



February 27, 2026

2026 Indiana General Assembly has adjourned **Sine Die**, concluding this legislative session.

It is well documented that the 2026 legislative Session has been unique. With the early start in December and conclusion in February, MHIA's advocacy has been vigorous during this condensed period. Throughout session, Mental Health America of Indiana (MHAI) has continued advancing priority legislation while fostering bipartisan collaboration through our advocacy efforts and Hoosier Idol.

MHAI is particularly excited about the passage of HEA 1296 as a vehicle to expand the IRACs program and Recovery Residences throughout Indiana. MHAI would like to express its appreciation to Governor Braun for signing HEA 1296.

Below is a summary of key legislation impacting mental health and addiction services across Indiana:

2026 Indiana General Assembly Sine Die

Priority Bills:

House Enrolled Act 1296, Mental Health Services

Authored by: [Rep. Garrett Bascom](#).
 Co-Authored by: [Rep. Brad Barrett](#), [Rep. Lori Goss-Reaves](#), [Rep. Gregory Porter](#).
 Sponsored by: [Sen. Brett Clark](#), [Sen. Michael Crider](#), [Sen. J.D. Ford](#), [Sen. La Keisha Jackson](#), [Sen. Shelli Yoder](#), [Sen. Vaneta Becker](#), [Sen. Daryl Schmitt](#).

Certification of Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) Programs

The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) will certify integrated reentry and correctional support programs.

Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) was developed by Mental Health America of Indiana and is a first-of-its-kind national model. Initially piloted in five Indiana county jails, the program has expanded to 11 counties. IRACS was highlighted by Chief Justice Loretta Rush in her State of the Judiciary address.

IRACS embeds certified peer recovery coaches inside county correctional facilities to provide person-centered recovery support. Coaches are formally trained in criminal justice operations through a specialized curriculum developed and facilitated by MHIA's IRACS team.

Support begins inside the jail and continues for 30 days post-release, including a handoff to community providers.

Recovery Residence Registration

HEA 1296 also requires recovery residences using that designation to register with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA).

Recovery residences are a critical component of the recovery continuum. However, documented incidents across Indiana demonstrate the risks posed by uncertified, unregistered, or unregulated residences. A centralized registry strengthens transparency, differentiates legitimate recovery homes from rapidly expanding group homes, and promotes safer environments for individuals in recovery.

Senate Enrolled Act 91, Syringe Exchange Program

Authored by: [Sen. Michael Crider](#), [Sen. Ed Charbonneau](#), [Sen. Brett Clark](#).
 Co-Authored by: [Sen. Shelli Yoder](#), [Sen. Kyle Walker](#), [Sen. Mike Bohacek](#), [Sen. La Keisha Jackson](#), [Sen. Lonnie Randolph](#), [Sen. Rodney Pol](#).
 Sponsored by: [Rep. Edward Clere](#), [Rep. Ethan Lawson](#), [Rep. Alex Zimmerman](#), [Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn](#).

SEA 91 extends the Syringe Exchange Program beyond the current expiration date of July 1, 2026 to 2031.

As of January 2025, eight Indiana counties operated a Syringe Exchange Program. Each program must annually register and file quarterly reports with IDOH. IDOH prepares and submits an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning the Syringe Exchange Program. IDOH also provides technical assistance and provides grants to locally approved programs from a federal grant.

Under SEA 91, a participating individual will be required to present valid identification and provide only one sterile syringe and needle in exchange for each used syringe and needle.

Senate Enrolled Act 4 Various Fiscal Matters

Authored by: [Sen. Ryan Mishler](#), [Sen. Chris Garten](#).
 Co-Authored by: [Sen. Lonnie Randolph](#).
 Sponsored by: [Rep. Craig Snow](#), [Rep. Jeffrey Thompson](#), [Rep. Gregory Porter](#).

SEA 4 makes changes in the local property tax allocation to Community Mental Health Centers (effective July 1, 2028). It would allow a county to meet CMHC funding requirements from any funding source in lieu of or in combination with property taxes, excluding federal funds. It adds provisions concerning the location where certain CMHC services may be provided and specifies additional items that are required to be reported by a CMHC.

Senate Enrolled Act 222, FSSA Matters

Authored by: [Sen. Ed Charbonneau](#), [Sen. Justin Busch](#), [Sen. Michael Crider](#).
 Co-Authored by: [Sen. Lonnie Randolph](#).
 Sponsored by: [Rep. Brad Barrett](#).

Among other things, SEA 222 requires certified peers to be trained and certified by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) or an approved nationally accredited certification body. It requires rules to be adopted concerning the implementation and administration of certification requirements for specified entities and amends standards. This bill adds the 9-8-8 crisis response center and a mobile crisis team as first responders.

To stay informed about the bills MHAI is tracking and sign up for future Advocacy Alerts, please see below:

[Bill List](#)



Hoosier Idol 2026 Video Links!

Thank you to each of the legislative caucuses for helping make Hoosier Idol 26 such a memorable evening in celebration of 75 years of advocacy at Mental Health America of Indiana. Your willingness to step on stage, have fun, and support mental health awareness means more than you know.

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to our testimonial speaker, **Brett Havlin**. Brett's personal remarks started the evening in the true purpose of our work. His willingness to share his story and speak to the importance of mental health support for public safety professionals reminded us all why this mission matters so deeply.

[Watch Brett's Speech Here](#)

To watch the videos of the acts, please see below:

Elvis Act

[Watch here](#)

House Republicans "Backstreet Boys"

[Watch here](#)

Senate Republicans "Choosin' Indiana"

[Watch here](#)

House Democrats "Neon Moon"

[Watch here](#)

Senate Democrats "Hey Jude (2026 Winner)"

[Watch here](#)

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