



Prevent. Promote. Protect.

3838 North Rural Street | Indianapolis, IN 46205 | PH 317-221-2000

www.mchd.com

August 8, 2024

Dear IDOA and DMHA Representatives:

I, Madison Weintraut, Assistant Administrator of Safe Syringe Access and Support, am pleased to write a letter in support of the proposal for the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Regional Recovery Hub contract application Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition (IAIC) is applying for. We strongly support this contract application and its focus on improving barrier-free access to peer recovery support services (PRSS) for individuals affected by substance use disorder (SUD), mental illness (MI), and or co-occurring disorders (COD) throughout the counties located in region nine (9) of the revised statewide Regional Recovery Hub (RRH) program.

The need for expanding and providing barrier-free community-based PRSS is significant in Marion County and Safe Syringe Access and Support (Safe Syringe) appreciates the States efforts and support in ensuring the RRH program continues. As an organization based in Marion County, we have seen firsthand how barriers to accessing PRSS and other services have had a negative impact on our community members and families struggling with SUD, MI, and COD. Safe Syringe has established a relationship with IAIC to connect individuals to PRSS and assist with resource navigation. Safe Syringe looks forward to strengthening this relationship to establish a formal partnership for referrals, in-depth and ongoing PRSS and family PRSS, should IAIC be awarded this contract.

As an organization whose mission is to improve the well-being of persons who inject drugs by utilizing participant-centered services and evidenced-based interventions to reduce high-risk behaviors and enhance access to healthcare services, including recovery programs, we are excited for the opportunity to potentially enhance our partnership with IAIC and their 25-year dedication and commitment to providing education and advocacy on the importance of SUD as a chronic disease, providing PRSS, and the positive impact PRSS has on individuals, families, and communities in region nine.

We acknowledge the specific roles and responsibilities to be fulfilled by us in this partnership. These responsibilities include serving as a "spoke" within region nine of the RRH program which will include assisting IAIC with harm reduction education and navigation, establishing a referral process with IAIC, and assisting with connecting individuals to additional linkages to care through service providers throughout the community.

It is our hope that IDOA and DMHA will favorably review and support IAIC's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madison Weintraut".

Madison Weintraut, MPH, BSN, RN, CPH
Assistant Administrator | Infectious Disease | Safe Syringe Access and Support
Marion County Public Health Department
MWeintraut@MarionHealth.org