

# INDIANA COMMISSION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE

August 6, 2020

## MINUTES

The Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse met virtually on August 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time via Zoom.

**Present:** Chairman Douglas Huntsinger (Executive Director for Drug Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement); Mr. Douglas Carter (Superintendent of the Indiana State Police); Dr. Kristen Dauss (representing the Indiana Department of Correction); Mr. Dan Evans; Ms. Deborah Frye (Executive Director of the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency); Ms. Patricia McMath (representing the Attorney General); Mr. Cris Johnston (Director, Office of Management and Budget); Mr. Jason Murrey (representing the Superintendent of Public Instruction); Mr. Devon McDonald (Executive Director, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute); Mr. Chris Naylor (Executive Director, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council); Ms. Terry Stigdon (Director, Department of Child Services); Dr. Jennifer Sullivan (Secretary of Family and Social Services)

### Call to Order and Consideration of Minutes

**Chairman Douglas Huntsinger**

Chairman Huntsinger calls the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. He asks for any revisions to the minutes for the February 7, 2020, meeting. Minutes are approved unanimously.

He addresses the Commission with updates on several items. He begins with the unveiling of the August 2020 Next Level Recovery Progress Report. A copy of the progress report will be emailed to all Commission members upon adjournment of the meeting. The report is also available on the Next Level Recovery website. He gives an update about the impact of COVID-19 on the recovery community. He reports that Indiana emergency departments have seen a 59% increase in overdose events since this time last year, and the state has experienced a nearly 60% increase in the administration of naloxone by EMS. He shares that Overdose Lifeline, Inc. has distributed more than 2,200 doses of naloxone as part of a partnership with the State, announced in May 2020. He also shares with the Commission that Indiana Medicaid will fully reimburse emergency medical responders for both the administration of naloxone and the drug itself. He announces that beginning in August, every offender with a history of substance use disorder will receive a supply of naloxone upon release from the Indiana Department of Correction. He tells the Commission that he, along with Governor Eric Holcomb and Dr. Jennifer Sullivan, recently spoke with Jim Carroll, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, to discuss federal and state policy changes that have taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chairman Huntsinger shares pre-COVID data, including a 138% increase in residential treatment beds and the number of Hoosiers who have been referred to treatment services via a partnership between OpenBeds and Indiana 2-1-1. He highlights the progress made by the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction to open opioid treatment programs during the COVID-19 shutdown and create the Be Well Crisis Helpline. Chairman Huntsinger introduces Dr. Jennifer Sullivan to make an announcement.

## **Indiana 2-1-1 Crisis Counseling Program**

**Jennifer Sullivan, Secretary  
Indiana Family and Social  
Services Administration**

Dr. Sullivan shares an update on the Be Well Crisis Helpline that launched on July 20. She says the helpline has been an important tool to connect individuals with the support they need. Indiana has seen an equivalent number of claims with Medicaid using telehealth as received for in-person services in 2019. Dr. Sullivan tells the Commission she looks forward to keeping telehealth a part of the landscape for how Indiana delivers mental health care to Hoosiers. Dr. Sullivan announces a partnership between the Division of Mental Health and Addiction and Mental Health America of Indiana to expand access to peer supports through the Indiana Recovery Network. She explains that peer supports are trained professionals with personal experience with mental health and/or substance use disorder who work alongside and support others within the recovery community. She says these supports play a critical role in helping a person sustain their recovery through one-on-one connections and relationships. The expansion is funded by more than \$1 million in grants from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It will result in the addition of at least 40 part- and full-time peer recovery specialists at 16 recovery-based organizations across Indiana. To illustrate the reach and impact of the Indiana Recovery Network, Dr. Sullivan shares statistics with the Commission. Dr. Sullivan introduces Brandon George, director of the Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition, to explain the impact of the partnership on individuals in recovery.

## **Regional Recovery Hubs**

**Brandon George, Director,  
Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition**

Mr. George begins by describing how the newly announced partnership between the Division of Mental Health and Addiction and Mental Health America of Indiana will help Hoosiers most in need. He describes the impact that COVID-19 has had on treatment for substance use disorder and recovery supports. Mr. George says there is not a “one-size-fits-all” approach to recovery, so what recovery supports look like in Marion County will look different than those of Orange County, for example. He says that by creating recovery hubs, communities can expand upon their own local efforts. Mr. George thanks Dr. Kristen Dauss and the behavioral health team at the Indiana Department of Correction for their assistance in creating a referral source within the IDOC. He explains to the Commission the challenges that accompany transitioning out of correctional facilities and back into the community. Now, individuals will be connected with recovery coaches as they’re departing the IDOC. Mr. George thanks Chairman Huntsinger, Dr. Sullivan, Mr. Jay Chaudhary, and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction for their efforts to make the regional recovery hubs a reality. He says addiction resources have been cut across the country, but Indiana’s leadership has doubled down to ensure people are not left behind.

## **Prescriber Report Cards**

**Deborah Frye,  
Executive Director,  
Indiana Professional Licensing Agency**

Ms. Frye begins with an update on the enhancements made to Indiana's prescription drug monitoring program, INSPECT. She announces the rollout of prescription drug report cards as an effort to address rising prescription rates in the state. These reports provide health care providers with a summary of their personal prescribing practices and how their prescribing practices compared to the average prescriber of the same legal specialty. Ms. Frye says the goal of the reports is to allow for self-examination of a prescriber and help them better understand how they can prioritize the health of their patients while still remaining cognizant of their prescribing trends. She says states that have implemented similar reporting practices have seen decreases in prescribing trends, based on altered prescribing practices. She describes to the Commission what a practitioner sees when they query their report, including practitioner information, peer group information, and the number of at-risk patients who have been prescribed a potentially dangerous combination of drugs. Ms. Frye said the report also indicates the number of patients who have received or filled prescriptions from more than five prescribers or filled prescriptions at more than five pharmacies in a six-month period. She says this is a trend that could be indicative of someone who is drug-shopping. As health care providers and prescribers use the reports and become familiar with them, Ms. Frye says she is hopeful that the prevalence of Hoosiers who receive dangerous levels of controlled substances will decrease. The Indiana Professional Licensing Agency will continue to monitor the progress being made with the prescriber report card and will reporting in the months ahead the decrease in the number of prescriptions in Indiana.

## **Agency Updates**

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

Mr. McDonald describes the impact COVID-19 has had on the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute's work with local coordinating councils. He says the agency has been working diligently in all 92 counties to help activate local coordinating councils and collect their comprehensive plans. As of today, Mr. McDonald says there are 86 active Local Coordinating Councils. He explains that the remaining six councils are underdoing transitions and may be dealing with local funding issues. Of the 86 active Local Coordinating Councils, 85 councils have approved comprehensive plans. He says these are local county plans on how to address substance use disorder and mental health issues. Mr. McDonald says agencies have approved funding for about \$5.1 million across the state for treatment, prevention, and criminal justice-related activities. Over the past several months, he says the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute has worked with five entities to distribute about \$500,000 in state drug free communities funding. He says those grants went to Hamilton, Jasper, Marion, Porter and Scott counties. Of those programs, the Hamilton

County Council on Substance Abuse was granted \$60,000 of education and technical assistance program for clinicians and medical providers regarding prescription opioid use and HIV educational, as well. Jasper and Marion counties' programs are expounded upon. Mr. McDonald closes his remarks, adding that he's hopeful the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute will soon develop a statewide program for the Local Coordinating Councils to work together and exchange ideas and resources.

**Chairman's Comments**

**Chairman Doug Huntsinger**

Chairman Huntsinger says the Management Performance Hub will unveil an updated Next Level Recovery dashboard in November. The dashboard is a collaboration between the Management Performance Hub and the Drug Data Working Group. He says the dashboard will feature key data as it relates to the drug epidemic and will provide insight and trends to cities and counties across the state. Chairman Huntsinger thanks the Commission for joining. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12th at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time in a format to be determined at a later time. The meeting adjourns at 10:29 a.m.