

INDIANA ADDICTIONS ISSUES COALITION HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



Throughout the history of addictions advocacy in Indiana, addictive disorders, while being treatable, have been one of the most prejudiced of illnesses. Typically seen as a spiritual failing, or a legal or social problem, addictive disorders were rarely viewed as the brain disorder that advances in science and technology now show them to be. As a result of this stigma, professionals and addictions care providers were often the only advocates willing to come forward. This was even more true given the tradition of anonymity in 12 step programs. Add to that the division between drug addiction and alcoholism in federal funding mandates and we have not before seen a coordinated effort of those most affected by addictions, those individuals who are, (or have been), addicted, and their family members.

The Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition was officially chartered as a subsidiary of the Mental Health Association in Indiana in August of 1999 by combining an addictions stakeholders group and a statewide addictions treatment provider group to bring together addictions care providers, individuals in recovery, family members and other leaders throughout the state of Indiana. The purpose of the Coalition, according to its Bylaws is "to be a broad-based advocacy organization whose goal is to educate and influence organizations, communities, and individuals to more effectively address issues of addiction in Indiana," which virtually presents the IAIC mission statement. The Coalition is a subsidiary corporation of Mental Health America of Indiana and has an independent Board of Directors.

The basic goal of the IAIC is to create a statewide *grassroots* network composed primarily of members of the recovery community, family members, and care providers. The state organization includes a coalition of people from the department of corrections, mental health advocates and providers, managed care and service organizations, media personnel, disability and faith based groups, and for profit and not-for-profit addictions providers; virtually all parties interested in addictions issues.



The **MISSION STATEMENT** of the organization states:

The IAIC is a broad-based advocacy organization whose goal is to educate and influence organizations, communities, and individuals to effectively address addictions in Indiana.

Major tenets of the IAIC include:

- 1) **Addiction is a brain disease.**
- 2) **Treatment for addiction is successful.**
- 3) **Treatment for addiction is cost effective.**
- 4) **Lack of parity for addictions treatment is discrimination.**

Major goals of the IAIC:

- 1) **Dramatically reduce if not eradicate the stigma of addictions.**
- 2) **Provide public education on addictions issues.**
- 3) **Provide a voice on public policy.**
- 4) **Shape public policy to create appropriate and effective service delivery systems.**

The IAIC invites your participation. We strongly encourage those in the recovery community to become involved. If you would like more information about the Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition, please call: 317-638-3501 Ext. 231 or log on to our web site at <http://www.recoveryindiana.org>. To make a contribution log on to [http://mhai.net/Form IAIC.htm](http://mhai.net/Form_IAIC.htm)