



# 2026 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATES

Behavioral Health Legislative Updates from the Indiana Statehouse

*Stay Informed. Take action.*

## December 2, 2025

The Indiana General Assembly is convening earlier than usual to address the issue of redistricting. **The House met December 1, 2025, with the Senate to follow on December 8, 2025.** Mental Health America will work closely with legislators to advance MHAI's mental health agenda.

Mental Health America of Indiana (MHAI) has already been actively preparing for the upcoming legislative session to ensure behavioral health stakeholders have a clear understanding of the issues that may shape Indiana's policy landscape this year.

MHAI's Public Policy Committee met on November 13 at 2:00 PM to identify priorities for the 2026 session. To view our updated policy statements, visit the link below.

As lawmakers begin drafting bills and refining their agendas, several key themes from the last Legislative Session and this year's Interim Study Committees are expected to influence the conversation. Below is a recap of the issues that MHAI monitored throughout the interim.

### Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Human Services Interim Study Committee

The Indiana General Assembly's Interim Study Committee on Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Human Services met in late September 2025 to discuss maternal and postpartum care, behavioral health access, and workforce

### Corrections and Criminal Code Interim Study Committee

The Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code also met at the Indiana Statehouse in late September to review statewide data and trends in criminal behavior, sentencing, incarceration, and treatment. The meeting provided a

### Access to Mental Health Medications

Mental Health America of Indiana passed legislation to protect access to mental health medications in Medicaid that stood for a decade. Unfortunately, this protection was eliminated in HEA 1001, the budget bill. Since passage, MHAI has worked with OMPP

capacity across the state.

The committee devoted much of its time to postpartum mental health, exploring how Indiana can better support mothers and families in the critical months following birth. Discussion centered on expanding access to mental health screenings, improving follow-up care for Medicaid recipients, and ensuring coordination between healthcare and behavioral health providers.

Committee members also heard testimony highlighting the ongoing need for behavioral health workforce development and the role of telehealth in reaching underserved communities. Speakers emphasized that early screening and continued engagement can significantly reduce risks associated with postpartum depression and anxiety. Broader themes included the importance of paid family leave, integrated maternal-infant care models, and family-centered recovery programs that allow parents to remain with their children while receiving treatment.

Mental Health America of Indiana will continue to monitor outcomes and advocate for policies that strengthen behavioral health access and support for Hoosier families.

comprehensive look at how Indiana's justice system continues to evolve in response to population shifts, treatment needs, and local resource constraints.

Committee members examined long-term trends across the Department of Correction, community corrections programs, and local courts. Presentations included data on case filings, incarceration rates, and the impact of policy changes on correctional populations. The discussion highlighted the ongoing balance between public safety, rehabilitation, and community-based supervision models that aim to reduce recidivism while addressing underlying behavioral health and substance use concerns.

Speakers emphasized that effective criminal justice reform depends on sustained investment in local treatment programs, probation services, and diversion initiatives. Workforce and funding challenges within community corrections were noted as ongoing barriers to maintaining consistent supervision and programming statewide.

on the Medicaid formulary and OMPP has committed to insuring appropriate clinical access to mental health medications. This will be a topic of a workshop at MHA's Symposium on December 12th.

OMPP has asked MHA to help communicate the changes and to let them know if there are issues or problems that need to be resolved.

The IHCP Bulletin located below includes the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board approved updates to mental health medications resulting from the HEA 1001 legislative change. Implementation for fee-for-services members will be 1/1/2026 and 2/1/2026 for managed care.

If you experience difficulty obtaining appropriate mental health medications, please contact OMPP or MHA.

[IHCP Bulletin](#)

**Check out our Public Policy Committee Statements Below**

[2025/26 Public Policy Statements](#)

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