

IN.session

The Mental Health America of Indiana Newsletter



Mental Health America of Indiana is Indiana's leading mental health and substance use advocacy organization. We are dedicated to providing overall mental wellness and recovery for all Hoosiers.

A Letter from the President

Legislative Session Policy Update
2025 Legislative Session Halftime Report



Stay IN. the Behavioral Health News



A Critical Moment for Mental Health and Addiction Funding in Indiana

Indiana is at a critical turning point when it comes to mental health and addiction services, and your voice is needed now more than ever. While the state has made progress with a \$50 million per year investment, there remains a funding gap of \$53.1 million annually. This funding is essential to expand community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs), crisis response services, and the 988 crisis hotline, which alone needs an additional \$13.2 million per year.

The impact of the 988 crisis hotline is undeniable. With a 92% answer rate and a 184% increase in call volume over the past year, this service is a lifeline. Nearly 80% of calls are resolved without emergency intervention, proving the power of early support and prevention.

We are calling on all Hoosiers to request that the 2025 state budget fully funds mental health and addiction services. Whether through a direct budget appropriation, a cell phone surcharge, or small tax adjustments on cigarettes or alcohol, every funding option must be on the table.

 **Take Action Now!**

Send a message to your legislator today! Use our **action alert** to urge lawmakers in Indiana to support full funding for mental health and addiction services.

Your advocacy is crucial. **Every Hoosier deserves access to mental health care when they need it most.**

[Send a Message to Your State Senator NOW!](#)

MHAI Priority Bill:
HB 1385 – Health Care Facility Employees
Author(s): Bascom, Goss-Reaves, Dant Chesser
Synopsis: **Provides an exception to one of the disqualifying conditions for a nurse aide or other unlicensed employee.** The bill clarifies that individuals convicted of a **felony drug offense within the last five years** may still be eligible for employment in a health care facility **if they are certified as a peer recovery coach through a credential recognized by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction.** The bill **removes barriers to workforce entry** for individuals in **substance use recovery**, ensuring they can contribute to the behavioral health system.

Bills That Will Have a Significant Impact on Behavioral Health Services:
HB 1001 – State Budget Bill
Author(s): Thompson, Porter, Snow, Jordan
Synopsis: Appropriates funding for state operations, education, Medicaid, and various public services. **However, the bill flatlines expenses for mental health and addiction services and does not allocate new funding for 988 crisis services or CCBHC expansion.**
SB 2 – Medicaid Matters
Author(s): Mishler, Garten, Charbonneau, Gaskill, Raatz, Rogers, Johnson T, Young M
Synopsis: Requires the **Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services to report Medicaid data** annually, including fraud, waste, and abuse cases. Establishes **performance standards for hospitals making Medicaid presumptive eligibility determinations**, enforcing stricter **eligibility verification and penalties for noncompliance.** It also **prohibits marketing of Medicaid programs** and includes **eligibility redetermination measures to review recipients' financial and residency status**
SB 480 – Prior Authorization Reform
Author(s): Johnson T, Charbonneau, Brown L, Rogers, Crider, Becker, Leising
Synopsis: SB 480 **reforms prior authorization** for healthcare services, ensuring that covered claims cannot be denied **solely because the referring provider is out-of-network.** The bill also **repeals outdated prior authorization regulations.**

Other Bills of Interest to MHA:
HB 1137 – Red Flag Law Expungement
Author(s): Smaltz, Lucas, Teshka
Synopsis: Requires courts to **expunge certain red flag law records** if an individual is found **not dangerous.** Courts may also **expunge records for individuals previously deemed dangerous but who are no longer a risk.**
HB 1167 – Exceptions to Paraphernalia Statutes
Author(s): Meltzer, Garcia Wilburn
Synopsis: **Excludes drug detection devices** from the definition of drug paraphernalia, allowing individuals to possess and use **fentanyl test strips and other harm reduction tools** without legal repercussions.
HB 1241 – Trauma-Informed Care
Author(s): Summers, DeVon, Jackson C
Synopsis: Establishes the **Trauma-Informed Care Commission** to research best practices for **supporting children, youth, and families** impacted by trauma. The commission will submit policy recommendations to the General Assembly.
HB 1392 – Services for the Aged and Disabled
Author(s): Clere, Engleman, Hamilton, Harris
Synopsis: Expands **financial support for community-based services** for seniors and disabled individuals, ensuring **better access to long-term care and home-based services.**
HB 1403 – Juvenile Justice Reform
Author(s): McNamara, Meltzer
Synopsis: Strengthens the **Juvenile Justice Oversight Body** and expands funding for **diversion programs, community-based alternatives, and behavioral health interventions** for at-risk youth.
HB 1457 – Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Matters
Author(s): Barrett
Synopsis: Enhances **oversight of health facilities, modifies licensing rules, and updates public health regulations** to improve access to behavioral and mental health services.

SB 216 – Mental Health Professionals
Author(s): Crider, Becker
Synopsis: Updates **licensing requirements for mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and addiction counselors,** requiring **licensure before accruing clinical hours** and clarifying **telehealth supervision guidelines.**
SB 359 – Student Well-Being and Resiliency
Author(s): Alexander, Donato, Rogers, Hunley
Synopsis: Establishes a **statewide resiliency program** to help students build **mental well-being and engagement** in school. The Department of Education will oversee **teacher training on student mental health support.**

The future of mental health and addiction services in Indiana depends on legislative action now. Contact your legislators and urge them to **fully fund behavioral health initiatives**, including **988 crisis services and CCBHC expansion.**

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