



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**

Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

March 7, 2023

Updates

Dove Recovery House

Dove Recovery House was recently awarded a \$340,000 grant from Lilly Endowment. These funds will allow the organization to hire more people, increase salaries, and upgrade resources. Both locations in Indianapolis and Jasper deliver life-changing services for women, providing clients with housing, food, therapy, and hope for their futures.

Kristy Shene, a peer recovery case manager at Dove Recovery House, can attest to the program's success. She began using substances at 17 years old and was required by court to go to Dove Recovery House. Upon completion of the Dove Recovery Program in 2017, she received a social work degree from Ivy Tech and was hired on at Dove Recovery House as a case manager. "I have a life today I had not imagined for myself," she said. With the Lilly Endowment funds, Dove Recovery House can continue to employ individuals with lived experience, like Shene, and continue providing top tier care to Indiana women in need.



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Indiana Senate Advances Mental Health Bill

Last month, the Indiana Senate passed Senate Bill 1. Authored by Sen. Michael Crider, Senate Bill 1 proposes improvements to the state's 988 mobile crisis hotline. It would also provide mental health counselors as the first responders to individuals suffering from emotional distress. Crider says "... the most significant change in that sector is the mobile crisis response teams that actually go in the communities and interact with the folks struggling with a mental health challenge". Crider is a passionate advocate for mental health, as he lost an acquaintance to suicide in 2019. "Expanding the capacity is a really important thing and I think all of us, Republican, Democrat, Independent, all of us recognize that." The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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Floyd County Sheriffs Equipped with Naloxone

Last month, Floyd County Sheriff Steve Bush announced that Floyd County sheriff's deputies were to be equipped with naloxone. The naloxone doses will be provided free of charge from the Floyd County Health Department (FCHD). Many Floyd County residents are elated at the new partnership between officers and the FCHD, especially Project Recovery Southern Indiana's Executive Director Tracy Skaggs.

Skaggs has been advocating for harm reduction strategies in Floyd County since 2020. In 2021, Skaggs lost her husband to a drug overdose. Since then, she has dedicated her life to helping people with addiction. She began pushing for officers to carry naloxone after her husband's death. Bush recently took office as sheriff, and he says that his top priorities are mental health and addiction. Bush acknowledges that expanding naloxone access to officers is the first vital step in improving harm reduction approaches in Floyd County. "If we can save one life, it's a success," he said.

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Upcoming Events

Overdose Reversal Kit Making

5 p.m.—7 p.m., March 7

Overdose Lifeline Office— 1100 W. 42nd Street, Indianapolis

Hosted by: Overdose Lifeline



OverdoseLifeline

Join Overdose Lifeline every other Tuesday evening to assemble overdose reversal kits for distribution to the public. This volunteer activity will contribute to saving lives. Volunteers make kits to distribute across the state. Overdose Lifeline currently distributes 1,000 kits per week on average to individuals in all 92 Indiana counties.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

NAMI Indiana's 20th Annual Mental Health & Criminal Justice Summit

8:15 a.m.—4 p.m. ET, March 10

Indianapolis Marriott North— 3645 River Crossing Parkway, Indianapolis, IN 46240

Hosted by: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Indiana

Each year, NAMI Indiana pulls together a diverse group of leaders from the criminal justice field to provide education and new tools for professionals. The Mental Health and Criminal Justice Summit creates significant and positive changes in policies within the criminal justice system. Our speakers and presenters for the summit include professionals from across a broad range of the mental health and criminal justice spectrum. This annual event gives participants the opportunity to network, collaborate, and form partnerships.

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Medicaid Alert

As many as 500,000 Hoosiers could be impacted by upcoming eligibility changes required by federal law. Your organizations and programs may serve some of these individuals. The changes are the result of the recently passed federal spending bill, which ends the pandemic-related eligibility provisions on March 31, 2023. This means regular determinations for coverage will begin again, and actions to adjust, reduce or eliminate coverage will be allowed beginning in April 2023.



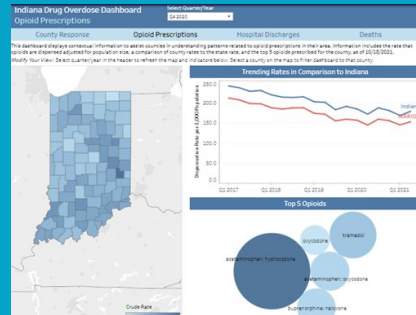
The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has been sending communications to Medicaid-covered individuals explaining the actions they need to take to maintain their eligibility, which include updating their contact information and responding to ongoing verification requests when there is a change in circumstances.

We ask that you also help spread the word so that Hoosiers do not suddenly lose coverage.

FSSA has provided flyers, social media toolkits and other resources to explain the change and next steps [here](#). A poster with a QR code that can help individuals quickly update their contact information can be found [here](#) and is available in multiple languages. Please post flyers and share this information through your communications channels, including social media, to remind clients to submit their information promptly and to alert the programs that assist Hoosiers with the Medicaid redetermination process.

Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard

Please visit the [Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard](#), where you will find data from 2017 up to provisional data for 2021. In this dashboard, you will find data regarding opioid prescriptions, hospital discharges, and drug-related deaths. You can use this dashboard to explore overdose data at the county and state levels.



To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

Indiana Department of Health

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