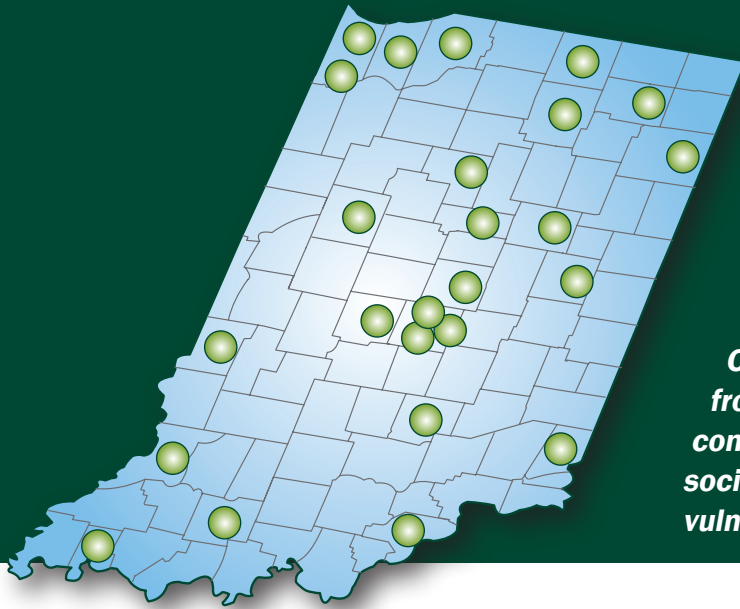


# Legislative and Public Policy 2017 PLATFORM



**The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers represents the collective interests of all community mental health centers (CMHCs) currently certified and accredited to provide community-based behavioral health services across all ninety-two counties in Indiana. CMHCs in Indiana serve over 120,000 behavioral health consumers every year. CMHCs provide services primarily to those suffering from severe behavioral health and substance abuse conditions which further reduce additional costs to society by directing coordinated care to our most vulnerable citizens.**

## Action Required to Address our Statewide Opioid Crisis

Indiana's capacity to address our statewide opioid crisis is severely limited by the capacity of available licensed and qualified mental health and substance abuse treatment practitioners. Addressing this workforce crisis needs to be a multifaceted approach which includes reform in the areas such as:

- **IPLA LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS:** Implementing changes in certain Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA) licensure requirements that would increase the availability of qualified mental health and addictions practitioners without compromising quality of care.
- **INTERN AND PRACTICUM STUDENT UTILIZATION:** Bolstering the capacity of interns and practicum students to bill Medicaid for certain services under supervision of a licensed practitioner authorized by HEA 1347-2016.
- **MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT REFORM:** Building a Medicaid reimbursement rate structure which properly compensate mental health and addiction treatment professionals.
- **TELEMEDICINE:** Improving access to treatment through telemedicine is an important component of addressing Indiana's mental health workforce shortage. Health consumers coming through the Community Mental Health Center system interact with and are assessed by Master's level professionals prior to meeting with a prescriber. As such, health consumers receiving services in a community mental health center are prepared to meet with a prescriber without a prior face-to-face consultation in order to gain access to important psychiatric medications.

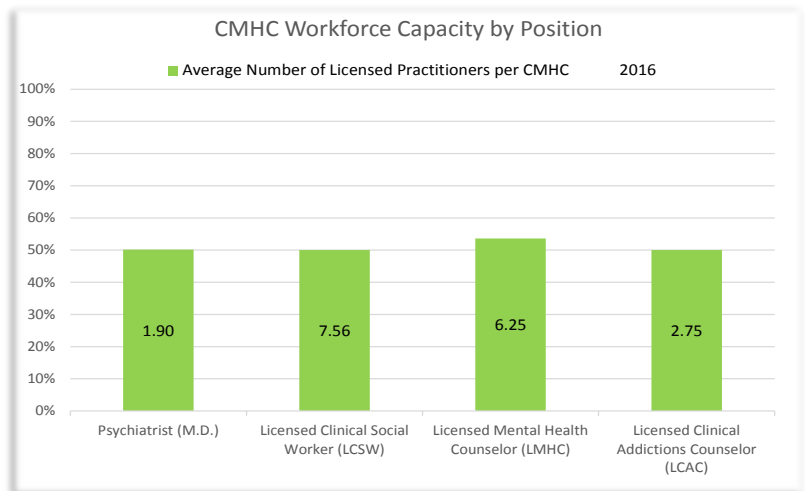


Exhibit A  
CMHC Workforce Capacity per Indiana Council Membership (2016)

# Legislative and Public Policy 2017 PLATFORM

Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, Inc.

## **Improving Outcomes for Criminal Justice Involved Health Consumers**

The Indiana Council supports increased funding for the Recovery Works program in order to direct additional resources towards mental health and addiction treatment needs of individuals incarcerated or preparing for community reentry into society from the criminal justice system.

The Indiana Council supports additional changes in the criminal code to reduce drug related offenses for addicts and redirects cost savings from the criminal justice system towards mental health and substance use treatment in the community mental health center system.

## **Action Required to Improve Indiana's Approach to Coordinated Care While Maintaining Financial Viability**

Indiana is a leader in innovative healthcare delivery, but more can be done to ensure Hoosiers have a system that delivers exceptional health outcomes in a financially sustainable system.

### *Community Mental Health Service Funding*

The Indiana Council supports having specific funds appropriated for the Division of Mental Health and Addiction in the biennial state budget specifically dedicated for community mental health centers to ensure such funding levels support community based mental health and addiction services and improve the budgeting process.

### *Coordinated Care Improvement*

The Indiana Council supports legislation requiring the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) to develop and submit a Behavioral Health Home State Plan Amendment (SPA) for community mental health providers to develop care coordination teams to provide comprehensive services for high utilizing Medicaid consumers.

### *Improved Delivery of Managed Care Services*

The Indiana Council supports legislation that would require Managed Care Entities (MCEs) to pay community mental health centers for properly filed claims in a timely manner as required for state and political subdivisions under the current "prompt payment" statute as prescribed in IC 5-17-5.

**45<sup>th</sup>**: Indiana's rank in overall lower prevalence of mental illness and higher access to care among all 50 states and Washington, D.C. This rank fell from 19<sup>th</sup> in 2011.  
(MHA, 2016)

## **Action Required to Improve the Availability of Health Navigators**

Health Navigators play a critical role in Indiana by ensuring our most vulnerable Hoosiers have assistance in enrolling in the Medicaid program. Health Navigators are required to ensure County Sheriffs comply with state requirements that county jails enroll incarcerated individuals into the Medicaid program prior to community reentry. The Indiana Council supports changes in the Health Navigator statute that promote and support the expanded capacity of Health Navigators who provide critical services in enrolling consumers into the HIP 2.0 program.



of Community Mental Health Centers, Inc.

101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 610  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317.684.3684 | [www.indianacouncil.org](http://www.indianacouncil.org)

Matt Brooks  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
[mbrooks@indianacouncil.org](mailto:mbrooks@indianacouncil.org)