

2011
Summer
Edition

The Advocate

Indiana
Addictions
Issues
Coalition



Newsletter of the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition

Indiana Passes Law Restricting Access to Criminal Histories

*A subsidiary of
Mental Health
America of Indiana*

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and Addiction.**

More and more often, employers are conducting criminal background checks on job applicants, which can make it difficult for the millions of Americans with criminal records to find the employment needed in order to become productive, law-abiding members of society. Most states, including Indiana, allow employers to refuse to hire people with criminal records; not only individuals who have been convicted, but also those who were arrested, but *never* convicted. **HEA 1211** makes significant changes to the law to address these employment issues.

HEA 1211 will allow persons with criminal records the opportunity to petition the court and request that access to those records be restricted. The bill encompasses two parts. The first provides that a person charged with a crime that does not lead to a conviction may petition the court to restrict disclosure of any records related to the arrest. **HEA 1211** also provides that eight years after the date a person completes his sentence, satisfying all obligations imposed; he or she may petition the sentencing court to restrict access to the arrest and criminal records. **HEA 1211 was signed by the Governor and will become law on July 1, 2011.** It is a huge first step as it opens the door to further discussion about addiction as it relates to the criminal justice system in Indiana. Additionally, MHAI will be opening a low cost legal clinic and will be able to help persons seeking to have their records restricted. The clinic will open July 1, 2011.

In other related news, the Pew bill failed to get a hearing in the House of Representatives. **SB561 (aka Pew Criminal Justice Bill)** was based upon recommendations from the Pew Center on the States. After conducting an intensive study into Indiana's criminal justice system, several policy changes were recommended. The recommendations had to do with drug and theft sentencing penalties, community supervision, and public safety. **SB 561** passed out of the Senate but died in the House of Representatives. The elements of the bill will likely be revisited this summer in a legislative study committee.

Upcoming Trainings

Indiana Prevention Resource Center and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction present: **Drug Use Continuum: A comprehensive exploration of drug use within society** June 13-17. Participants of this 40 hour course will investigate drug use in American society. The course will explore several factors in drug use including, history, trends, drug administration, cultural and political influences, consumption patterns, regulations, media influences, relationships to crime and violence, drug manufacturing and distribution, physical and behavioral effects, and health consequences. Addiction concepts and approaches, as well as prevention methods will be discussed. This course will provide latest data on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, with Indiana trends emphasized. For more information contact Jasynda Radanovich at jjlacy@indiana.edu

IN ARMS Indiana Addiction Recovery Month Symposium will be September 27 & 28 at the Indiana Government Center. Additional details coming soon.

September is National Recovery Month! Let the IAIC know about and promote your community event to celebrate recovery from addictive disorders!

Welcome new members:
Doug Lawler, Rick Fuqua,
JoElle Coulson-Copple, Daniel Duffin,
Sean Quigley,
Renewals:
Marty Pentz, John Littman,
Jim Fowler, Deb Richmond, Tadd
Whallon, Jendayi Mayibuye,
Corporate Renewals:
Fairbanks, Amethyst House,
Centerstone, Wishard

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Community member (no fee)
- Supporting member \$10.
- Partner \$30.
- Advocate \$100.+

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP (annual)

- Corporate \$100.
- Silver \$250.
- Gold \$500.
- Platinum \$1000.+

I wish to support the September Public Awareness campaign \$_____

You can pay online at <https://secure.entango.com/donate/geBL5zhEans>

Please make checks payable to the IAIC mail to: Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition, 1431 North Delaware Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

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Recovery Ride 2011
 Save the date for Saturday September 24 for the fourth annual Recovery Ride to raise public awareness that Hoosiers do recover!