

INDIANA COMMISSION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE

May 9, 2019

MINUTES

The Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse met on May 9, 2019 at 1:30 P.M., Eastern Time at Indiana State Library, History Reference Room 211, Indianapolis, IN.

Present: Chairman Jim McClelland (Executive Director for Drug Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement); Dr. Kristina Box (Commissioner, Indiana State Department of Health); Mr. Rob Carter (Commissioner, Indiana Department of Correction); Ms. Bernice Corley (Executive Director, Indiana Public Defender Council); Mr. Dan Evans; Ms. Deborah Frye (Executive Director, Indiana Professional Licensing Agency); Mr. Devon McDonald (Executive Director, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute); Mr. Aaron Negangard (representing the Attorney General); Mr. David Powell (Executive Director, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council); Mr. Jacob Sipe (Executive Director, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority); Judge Mark Smith (Hendricks County Superior Court); Mr. Jeff Wittman (representing the Superintendent of Public Instruction); Dr. Jennifer Walthall (Secretary, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration); State Representative Cindy Ziemke.

Call to order and consideration of minutes

Jim McClelland, Chairman

Chairman McClelland called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. He asked for any revisions to the minutes for the February 8, 2019 meeting. They were approved unanimously.

Report from ICJI

**Devon McDonald, Executive Director,
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute**

Mr. McDonald shared updates from ICJI's substance abuse division in which the division developed a strategic plan aimed at developing more data to help productivity. Mr. McDonald then discussed a survey that was conducted and received over an 80% response rate. This study found that the top three forms of substance abuse were alcohol (96%), prescription drugs (89%), methamphetamines (86%), marijuana (84%), and heroin (69%).

Mr. McDonald noted that funding for the Local Coordinating Councils is usually generated through fines and fees in the community. Many of the local councils do not spend all of the money they have available because other organizations in the communities do not know that they are eligible to receive funding to help substance abuse treatment and prevention. 96% of the counties that responded said that they did have substance abuse councils available and 86% said that they have an outpatient drug treatment facility in their county. 54% of counties that responded have a drug court or specialty court dealing with substance abuse.

The survey data will be used to develop an electronic system that will put the data in a more usable format known as the comprehensive community plan.

Federal Substance Use funding update

**Rebecca Buhner, Deputy Director,
Division of Mental Health and Addiction,
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration**

Ms. Buhner updating the committee on Recovery Works numbers and the increase in funding from

\$20 million to \$25 million in the budget from the last legislative session. She then discussed the referral system and said that the top referral source is the criminal justice system. She indicated that the referrals recently have leveled off at about 1,200 referrals per month and that the recidivism rate after one year was 6.6%, and 13% after two years. Recovery Works now no longer has a cap on individual services and instead has a lifetime cap to give people the necessary training.

Recently more opioid treatment facilities have been introduced to the state, which had 13 treatment programs for many years. That number has increased to 27 in the past two years. Last year, just over 16,000 people were served in the opioid treatment programs. The demographics of people seeking treatment are mostly African American and Caucasian males.

There has also been discussion of introducing a new emergency response team that will be able to intervene if a person needs to seek treatment for drugs immediately and follow the person for the next 90 days to ensure that he or she has received the treatment he or she needs.

67% of patients in the mental health system do not have access to health insurance so there is a fund of almost \$1.5 million that these patients can access to pay for treatment. Mental health professionals are now helping to teach some of the clinics how to better help veterans and the families of veterans.

Report from Community Health Network

**Dr. Anthony Sanders,
Community Health Network**

Dr. Sanders talked about how he was inspired to start his own practice that helps people overcome addictions and how some of the other treatment facilities can improve their services. He shared that many women who are using drugs will not go to prenatal care even if they have insurance because of the stigma associated with using drugs while pregnant and they are afraid that they will go to jail and therefore neglect treatment and endanger the life of the baby. Dr. Sanders said he has been in contact with other doctors that share his ideas of patient care and are willing to share the patient load with him.

Wellness Council of Indiana

**Mike Thibideau, Director,
Indiana Workforce Recovery**

Mr. Thibideau indicated that the employer events hosted by the Wellness Council were successful, with 96% of people saying that they would recommend the wellness program to a friend or coworker. He said the program was focused on coworkers and employers because when employers are equipped to intervene, they are the most effective referral source.

The employer survey found that more than 70% of Indiana employers thought that a drug addiction should be treated like any other chronic illness and about 55% of Indiana employers drug test their employees.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 10 a.m. ET.