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Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers Celebrates 2026 Member Award Nominees and Winners

Honoring excellence, leadership, innovation, and dedication across Indiana's behavioral health system

MUNCIE, Ind. — The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers proudly recognized outstanding professionals, leaders, and organizations during the 2026 Indiana Council Member Awards celebration, honoring individuals whose work continues to strengthen behavioral health services and improve the lives of Hoosiers across the state.

The annual Member Awards recognize excellence in community mental health and behavioral health services, highlighting the extraordinary commitment, compassion, and innovation demonstrated by providers and partners throughout Indiana.

“This year’s nominees and award recipients represent the very best of Indiana’s community mental health network,” said Zoe Frantz. “Every nominee has made a meaningful impact within their organization and community, and we are proud to celebrate their dedication to serving individuals and families across our state.”

The Indiana Council extends its heartfelt congratulations to all nominees and winners recognized during the 2026 awards program. Their work reflects the mission and values of Indiana’s community mental health centers and demonstrates the critical role behavioral health professionals play in supporting healthier communities.



Congratulations to all our 2026 Member Award Nominees (pictured above)

This year's award winners are:

- 2026 Innovation Collaboration of the Year – Adult & Child – Community Services Line
- 2026 CMHC Advocate of the Year – Dr. Greg Unfried – Southwestern Behavioral Health
- 2026 Employee of the Year (non-practitioner) - Cynthia Kennedy – Regional Health
- 2026 Employee of the Year (practitioner) - Dr. Christine Negendank – Adult & Child
- 2026 Student/Intern of the Year – Vanessa Tirbassi – Regional Health

Awards presented during the ceremony recognized excellence in areas including leadership, clinical care, innovation, advocacy, peer support, community partnership, and outstanding employee achievement.

The Indiana Council also expressed appreciation to member organizations, colleagues, and community partners who submitted nominations and helped highlight the incredible work happening every day throughout Indiana's community mental health network.

"The stories shared through these nominations remind us of the compassion, resilience, and commitment that define our field," said Zoe Frantz. "We celebrate not only the award winners, but every individual nominated for their exceptional service and dedication."

The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers remains committed to supporting Indiana's behavioral health and substance use disorder workforce and advancing access to high-quality mental health and addiction services statewide.

About Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers:

The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting mental health and substance use treatment services across Indiana. Through advocacy, education, and support, the ICCMHC works to ensure that all Hoosiers have access to comprehensive, high-quality behavioral health care.