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Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers

Contact: Lee Ann Jordan
Director of Communication & Membership
Phone: (317) 684-3684
ljordan@indianacouncil.org

Indiana Council News – IN, NY, CA, and MN Representatives Introduce Ensuring Excellence in Mental Health Act

Indianapolis, IN - May 23, 2024 – The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers (ICCMHC) is thrilled to announce and celebrate the introduction of the Ensuring Excellence in Mental Health Act. This landmark legislation is set to significantly enhance the quality and accessibility of mental health services across the state of Indiana and the entire nation.

The Ensuring Excellence in Mental Health Act aims to expand the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model nationwide, which has been instrumental in transforming how mental health and substance use disorder services are delivered. By providing comprehensive, person-centered, and integrated care, the CCBHC model ensures that individuals receive the holistic support they need.

“We are overjoyed to see this vital legislation introduced,” said Zoe Frantz, CEO of ICCMHC. “The Ensuring Excellence in Mental Health Act represents a critical step forward in our mission to provide high-quality mental health services to all Hoosiers. This act will not only bolster our efforts but also set a new standard for mental health care nationwide. A resounding thank you to Congressman Bucshon and all Congressmen and women who played a crucial role in introducing this bill.”

The key components of the Ensuring Excellence in Mental Health Act include:

- Permanently authorize a Medicaid payment system for the CCBHC model;
- Establish a definition of services & prospective payment system for CCBHCs under Medicare, ensuring that CCBHCs can also provide behavioral health care for our seniors;
- Establish a new certification & accreditation process for CCBHCs and a technical assistance program at HHS to encourage program integrity and quality of care;
- Authorize expansion grants for certified or potential CCBHCs to expand the ability of clinics to provide comprehensive care; and
- Authorize a new data infrastructure system for CCBHC data reporting.

“Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics are expected to play an increasingly critical role in supporting the needs of communities across Indiana and the nation,” **said Congressman Bucshon.** “I am proud to join my colleagues in introducing legislation that will expand upon this proven model of delivering integrated mental health and addiction treatment services to patients in need.”

The Indiana Council urges all stakeholders, community members, and policymakers to support this essential legislation. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the mental health and well-being of individuals across Indiana and the nation.

About the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers:

The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers is dedicated to advocating for and supporting the provision of quality mental health and substance use services for all Hoosiers. Comprising of community mental health centers across the state, the Council works collaboratively with government entities and stakeholders to ensure accessible and effective mental health care.

For more information please visit: www.indianacouncil.org