

## From The Chairman

The IAIC educates and advocates on behalf of people with addictive disorders - for those whom are in recovery and for those whom have not yet found recovery. So what does that mean? As often as possible, we speak out to the public and lawmakers to educate them addiction recovery is possible. Many people believe addiction is a moral or will-power issue despite medical advances that show us addiction is a brain disorder.

The IAIC believes addiction is a treatable disease and long-term recovery is possible. Our goals are to increase access to treatment by advocating for additional funding to support addiction providers. Additionally, we want to reduce stigma through public ed-

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### **The Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition (IAIC)**

comprises a group of individuals, organizations and community leaders from across the state of Indiana who collectively facilitate recovery for those affected by addictive disorders.

It is our mission to promote recovery through advocacy, education and service.

Please help us to ensure the voices of recovery are heard!

Make a donation online at

<http://recoveryindiana.org/>

We appreciate any donation you contribute!

## My Story

*At the young age of 22 years old, I felt that my life was over. Everything that I had worked for, and everything that I had wanted in my life was forever lost to me... or so it seemed in 2000. I had been raised as a country kid outside of Logansport, Indiana. My family had high expectations for me, but not nearly as high as I had for myself. I had always held myself to the unachievable standard of perfection. At the time, I had little understanding of just how self-destructive my perfectionism could be. This would become more evident to me at a later point in my life.*

*Looking back, I'm not sure where my active addiction took control of my life. As a senior in high school, I was an all-state running back, team captain in wrestling, and MVP in track and field.*

*The combination between my athletic and academic success led to being one of 200 people nationally selected as a full ride scholarship recipient for the Marine Reserve Officer Training Corp. With this, not only would my college be paid for, but I would enter the Marine Corp as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from Purdue. I still remember the pride throughout this time. I had become the son that they had hoped for. It is amazing how quickly that changed.*

*I walked onto the campus of Purdue in 1996 with wide eyes. As a small town kid, the campus seemed so alive and awe-inspiring. There were so many experiences available and I wanted to be a part of them all. I was young and invincible. It took over 3 years for my invincibility*

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*to wear off. During this time, my active addiction became more and more controlling. Although I had started using at a young age, it was always something that I could manage. Somewhere along the lines, I stopped managing my drug use and my drug use started managing me. As my drug use became more progressive, my ability to manage my own life started to slip away. Despite my best intentions, I found myself walking outside of my own morals and values. I hurt people that I cared about and I disregarded things that I loved. Looking back, it amazes me how my drug use went from something that I loved to something that I hated. The fact that I could not stop despite the fact that I did not enjoy it anymore should have been a big indicator of the problem. Unfortunately, the illusion of control was always there.*

*My life changed on February 4, 2000, when I was arrested for multiple counts of dealing a schedule I substance and dealing marijuana. Until the day that I die, I will always remember the look in my grandmother's eyes after getting out of jail. I knew at that moment that I had ripped her heart out. In a few short years, the look in my family's eyes had turned from pride to disappointment. They wanted to help me and protect me, but I had gotten myself into a situation that they could not protect me from. I remember counting up the charges and the maximum time for each count. In my first contact ever with the authorities, I was looking at a maximum of 43 years in prison. I remember the hopeless desperation that I felt. At that time, I simply wanted to end my life and relieve my family of the burden that I had become.*

*On November 29, 2000, Judge Johnson of Tippecanoe County sentenced me to 4 years within the Indiana Department of Corrections, 2 years of work release, 1 year of house arrest, and 3 years of probation. I honestly remember very little of my sentencing, as it was one of the most surreal experiences of my life. I do remember my dad coming and asking the bailiff if he could give me a hug before they took me to the county jail on my way to prison. I would not see a free day again until April 18, 2002. I spent a year and a half contemplating how I had not only impacted my own life, but the lives of those that I loved and cared about. People would think that fear would be the driving force keeping you awake at night in prison, but the reality is that shame stole more hours of sleep than fear ever could.*

*Sometimes people talk about their introduction into recovery as driven by an incredible desire to change their lives. The reality for me was that I was primarily driven by fear initially. I wanted to change, but more than anything, I was afraid of the legal ramifications if I did not change. Although my motives were less than pure in the beginning, I started to find something that I wanted in the lives of others. Although it was very simplistic, seeing true happiness and contentment in others drove me to change more than anything. The*

## Our Education Commitment

The IAIC held its second regional training April 1-5 in Indianapolis. The weeklong event trained participants on the Connecticut Community of Addiction Recovery (CCAR) Recovery Coach Training. The CCAR training is nationally recognized. Twenty three people participated and received their certificate of achievement from the CCAR Recovery Coach Academy. Former vice Chair Stan DeKemper and current Board member Bryan Overbey were the trainers. IAIC hopes to hold a similar event in Lake County coming up in July.

Mark your calendar now for Saturday August 10 when IAIC welcomes People Advocating Recovery's (PAR) Executive Director Mike Barry to town to conduct training on recovery messaging. At the workshop you'll learn how to tell your story of recovery without violating the traditions of anonymity. Participants will learn how to share their story in a positive light along with promoting the fact that long term recovery is real in Indiana.

## What's Happening in Public Policy

**House Bill 1483**, drug testing recipients of assistance, was passed out of the Senate appropriations committee on April 4th by a vote of 9 to 4. This bill requires the office of the secretary of family and social services to administer drug screen for individuals who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or receiving TANF assistance on behalf of a child. If a person shows a propensity to addiction, that person will be placed in a pool of individuals who can be randomly tested for drugs. If a person tests positive for drugs and commits to go to treatment he or she will not lose benefits. It will now go before the full Senate for a hearing.

Similarly, **House Bill 1006**, which makes various changes to the criminal code, was also passed out of the Senate appropriations committee on April 4th by a vote of 13 to 0. It too will now head before the full Senate for a hearing. In essence this bill is a complete rewrite of the state's criminal code and has in-

involved representatives from nearly every sector of the criminal justice system, including prosecutors, legislators and toughens penalties more on rehabilita-

### Update!

**Great news HB 1006 criminal code reform has now passed out of the Senate. It will go to conference committee where the senate and house will have to agree or compromise about the changes made to the bill in the Senate.**

those charged with low-level drug possession and distribution charges. Not surprisingly such a substantial bill has garnered much attention, most recently from Governor Pence who voiced concern over reduced penalties for first-time drug offenders. With an effective date of 2014, there will be what is called a trailer bill next session to address any problems discovered in the law if it passes.

Meanwhile, **House Bill 1482**, commonly referred to as the expungement bill, is also up for consideration by the full senate. This bill allows a court to enter judgment as a Class D felony with the express provision that the conviction will be converted to a conviction as a Class A misdemeanor if the defendant fulfills certain conditions, and is within time limitations provided for individuals to petition to expunge their records.

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*reality of my life was that I hadn't had contentment for many years. Once I realized that I was unable to find contentment while continuing to use, embracing the process of recovery became much easier.*

*I look back at my struggles in active addiction and recovery with fascination. I was told early on that if you continued to move forward with your recovery, that good things would happen. After my release from the department of corrections, I returned to school and got my Bachelors and Masters Degree. I am fortunate to have a family that has stuck with me and supported me. I have also found myself working to help others struggling to deal with chemical dependency. I will not say that I have not had my struggles in recovery, because I have. What I have come to understand is that recovery is not about being perfect, but it is about growing from our mistakes and continuing to move forward. I am truly grateful that, although life still has struggles, I am not alone in the process. I am grateful for those that helped me when I was not able to help myself.*

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ecutors, public defenders, law enforcement, judge the Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition. The bill for the state's worst offenders while focusing tion for first-time, non-violent offenders, notably

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ucation and outreach. Finally, we work to provide a recovering voice to help shape public policies. We seek to help Hoosiers understand there are certain public policies in place that impede people from initiating and sustaining long term recovery from alcohol and/or other addictions. Our mission is to promote recovery through advocacy, public education and service.

Your donations enable the IAIC to meet with lawmakers and provide testimony around addiction issues. Some of our accomplishments include the passage of addictions licensure for treatment professionals and the passage of the criminal records restriction law in 2011. That law allows people eight years after sentence completion the opportunity to petition the court to have his or her record restricted from public view. The measure is for D felons and misdemeanants. Records would still be accessible to law enforcement.

The IAIC has three committees and is always looking for volunteers to participate. These committees include: education, public policy and development /marketing. **For more information contact the director, Jill Fuqua at [jfuqua@mhai.net](mailto:jfuqua@mhai.net).**

***W. Karl Stout, Chairman of the Board***

The Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition is funded, in part, by a contract with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

**IAIC is a subsidiary of  
Mental Health America of Indiana**

## Spotlight on Prevention in Lake County

Motivating Women Ministry received a Grant from the Lake Count Substance Abuse Coalition to introduce the following program to our youth, schools, parent, teacher, and Community based organizations. The Daily Program consists of school based consultants and law enforcement instructed classroom curriculum and is administered by Motivating Women Ministry in cooperation with the Lake County Substance Abuse Council. The Daily Program supports alcohol and drug use prevention and educational efforts for youth and adults in Lake County. Their goal is to reduce the use and abuse of tobacco, marijuana, illicit drugs and prescription drugs and alcohol among adolescents and adults by 3%.

The curriculum model includes information about drugs and drug use; it focuses primarily on positive prevention messages: being drug free is something to be proud of; building student's academic and life skills is an important drug prevention strategy; and providing appropriate adult guidance is necessary so that youths will choose to participate in wholesome, healthy activities.

The model provides lessons and prevention activities designed to help students understand that they are an important part of the community, and that responsible behavior includes not using drugs and helping keep their community drug free. The theme of responsibility encourages the teaching of citizenship and ideals that are central to our democracy, such as government by the people and working toward the good.

For more information, contact Valerie Mack, Motivating Women Ministry

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