15-21**.

The Council is already planning for **the next legislative sessio**n. One of the ways we are doing this is by elevating the work of our members and those we serve. At our May conference we will be celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month by recognizing our members in our inaugural annual CMHC awards! For more information on the CMHC awards and how to nominate a CMHC or CMHC employee, **please see page 23**.

Allen Brown retires from Adult & Child



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Allen Brown from Adult &

Child for his dedicated service as CEO of Adult & Child, along with serving as a board member with the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers. After years of commitment and invaluable contributions, Allen is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and leadership in the mental health community. His passion and insight have greatly benefited our organization and the individuals we serve. We wish Allen all the best in his well-deserved retirement and express our deepest appreciation for his unwavering support. Thank you, Allen, for making a difference in the lives of so many.

WELCOME

We are also including **member stories** within this newsletter to help with sharing the great work each of you do - **you can see these stories on pages 25-26**.

This spring we will hopefully be seeing a lot of our members. From Nat Con 24, in St. Louis to our May conference and business meeting in Plainfield. **More information on upcoming events is on pages 5 & 30.**

One member we will not be seeing much of due to his retirement is **Allen Brown** of Adult and Child (see below, and on page 25) . I want to take a moment to thank Allen for his leadership and support of the Indiana Council. Allen was one of the board members who hired me and was part of the vision of where we are today with CCBHC. I know he will enjoy retirement and traveling with his beautiful family, but he will be missed by many. Join me in wishing him a Happy Retirement!

Now that we have kicked off our Spring officially with this newsletter, let me go find my bracket and wish you all a peaceful March no matter the Madness that surrounds us!

In gratitude,

Zoe Frantz President, CEO zfrantz@indianacouncil.org



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Together, building the health and well-being of all Hoosiers!

for your calendar

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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.



QR code:



KEY CONTACTS:

Zoe Frantz President, CEO 812-298-4533 zfrantz@indianacouncil.org

Denise Wade Chief Administration Officer 317-684-3684 dwade@indianacouncil.org

Lee Ann Jordan Director of Communication & Membership 317-650-4972 Ijordan@indianacouncil.org

Andy Zellers Grant Administrator & Policy Research Analyst 812-204-1789 azellers@indianacouncil.org

LOBBYISTS:

Kelli Waggoner

KWK Management Group 317-213-3876

Grant Waggoner

KWK Management Group 317-430-9860

Lou Belch

The Corydon Group 317-213-3884

April 15-17, 2024 MatCon24 St. Louis, Missouri

Attend the Biggest Event in Behavioral Health Care

Get ready for NatCon24, the largest conference in mental health and substance use treatment!

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing is bringing the best minds in health care to St. Louis from April 15-17 to lead three days of leadership-building, organizationboosting content. Only at NatCon24 can you hear from 400+ speakers, choose from hundreds of expert-led sessions, earn continuing education credits and network with 5,000+ health care colleagues from across the country. Register today!

NatCon24 is not just any event — it's an exclusive opportunity to hear from the visionaries and thought leaders who are shaping the world through their passion and purpose.

Like Former First Lady Michelle Obama, whose newest book, "The Light We Carry," reminds us that the power to persevere in uncertain times lies within us all.

And Isabel Wilkerson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author of "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent," a powerful exploration of hierarchies and humanity.

On April 17, Mrs. Obama and Ms. Wilkerson will take the stage for a keynote conversation that will inspire and empower attendees through storytelling and shared experiences.

- Get ready for three days of leadership-building, organization-boosting content, including:
 - o Tailored curriculum for service providers of all sizes and localities
 - o Presentations from world-renowned speakers, thought leaders and experts
 - o Dynamic sessions on hot topics, pressing social issues and policy opportunities
 - o Learning tracks addressing telehealth, criminal justice, crisis response and more
 - o Insights into the latest technologies and opportunities for practice improvement
 - o Opportunities to earn more CEUs from organizations across the country
 - o Access to industry-leading organizations and their tools, resources and services

NatCon24 is more than just a conference - it's an exclusive invitation to boost your operations, maximize your impact and increase your knowledge base. From peerdriven presentations and entertainment to special events and technology exhibits, there's something for everyone at NatCon24.



As a valued National Council member, you can enjoy a special registration rate! Click here for details







MEMBER SPOTLIGHT





Aspire Indiana Health has been serving vulnerable Hoosiers since 1966, creating a legacy of compassionate care across a robust spectrum of comprehensive healthcare services. With roots in Carmel and Anderson, Ind., it has continued to expand in size and scope and is now a Community Mental Health Center with nine clinics spread across Boone, Hamilton, Madison and Marion counties. Aspire added Federally Qualified Health Center status nearly a decade ago and now has primary care medicine in all its locations with in-



house pharmacies in most. The organization has continued to experience tremendous growth in the size and scope of its "whole health" services, and expects that trend to continue.

Growth to Match Need

A core tenant of Aspire's business model is not to grow just for growth's sake. Its footprint ranges from the state's most populous urban center (Indianapolis/Marion County) to its most affluent healthcare marketplace (Hamilton County) to an economically depressed former auto manufacturing hub (Anderson) to sparsely populated rural areas (Elwood). Its health center in Lebanon went from being one of its smallest locations to one **poised for rapid economic** and population expansion.

Aspire's philosophy is to look for communities in need of its comprehensive services and bring healthcare to the people. With approximately 80% of its patient base using Medicaid and Medicare, Aspire is primarily centered around serving at-risk populations and people who have traditionally faced barriers to healthcare including Black and brown communities, LGBTQ Hoosiers, people with disability and those with serious mental illness.

Last year Aspire recorded more than 350,000 patient encounters, and was listed by Indianapolis Business Journal as **the 15th-largest healthcare nonprofit** in the state by revenue. Through enhanced

ASPIRE INDIANA HEALTH

recruitment and retention efforts, Aspire expanded its workforce by nearly 20% in 2023 alone.

Due to the strategic leadership of its executives and oversight of the board of directors, Aspire is proud to **have the fiscal resources** to support its sizable ambitions.

Merging for Recovery

Aspire has long had outpatient services for people with substance use disorder, but as the opioid crisis reached its zenith the leadership saw a need for more intensive services. A months-long collaboration with **Progress House**, the state's oldest and largest recovery residence, bore fruit in the form of **Mockingbird Hill Recovery Center**, a 66-bed addiction treatment facility in Anderson that opened its doors in March 2021. As one of the first such centers to accept Medicaid, it has already set hundreds of individuals on the path to long-term recovery.

As leaders of Aspire and **Progress House** worked on the project, they recognized their strong correlation of missions and values. The "dating relationship" quickly became a marriage, with the **two nonprofits merging in November 2019**. As a result, Aspire Indiana Health is now the largest provider of recovery beds in the state of Indiana – with more expansion planned for the future.

Recently Progress House welcomed its newest resident: **Daisy, a service dog** specially trained to work with those suffering from addictionrelated trauma.



Mockingbird Hill Recovery Center

Specialized Programming

Along with the growth in locations and recovery, over the years Aspire has stood up various specialized programs to address needs its patients experience that impact their overall wellbeing.

- Deaf Services Aspire is proud to be the only CMHC in Indiana with a permanent, dedicated team of ASL interpreters and therapists.
- Social Drivers of Health Housing, employment and legal aid assistance.
- Kids Talk Forensic interviews and support services for Madison County children, seniors and adults who have experienced abuse.



- Point of Entry Harm reduction service in Madison County that includes sterile syringe exchange and support services.
- Infectious Disease Testing and referral services in 32 Indiana counties for HIV, HEP-C and other diseases



Daisy the service dog with Antony Sheehan

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



- Group Homes Housing and services for individuals with SMI.
- **InSHAPE** Personalized fitness and nutrition coaching for people with SMI.
- WIPA Work Incentives Planning and Assistance aka Indiana Works provides benefits counseling and assistance across 47 Indiana counties for people receiving Social Security disability who want to return to work or expand their hours.
- Mobile Clinic Unit In late 2023 Aspire rolled out "Macy," a mobile unit bringing healthcare services to homeless and at-risk Indianapolis residents.



After more than 50 years as an "under the radar" provider, Aspire leadership recognized the need to raise its profile to better connect with potential patients, partners and people. This has led to the building of a dedicated marketing & communications team to tell the story of Aspire, resulting in significant new patient streams and national award recognition. A new outreach team puts individuals into each county to act as grassroots organizers and connectors.

The organization is also in the midst of building out a **business strategy and fundraising unit** to elevate its ambitions and organize future growth around where the community needs us.

Recently Aspire introduced **Same Day Access**, an innovative new system for onboarding new behavioral health patients that aims to

dramatically reduce the time before they're able to get an intake and receive services.





Conner Prairie InShape event



Antony Sheehan with Macy the mobile unit



ASPIRE INDIANA HEALTH

Charting a New Course

Perhaps the biggest recent change Aspire has experienced has been in the corner office. After 37 years of service with Aspire, **Barbara Scott** retired as the organization's leader. She spent her entire career at Aspire and was a strong voice for bolstering healthcare access, including her work with the Indiana Council.

Antony Sheehan, a veteran healthcare leader with executive experience that began in his native United Kingdom and has spanned several states in the U.S., took over as President & CEO in September. He has made "compassion activism" the centerpiece of his philosophy for how Aspire Indiana Health should not only provide healthcare services that improve the wellbeing of individuals, but act as a change agent for uplifting whole communities.

The organization is now looking back on its long history of service to chart a new course as a major player in the Indiana healthcare community.



Aspire at Indianapolis Pride



Antony Sheehan





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

Above and top: Conner Prairie InShape event

INDIANA COUNCIL UPDATES



Latest news

We have several events coming up that I wanted to remind you of -

- March 18 Open Office Hours with Zoe
- April 9 Cup of Joe with Zoe with our guest Kellie Streeter, President of the Indiana Commissioner Association
- April 15 17 NatCon 2024 -Indiana Networking event will take place during this conference.
- April 23 CEOS and Human Resource professionals
 Save the Date for the IU Bowen School of Workforce Policy
 Behavioral Health Workforce Playbook release kick off at Lucas Stadium.



Kellie Streeter



- April 25 Open Office Hours with Zoe
- Save the Date! May 2 and 3 Indiana Council Conference and Business meeting in Plainfield, Indiana. We have a strong agenda along with celebrations for Mental Health Awareness Month, Our Legislator of the Year Awards and for the first time in Council History – Member Awards! We will be celebrating YOU! See page 23 for details.

Legislative Session End update:

STOP PRESS: March 11th: The 2024 legislative session wrapped up tonight.

Our SB 233 CCBHC/CMHC alignment bill language landed in HB 1067.

This was our safety net for our safety net to help ensure the work we have done is not derailed by leadership and legislature changes that are on the horizon! Having this legislation will help us advocate in DC to the importance of why we need federal support for the demonstration.

The chess pieces are coming together, and we are one step closer to a sustainable infrastructure for our CMHC system.

None of this could have been done without your voice and your advocacy! Our members once again stepped up every time we needed them at a moment's notice.

Our other two main asks one for workforce, **HB 1138**- and one for client care **HB 1216** - also passed.

Thank you again to our members and legislators for your voice, without you none of this would have been possible.

GRANT UPDATES

Andy Zellers' Grant Update

We continue to process grant funds, and we've now received hundreds of thousands of dollars towards our group home grants!

New roofs, gutters, plumbing, floors, and HVAC equipment have been installed and are positively impacting our group home residents to ensure that these facilities will be in good working order into the future. Bridge funding continues to be received on a quarterly basis, and all funds through the December have been received. Those Q4 funds will be issued hopefully by the time this newsletter hits your inbox.



Click here to Contact Andy

We still have a lot of **COVID grant funds** to expend. While thankfully COVID cases and associated restrictions have been eased and we've seen a decrease in cases, these funds are still available for PPE and tests if your center needs to replenish these items.

Work around the REL grant continues, and we have exciting news to share at our May Conference in Plainfield regarding the Humana grant and training to help us better serve our aging population in Indiana – stay tuned!

Thank you,

Andy Zellers

Indiana Council Grant Administrator and Policy & Research Analyst

Welcoming a new affiliate member - HealthLinc

HealthLinc, Inc. (healthlincchc.org) is a notfor-profit federally qualified health center with corporate headquarters located at 2401 Valley Drive, Valparaiso, IN. They provide primary medical, dental, optometry, and behavioral health services to people of all ages regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

HealthLinc serves over 44,000 patients each year in twelve clinics and a mobile medical/dental clinic. They accept Medicare, Medicaid, Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), and most commercial insurance plans, and provide care for uninsured patients on a sliding fee scale based on household size and income, regardless of a patient's insurance status.



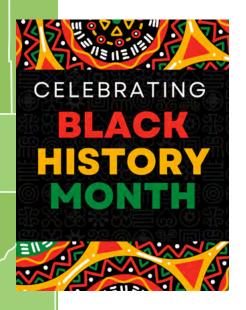


HealthLinc's Valparaiso location

COMMITTEE UPDATES



Racial, Equity, and Leadership Committee



Celebrating and Recognizing Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, I would like to share the following quote by Nina Simone, "Did you know that the human voice is the only pure instrument? That it has notes no other instrument has? It is like being between the keys of a piano."

The council's vision for change is improving the racial disparities in our state as it pertains to improving mental health and substance use treatment. This vision is that the community mental health centers would lead this change. That we who are the safety-nets, or what I would like to refer to as the safety trampolines, because we allow people to bounce back by providing them the skills, clinical, and medical services they need to improve their mental health and overall well-being will provide these services with the same quality care for all Black people. We need to mirror our population in every part of our State and break down the barriers for all Black people to be able to access services.

One of the ways we have worked on this is through our Racial, Equity, and Leadership Committee. This committee is committed to driving the understanding, development, and implementation of DEI initiatives across the CMHC system while simultaneously providing mentorship and leadership development opportunities for the BIPOCidentified professionals. This committee has members that have helped in steering the federal CLAS assessment project with HMA and DMHA. The committee has been instrumental in getting both the staff and client voices heard during this assessment process. They have been the human voice that Nina Simone references above and the notes have been impactful to our system. I am forever grateful for their voices.

If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please reach out to the co-chairs – Cedalia Ellis - **ellisc@southwestern.org** and Darial Sterling - **darial.sterling@oaklawn.org**

To learn about this committee or any of our other committees, **please click here**



REL COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

"The Indiana Council Racial, Equity, and Leadership Committee is committed to driving the understanding, development, and implementation of DEI initiatives across the CMHC system while simultaneously providing mentorship and leadership development opportunities for the BIPOC-identified professionals.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUIREMENTS: The committee does not have a skill set requirement as the committee extends a welcome to all BIPOC professionals from various employee levels within the CMHC & CCBHC sphere, to reduce equity barriers for BIPOC individuals.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Other REL business this month

- Recruitment for a REL secretary
- Discussions on Allyship
- Conversations on burnout with BIPOC staff in CMHC's.
- Discussions on recruitment of more BIPOC committee members from our various centers
- Training topics that could be helpful to educate leadership on DEI issues to help deepen their learning to help make equitable decisions for their staff and clients served
- CLAS project updates, e.g. Climate assessment has been launched to gauge a DEI baseline for all 24 CMHC's, short surveys and staff focus groups have been sent out to further gather DEI information from all centers, focus groups with clients are in process, however names and contact info have been collected and ROI's signed. Next there will be a workshop training for all centers on June 17th-18th

TERM OF THE MONTH:

Structural Equity

The identification and removal of institutional barriers to fair and equal opportunities, recognizing historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics and structures that routinely advantage privileged groups in society and that result in chronic, cumulative disadvantage for subordinated groups.

To find out more about all our committees, and for contact details, please visit the committees page on our site



Data Analytics Committee

The Data Analytics Committee is pleased to provide an update on our ongoing initiatives.

New Co-Chair

Ron Guidotti Jr., BA, Director, Data Analytics & Quality Outcomes, Porter-Starke Services

CCBHC Data Metrics

We are actively collaborating with each agency's representatives, the Indiana Department of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), and the Indiana Council to finalize the CCBHC data metrics. This collaborative approach ensures that the metrics are comprehensive, align with agency needs, and contribute to effective program evaluation. We will continue to work diligently and provide further updates as development progresses.

Data Governance & Data Solution

Beyond the CCBHC Data Metrics initiative, the committee is actively exploring the potential implementation of a data solution. However, this exploration goes beyond simply adding another tool to each agency's toolbox.

CCBHC data metrics play a crucial role in this endeavor. These metrics will provide standardized and comprehensive data points that track the effectiveness of CCBHC services. By measuring access, utilization, and patient outcomes, we can assess the program's impact on the communities it serves. This data will be instrumental in informing future program development, resource allocation, and ultimately, improving client care.



The success of this data solution hinges on a robust data governance framework. This framework goes beyond just security. It establishes clear protocols for data collection, storage, access, and sharing. It ensures patient privacy is protected, while still allowing agencies to collaborate and share insights for the greater good. This collaborative approach, enabled by strong data governance, will empower advocacy efforts at both the agency and county levels within the Indiana Council.

In essence, the data governance framework acts as the foundation for trust and collaboration. It allows agencies to share valuable data securely, leading to a comprehensive understanding of population health needs across the state. This, in turn, strengthens the Council's ability to advocate for improved mental health services for all Hoosiers.

We are committed to keeping you informed about our progress. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to **contact the committee.**

Child & Adolescent Committee

The Child & Adolescent committee is currently working on drafting a letter to address the issues we are having with the processing time that Child Advocates is taking to address wraparound referrals.

Our committee is also exploring ways to increase access for both intake and ongoing treatment.

CFO Committee

The CFO Committee has been busy learning about cost reporting for CCBHC. We had the presentation from Alluma Cares which was very timely as Indiana progresses on the CCBHC road.

The CFO committee has also been working with Intecare on the Mental Health Funds Recovery Programmatic Changes.

Please visit the CFO committee group in our **member's only area** on our website.

Indiana Council is Hiring!

Manager of State and Local Government Affairs

The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers (Council), a state membership association of community mental health centers (CMHCs), is hiring a Manager of State and Local Government Affairs to help grow and maintain Indiana Council's relationships with state and local elected officials, their staff, and key partners. The person will be responsible for fostering strong relationships with both government officials and community stakeholders and ensuring alignment with the Council's strategic vision and objectives. **Quality Assurance Data Analyst**

The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers (Council), a state membership association of community mental health centers (CMHCs), is hiring a Quality Assurance Data Analyst to implement quality control tasks and processes that routinely measure data quality and positive data outcomes to effectively grow data sources. The person will be responsible for fostering relationships with out CMHCs (community mental health centers) and ensuring alignment with the Council's strategic visions and objections.

For more details and to apply, click here

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For more details and to apply, click here

STATE UPDATES

Latest news

• I have learned from some members that during a routine Medicaid audit that patient/client signature has come back up as a potential pay back concern if the treatment plans are not signed.

Please reach out to David Jose if you do have this concern come up so he can assist you.

 To support REST across Indiana we are offering a series of virtual training (web series) addressing topics specific to Disaster Behavior Health and REST. These will be facilitated through monthly TEAMs meetings offered on three different day/ times. The meeting format will be a 20–30-minute presentation on the topic of the month followed by an open Q&A, running March - July. These are learning and discussion opportunities open for all CMHC employees who may participate in REST, but focused on those who will participate in leadership roles. We want to share the vision and mechanisms for participating in REST and get feedback on ways to improve!

Dates for the meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday Morning Series 1st Tuesday of the month from 11 am – 12 pm
- Friday Morning Series 3rd Friday of the month from 9 am – 10 am
- Wednesday Afternoon Series 2nd
 Wednesday of the month from 3 4 pm

Revised Dates for June 2024 CLAS Training.

Save the dates for the two-day Indiana CLAS Workshops on **Monday, June 17th** and **Tuesday, June 18th** at Ivy Tech Noblesville.

The training is open to all CMHC staff!

Further information coming soon.





Topics:

- Introduction to Indiana Disaster Behavioral Health
- Local Disaster Behavioral Health Planning
- Disaster Behavioral Health and Emergency
 Management
- Preparedness: Social Capital
- Disaster Behavioral Health Training

For meeting links, or if you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your district's DBH Regional Coordinator or **Esther Stonecypher**, **State Director of Disaster Behavioral Health**, at **esther.stonecypher@fssa.in.gov** or (463) 269-5319.



REGISTRATION LINK AND ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION TO FOLLOW





Workforce Loan forgiveness opportunities

The Indiana State Loan Repayment Program (IN-SLRP) awards practitioners in approved disciplines up to \$20,000 to be used towards outstanding student loans, dependent on two years of service at a practice site located in a HPSA in Indiana. After completion of the program, practitioners can reapply one additional time, serving a total of 4 years of service in exchange for up to \$40,000 in loan repayment. Applications are being accepted now. Click here to learn more about eligibility and the application process.. **The National Health Service Corps (NHSC)** supports thousands of primary care medical, dental, and behavioral health students through grants/awards in the form of school loan repayment and scholarships. You may be able to receive financial support in the form of tuition reimbursement, payment for tuition and eligible fees, an annual payment for other reasonable education costs, and monthly stipends for living expenses while in your educational training program. **Click here to learn more.**

Indiana Pregnancy Promise Program annual report now available.

In 2020, Indiana was selected as 1 of 10 original states to receive the Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) Model award. As a result, the Family and Social Services Administration established the **Indiana Pregnancy Promise Program** (Promoting Recovery from Opioid use: Maternal Infant Support and Engagement) which launched in 2021. The program aims to improve outcomes for pregnant and postpartum Medicaid members and their infants impacted by opioid use disorder.

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FSSA has partnered with the Medicaid managed health plans to provide enhanced case management and care coordination services, remove barriers, and improve access to care for this population. The second annual report summarizes the program's preliminary findings from July 1, 2021–June 30, 2023, **is now available by clicking here.**

Indiana Medicaid Updates that have an

impact on our system -Click issue #'s shown to view



BT202408	IHCP to adjust identified claims for HIP Rate Equalization Project	All	Jan. 23, 2024
BT202407	Additional updates made to the October 2023 quarterly HCPCS code update	All	Jan. 23, 2024
BT202406	IHCP adds coverage for four injectable drugs	All	Jan. 23, 2024
BT202405	IHCP announces correction to start date of new CMHW rates	Behavioral Health	Jan. 23, 2024
BT202414	IHCP issues TPL exemptions for peer recovery and mobile crisis services	All	Feb. 8, 2024
BT202418	IHCP corrects errors on the Professional Fee Schedule	All	Feb. 15, 2024
BT202417	IHCP to begin enrollment for telehealth-only providers	All	Feb. 15, 2024

STATE UPDATES



Partnering on Practice

Thank you all for your participation in the

Partnering on Practice (PoP) forum feedback survey. After reviewing the responses, changes have been made to best serve our providers and stakeholders as we continue to strive for improvement.

The goal of the PoP forums is to discuss the expectation, reality and opportunities for improvement regarding DCS practice. With your help, the following changes have been made:

- Forums will last for 90 minutes.
- The breakout groups will be region-based.
- When possible, a DCS expert of the presented topic will have 15 minutes to discuss expectations, upcoming changes and take questions on the practice or policy being discussed.
- DCS service coordinators and practice model consultants will host the regional breakout groups to mitigate the use of parking lot questions.
- The information received will be used to create training and/or in-services for providers and/or DCS field staff in efforts to streamline DCS practice.

Attendees will use Signup Genius to sign up for the session(s) they have interest in. This will help us generate breakout groups according to the region(s) you serve.

Attendees are still welcome even if they did not register prior.

A one-pager will be sent at least one week prior to the scheduled forum with an overview of past and upcoming forums.

The dates for the 2024 forums are: March 19, June 18, Sept. 17 and Nov. 19.

Please see below to register for the first forum, scheduled for March 19, 2024, which will focus on out-of-home CHINS, co-care and high acuity youth.

Q1 Partnering on Practice Forum (POP) Tuesday, March 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (EST) Region 1 and 7: Signup Genius link Regions 2, 3 and 4: Signup Genius link Regions 5, 6 and 11: Signup Genius link Regions 12 and 15: Signup Genius link Regions 9 and 10: Signup Genius link Regions 13, 14 and 18: Signup Genius link Regions 8, 16 and 17: Signup Genius link

Thank you for all you do for Indiana children and families!

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Older Youth Services Summary for RFP Posting 2024

The Department of Child Services (DCS) is seeking proposals for the administration of the Chafee / Older Youth Services (OYS) Programs. The goal of OYS is to provide independent living instructional and experiential learning to youth in foster care, provide transitional services to youth who are expected to age out of foster care, extended foster care placement and supervision for those youth who want to voluntarily remain or re-enter foster care, and provide older youth services for young adult who voluntarily want to participate in OYS after they have aged out of foster care.



Click here for details and more DCS opportunities



Update from DCS on Peers

Put simply, if the individual being hired or who is under employment is not going to be performing any duties related to the DCS contract, none of the DCS background check requirements in our contract apply (because, again, they are not working under that contract).

Now, that said, if they *want* someone to be able to do work under the DCS contract (which I encourage, because I very much see the value of peer supports), and they have a background check issue, they can apply for a waiver, and the process to do so is spelled out in **policy 13.16**. If they want the individual to be able to do work under the DCS contract and they will be working with children, that employee would be an A-1 level (requires fingerprints), but, if they will only be working with ADULTS under the DCS contract, they would be an A-2 level employee (doesn't require fingerprints, and only requires Sex Offender Registry and CPS check). That is spelled out in **policy 13.3**, middle of Page 2 for A-2 level checks).

Indiana Prevention Update

Transition from Regional Prevention System

In an effort to emphasize sustainability, best practices, and research-informed strategic planning, effective January 2024, the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) will begin to transition away from the Indiana Regional Prevention System and enter Phase II of the DMHA Prevention Bureau's Statewide Prevention Plan. Phase II will prioritize enhancing the primary prevention infrastructure and workforce, while expanding and maximizing statewide services. As part of Phase II, the work of the Regional Prevention Coordinators, Client Consultation Boards, and Regional Prevention Councils will be carried forward through partnerships with Local Coordinating Councils, Drug Free Community Coalitions, and other local prevention coalitions and providers. DMHA will also maintain an open feedback loop with communities through the DMHA Prevention Bureau email, technical assistance channels, and through biennial listening sessions.

Phase II of DMHA's Statewide Prevention Plan

was developed in accordance with the principles of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's Strategic Prevention Framework. The plan is grounded in qualitative guidance provided by prevention researchers, prevention providers, community coalitions, and residents from across the state; and in quantitative data provided by the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup, Prevention Insights, and other statewide public health research centers, workgroups, agencies, and providers.



Through the enactment of Phase II, DMHA will seek to establish and complete concrete, measurable, and impactful capacity-building objectives based on data collected in Phase I.

Phase II objectives:

- Increase collaboration among Local Coordinating Councils, Drug Free Community Coalitions, and local prevention providers, while maintaining community-DMHA feedback loops.
- Enhance prevention workforce capacities through the implementation of experiential learning prevention courses at local universities.
- Increase community knowledge of evidencebased prevention programs and practices through the promotion of a free Prevention Specialist Certification course for community members and relevant healthcare, education, and administrative professionals.
- Increase community and provider capacities to:
 (1) Track local prevention efforts and identify community needs and system gaps, (2) access

STATE UPDATES

local, state, and federal resources to address areas of need, (3) find and apply for federal and private prevention funding opportunities, and (4) create and evaluate community-developed prevention interventions.

- Establish statewide prevention standards and community practice guidelines and provide enhanced strategy support for innovative prevention practices.
- Sustain and enhance existing prevention provider programming and reduce administrative burdens for providers.

DMHA Substance Misuse Prevention and Mental Health Promotion Mission:

To reduce substance misuse and promote behavioral health across the lifespan of Indiana citizens by maintaining a coordinated, effective, and accountable system of prevention and behavioral health promotion services.

Vision:

Sustainable environments that nurture, assist, and empower all Indiana citizens to access and experience optimum physical, emotional, and mental health

- Streamline internal DMHA Prevention Bureau processes, policies, and procedures to facilitate sustainability, accountability, and cohesion.
- Target selective populations to maximize limited resources and increase the impact of statewide prevention services and interventions.
- Enhance statewide data collection capacities and data communication processes through: (1) The creation of a prevention service mapping system,
 (2) the development of updated implementation guidelines for the Indiana Youth Survey, and (3) an evaluation and refinement of State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup products.



During the transition to Phase II, Regional Prevention Coordinators will work to create or enhance connections between Client Consultation Boards, Regional Prevention Councils, Local Coordinating Councils, Drug Free Community Coalitions, and other local prevention coalitions and providers. Regional Prevention Coordinators will also promote the Phase II plan, encourage the use of the Prevention Bureau email (Prevention@fssa.IN.gov) as the continued line of communication with DMHA, and work with community members to identify local leads to sustain existing initiatives.

The DMHA Prevention Bureau expects the transition to Phase II of the Statewide Prevention Plan and the transition away from the Regional Prevention System and Regional Prevention Coordinators to be complete by June 30, 2024.

Questions about the Statewide Prevention Plan can be sent to **Prevention@fssa.in.gov**

FEDERAL UPDATES



CMS Updates

Announcements

CMS Announces New Actions to Help Hospitals Meet Obligations under EMTALA

CMS will launch a series of actions to educate the public about their rights to emergency medical care and to help support efforts of hospitals to meet their obligations under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). **For more information**, **please click here**

SDOH Infographics and Data on People with Medicare Now Available

CMS is pleased to announce the availability of a new public use file on **Socio-demographic and Health Characteristics of Medicare Beneficiaries Living in the Community by Dual Eligibility Status in**

2021. This public use file uses data from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey and contains estimates on socio-demographic characteristics, functional limitations, chronic conditions, mental health, and oral health of people with Medicare living in the community as well as those with both Medicare and Medicaid.

CMS Announces \$50 Million in Grants to Deliver Critical School-Based Health Services to Children

CMS announced \$50 million in grants for states to connect millions more children to critical health care services, particularly for mental health, at school. Made possible by the historic investments of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), the grants will provide 20 states up to \$2.5 million each in funding that can help states implement, enhance, and expand the use of school-based health services through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). **For more information, click here**

Biden-Harris Administration Launches Effort to Increase Medicare Advantage Transparency

The Biden-Harris Administration announced new actions to promote competition in health care, including increasing transparency in the Medicare Advantage (MA) insurance market and strengthening MA programmatic data. CMS is continuing

CMS.gov

momentum in this area by releasing a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit feedback from the public on how best to enhance MA data capabilities and increase public transparency. **For more information**, **click here**

Opioid Treatment Program: Bill Correctly for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Services

In a **report**, the Office of the Inspector General found that Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) providers didn't always comply with federal requirements when they bill for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment services, including intake activities. Review **OTP Billing & Payment**, and learn how to:

- Bill for OUD services
- Use the correct G-codes for treatment

Historic 21.3 million People Choose ACA Marketplace Coverage

The Biden-Harris Administration announced 21.3 million people selected an Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace plan during the 2024 Open Enrollment Period. Total plan selections include more than five million people — about a fourth — who are new to the Marketplaces and 16 million people who renewed their coverage. **For more information,** click here

 Please see CMS' Medicare Learning Network's update on Medicare Provider Enrollment. This site provides information on Medicare enrollment and Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS) FAQs, among other helpful resources. Changes to provider enrollment include adding marriage family therapists (MFTs) and mental health counselors (MHCs) to the Part B suppliers list and merging Form CMS-855R into the CMS-855I paper enrollment application.

FEDERAL UPDATES

SAMHSA has issued its final rule to permanently allow Opioid Treatment Programs



(OTPs) to prescribe buprenorphine through telehealth without an in-person visit, if the provider determines adequate evaluation can be done through an audio-visual telehealth platform. The National Council submitted comments on this proposal last year and below are highlights of the rule as finalized.

- As proposed, the final rule expands the definition of "qualifying practitioner" who are able to order and prescribe medications to include the definition of a practitioner as "a health care professional who is appropriately licensed by a State to prescribe and/or dispense medications for opioid use disorders and, as a result, is authorized to practice within an OTP".
- The final rule allows more flexibility to offer clients take-home doses of methadone, up to seven days for people who have been in treatment for at least two weeks and up to 14 doses for people who have been in treatment for at least 15 days.
 SAMHSA also recognized the many pathways to expanding treatment and finalized its proposal facilitate delivery of comprehensive services in mobile units.
- The final rule also removes the requirement for people to have had an addiction to opioids for at least one year prior to admission to an OTP for MOUD.
- Finally, SAMHSA recognized the role that language plays in perpetuating stigma and made updates accordingly and is committed to taking steps to use person-centered and inclusive language.

The effective date of this final rule is April 2, 2024, and the compliance date is April 2, 2026. Please note that this final rule does not apply more broadly to prescribing outside of OTPs and we expect DEA to issue final regulation relating to virtual prescribing for controlled substances later this year.



HHS has released its final rule regarding modifications to the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Patient Records regulations at 42 CFR Part 2 (commonly called "Part 2").

In accordance with the bipartisan CARES Act of 2020, the final rule helps to bring Part 2 into alignment with HIPAA. The National Council submitted comments on this proposal last year.

Specifically, the final rule:

- Permits use and disclosure of Part 2 records from a single patient consent for all future uses and disclosures for treatment, payment, and health care operations.
- Aligns Part 2 patient notice requirements with requirements under HIPAA.
- Permits redisclosure of Part 2 records by HIPAA covered entities and business associates in accordance with HIPAA, with certain exceptions.
- Establishes HHS enforcement authority, inclusive of penalties for Part 2 violations, and outlines breach notification requirements.

The rule is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on February 16, 2024, with an effective date 60 days after its publication and a compliance date of February 16, 2026. **You can read more at HHS' final rule fact sheet.**





March is National Professional Social Worker Month

The White House officially recognized March as National Professional Social Work Month in 1984. From 1984 until 1998 – the centennial year of the profession – NASW selected a social issue to promote every year. Topics included the health care crisis, hate crimes, violence prevention, racial and ethnic harmony, HIV/AIDS, children in poverty, aging parents, value of work, homelessness and more. From 1998 to 2004, Social Work Month themes promoted the profession with general campaigns about who social workers are and how they benefit society. (from the NASW Website)

The National Social Work Public Education Campaign, a multi-year effort to improve the public perceptions of social work, launched in 2005. Since then, NASW has coupled a specific area of practice or workforce need with general promotion of the profession during Social Work Month.

The theme of the 2024 campaign is - Empowering Social Workers!

To find out more about the campaign, and get media resources click here

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment



Application Due Date: Friday, April 12, 2024

The purpose of this program is to implement the screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment public health model for children, adolescents, and/or adults in primary care and community health settings (e.g., health centers, hospital systems, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), preferred-provider organizations (PPOs) health plans, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), behavioral health centers, pediatric health care providers, children's hospitals, etc.) and schools with a focus on screening for underage drinking, opioid use, and other substance use.

Anticipated Total Available Funding: \$9,950,000

Anticipated Number of Awards: 10

Click here for details

OUR FIRST MEMBER AWARDS!

Indiana Council's CMHC Awards Call for Nominations!

We are excited to host our first-ever Member Awards!

In times of change and challenges, our members continue to serve, with dedication and innovation, to help provide Hoosiers with the outstanding care they deserve.

Here's your opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate those achievements!

From the nominations received the winners will be selected by our Marketing Committee, and will be announced at our May conference as we celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lee Ann Jordan

To nominate for these awards, please reach out to LeeAnn Jordan.

Nominations must be received by close of business on March 27th, 2024 to be considered.

CATEGORIES:

Innovation Collaboration of the Year!

This award honors a notable project by a CMHC member organization that has demonstrated excellence through:

- 1) advocacy
- innovative programs/services/systems that have increased access, improved care services to the community, or decreased disparities; or
- collaborative efforts to reach high-risk populations in the community.

Employee of the Year!

This award recognizes an employee (non- practitioner) who has demonstrated excellence through:

- 1) patient advocacy
- innovative programs/services/ systems or
- 3) collaborative efforts.

CMHC Advocate of the Year!

This award recognizes an individual who has championed the advancement of CMHC's' mission to deliver high quality, culturally competent, comprehensive primary care services regardless of patients' ability to pay.

They have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to supporting the growth of the CMHC through education, partnership, or service.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Hamilton Center Inc. Scholar Program established at Saint Maryof-the-Woods College

Hamilton Center Inc. (HCI) will partner with Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC) through the newly established HCI Scholars Program.





The program will offer opportunities to HCI employees to enroll in the recently announced Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MS-CMHC) and other master-level programs. They include the Master of Business Administration, Master of Leadership Development, the Master of Healthcare Administration and the Ph.D. in Global Leadership.

Undergraduate programs that qualify are the Bachelor of Science in Addictions Counseling and the College's Certificate in Addictions Counseling.

This collaboration between SMWC and Hamilton Center Inc. will assist with the high demand for mental health professionals. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the employment growth rate for mental health, substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors is expected to grow by 18% by 2032, faster than average for all occupations.

Thank you for sharing your members news!

Meridian Health Services Selects New Vice President Of The Northwest Region, Jeffrey Zeh

Meridian Health Services has selected Jeffrey Zeh as Vice



President of the Northwest Region effective Monday, January 29. In this role, Zeh will oversee Meridian Health Services in Lafayette and River Bend Hospital.

Zeh joins Meridian Health Services with 30 years of experience in healthcare administration having worked for health systems including The

Cleveland Clinic Health System, Ascension Health, and IU Health.



Read more here

Read more here

CMHC announces Rebranding, Changes Name to INcompass Healthcare

Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) and Harmony Health announced they will be rebranding, which includes a new name, logo, and promise, as part of their efforts to provide exceptional healthcare services to their Southeastern Indiana community.



Exceptional care for everyone

"It's an exciting time at INcompass Healthcare ... This is not a rebranding due to a buyout or merger, we are the same dedicated group with a renewed commitment and passion for serving our community. This rebrand is a great opportunity to bring home the fact that we are an Indiana organization with deep roots in the community we serve" said Greg Duncan, INcompass Healthcare's President and CEO. Read more

COMMUNITY NEWS

ADULT CHILD

Adult & Child Health CEO Allen Brown Announces Retirement

Indianapolis, IN – After nine years working devotedly as the President and CEO for Indiana integrated healthcare provider Adult & Child Health (A&C), **Allen Brown is set to retire at the end of March 2024**. During his tenure as CEO, Brown has led A&C through many projects and positive changes that will continue to have a profound impact on the Indianapolis community and the organization's 600 employees.

Brown joined A&C in December 2014 and played a crucial role in the organization's growth as a prominent safety net organization in central Indiana.

Under Brown's leadership the organization has nearly doubled its annual revenue and has tripled the number of people served each year.

"I am going to miss Adult and Child Health and I'm deeply grateful for

Read more



the support, trust, and collaboration I've received. It has been an honor to serve as CEO and I know even greater things lie ahead for this remarkable organization," said Mr. Brown.

Adult & Child Health Uses Grant Funds to Strengthen Child Welfare Workforce

Indianapolis, IN – Integrated healthcare and social services provider Adult & Child Health (A&C) was recently awarded \$110,000 through the Department of Childrens Services (DCS) Workforce Stabilization Grant, a \$30 million state-wide program offered to organizations that work with DCS to provide services to children and families. To address high turnover rates within the child welfare services industry, A&C plans to use awarded funds to invest in enhanced staff recruitment, training, and retention initiatives for its child welfare workforce.

Read more

Northeastern Center's NEC Cares program expands to 24/7 operation.



The **NEC Cares Program** is located in the NEC Community Health & Outreach Center and provides short-term, observation and crisis stabilization services in a home-like, non-hospital setting. The program is designed to help those in crisis who may not need hospitalization to receive care and resources to help and meet them where they are at.

NEC Cares originally opened its doors back in December with limited hours, with the end goal to open to a full 24/7 program - which has now been achieved, starting **February 24th.**

Read more about the program here

As Edgewater approaches its 50th Anniversary Gala celebration on June 1, 2024, they have some exciting events planned on the way ...



"We invite our partners, patients, vendors, and the community to embark on a journey of resilience and self-discovery with **Pastor Joe in The Garage**, a stage play presented by Edgewater Health at Westside Theater in Gary, IN. Come and witness a transformative tale unfold. This is more than just a story – it is an exploration of finding grace in unexpected places.

Click to watch and share our promo for The Garage.

COMMUNITY UPDATE







Thank you to our Indiana legislators, our members & lobbyist team

On behalf of the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers and our members, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Indiana legislators for their unwavering support and dedication to mental health initiatives in our state. Your commitment to addressing the needs of individuals and families facing mental health challenges is truly commendable. Your efforts not only improve access to vital services but also help foster a more compassionate and supportive community for all. Thank you for recognizing the importance of mental health and for your ongoing advocacy. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Hoosiers across Indiana.

Special thanks to our members who took the time out of their busy schedules to drive many miles to testify on behalf of our 2024 priority bills, and meet and educate legislators on the importance of mental healthcare in Indiana. Without your voice, legislators would not get the insider look into our system and it's importance in Indiana.

Finally a resounding **THANK YOU** to our wonderful lobbyist team – Kelli Waggoner, Grant Waggoner and Lou Belch. Without your voices and advocacy at the Statehouse, we would not have the success that we do today.







COMMUNITY UPDATE





- Indiana Statehouse members
 meet with legislators during Indiana
 Council lunch
- 2. Beth Keeney LifeSpring testifying in support of SB 233
- 3. Robb Backmeyer Centerstone testifying in support of SB 233
- 4. Zoe Frantz testifying in support of SB 233

- 5. David Josie testifies on SB 1328
- Lou Belch, Kelli Waggoner, Grant Waggoner – Indiana Council's amazing lobbyist team
- 7. Hamilton Center staff at Statehouse
- 8. Zoe Frantz, Representative Shelia Klinker, Dr. Monique Kulkarni













- 9. Zoe Frantz and Governor Eric Holcomb at Indiana Council's Governor's reception
- 10 & 11. Katy Adams and Zoe Frantz present Governor Eric Holcomb with the Indiana Council Advocate of the Year award
- 12. Rep Dr. Brad Barrett and Rep Lori Goss-Reaves speaking at Indiana Council's Winter conference
- 13. Aspire visit with Jim Skeel, Zoe Frantz and Antony Sheehan

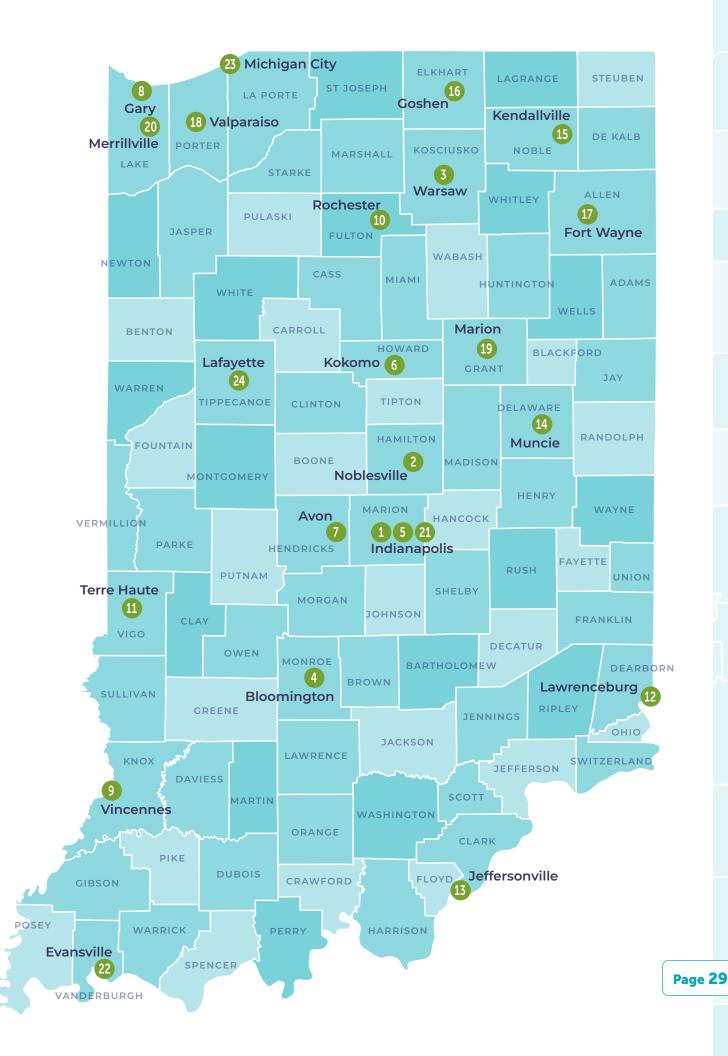


Our Providers - Serving all 92 Indiana Counties

Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, Inc. P.O. Box 875, Carmel, IN 46082 (317) 684-3684 indianacouncil.org

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







COMMUNITY UPDATE

Calendar 2024 Save the dates!



DID YOU KNOW? - You can watch past Cup of Joe meetings on YouTube - Click here to subscribe!

- April 15 17 NatCon 2024- Indiana Networking event will take place during this conference.
- April 23 CEOS and Human Resource professionals Save the Date for the IU Bowen School of Workforce Policy Behavioral Health Workforce Playbook release kick off at Lucas Stadium.
- April 25 Open Office Hours with Zoe
- Save the Date! May 2 and 3 Indiana Council Conference and Business meeting in Plainfield, Indiana. We have a strong agenda along with celebrations for Mental Health Awareness Month, Our Legislator of the Year Awards and for the first time in Council History – Member Awards! We will be celebrating YOU! See page 23

For further information on any of these events please contact LeeAnn Jordan

Dates correct at 03-15-24



Click here to visit our events pages