

**2010
Special
Edition**

The Advocate

**Indiana
Addictions
Issues
Coalition**



Newsletter of the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition

IAIC 2011 Public Policy Agenda to focus on Second Chance Legislation

*A subsidiary of
Mental Health
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cial Services Administra-
tion, Division of Mental
Health and Addiction.

Earlier this fall the IAIC Executive committee decided we will emphasize one single problem which is dramatically affecting our members. The committee decided IAIC will focus on legislation to help non-violent alcohol and other drug offenders secure employment, hence increasing their chances for successful reintegration back into the community. Often times, people with alcohol and/or drug problems also have a criminal record. More often than not, people serve their sentence, and therefore, their debt to society is paid in the court's eyes. However, the stigma one suffers due to having a criminal history remains. The IAIC wants to improve the lives of those with substance use disorders and a criminal past by tackling second chance legislation. We believe that people deserve a second opportunity.

Therefore, we recommend Indiana lawmakers pass legislation that supports the re-entry of non-violent alcohol / drug offenders.

Since July, the Council of State Governments Justice Center has been studying the issues surrounding rising corrections costs in Indiana. A report will be issued with recommended policy changes for state lawmakers to review when they return to the statehouse in January. In light of this study, the Indiana Addictions Issues coalition Public Policy committee believes that the timing is right to try to enact second chance legislation.

An overcrowding and ever-expanding Dept. of Corrections budget is due in large part to offenders who cycle back through the system, or recidivate. Supporting reentry by increasing employment opportunities for ex offenders will save the DOC and taxpayers money in the long run. Non-violent alcohol and other drug offenders face life long barriers to securing gainful employment due to their criminal histories. The IAIC has learned that a bill is likely to be introduced in January that would address these issues.

We invite you to join us as we work to remove these barriers by educating lawmakers and the public about these issues. Please email or call if you would like to be added to our legislative alert email network for exciting policy updates this coming legislative session.

Recovery Advocates of the Year Named

Two Central Indiana Hoosiers were recognized in September by Drug Free Marion County for their addiction advocacy efforts. The awards were given at the Indiana Recovery Month Celebration which was held downtown on the canal following the Recovery Ride and Hawk Walk on Saturday Sept. 25.

Nathan L. Rush of Indianapolis received the 2010 Daniel J. Crowe Lifetime Recovery Advocate Award, while Deborah Richmond of Indianapolis was named the 2010 Recovery Advocate of the Year. The Daniel J. Crowe Lifetime Recovery Advocate Award, named in honor of the first recipient, recognized Rush for significant contributions over a number of years to the cause of addiction treatment, prevention and advocacy in Indiana. The Advocate of the Year celebrated Richmond for her support of and advocacy for those in recovery during the past 12 months. "We are pleased to honor Nate and Deborah for their unwavering commitment to those in recovery," said Randy Miller, executive director of Drug Free Marion County.

Over 100 people attended the recognition ceremony as part of statewide recovery month celebrations. Both recipients have served on the Board of the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition.

Recovery Ride 2010

Recovery Ride 2010 kicked off at 9:45 am Saturday Sept. 25 as supporters of addiction treatment and recovery cruised around I-465 in an escorted ride with the Indiana State Police. The third annual event featured free t-shirts to all 120 registrants who rode in support of the IAIC and its message that recovery is possible. Angela Jenkins from the local TV motorcycle show Steel Horse dropped by and revved up the crowd. Steel Horse TV covers charity rides across Indiana and broadcasts on Sunday Nights on My WNdy TV23 Indianapolis.

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** Scholarships available for newly recovering members. Contact IAIC

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Welcome new members: Tony Dale, Mark Delong, Ben Evans, Kelsey Hensley, Rob Schilling Jr., Carolyn Slagle, Gentry Stevens, Anne Terwilliger, Fran Thurston, Teresa Walters

The IAIC always accepting submissions for our quarterly newsletter. Please send articles, poetry or photos to: Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition, 1431 North Delaware Street Indianapolis, IN 46202 or electronically to jmatheny@mhainet.net.