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2



## Upcoming Member Forums

The next INARF Member Forum will be held virtually on Friday, February 26 from 10-11:30 AM, followed by the INARF Board of Directors meeting from 11:30 AM -12:30 PM.

3



# COVID-19 Vaccine Pilot Update

Kylee Hope, Director, DDRS

4



EVV Implementation and  
OMPP Updates

Michael Cook, Director, Provider Services, OMPP

5



Association Updates

Nanette Hagedorn

6



## Membership Recruitment

**Welcome New Organizational Member ...**

**The Hope Link, LLC:** Located in Warsaw, IN, The Hope Link is led by President/ Co-Owner, Chayla Foster. Chayla shares their interest in pursuing INARF membership is *“To learn and grow from others in the field, especially as we enter a time with several significant changes in our industry. We also hope to learn more about addressing legislative and regulatory issues in our field.”*

Agency Overview:

- For-Profit
- Staff: Full-time 20, Part-time 85
- Clients Served: 81
- Accreditations: CARF
- Services Provided: Community Habilitation, PAC, Residential Habilitation, and Respite
- Counties Served: Adams, Allen, Carroll, Cass, DeKalb, Elkhart, Fulton, Grant, Howard, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Marshall, Miami, Pulaski, Starke, St. Joseph, Steuben, Tippecanoe, Wabash, Wells, White and Whitley

7



## Membership Recruitment

**Welcome New Organizational Member ...**

**The Arc Noble County Foundations:** Located in Albion, IN, The Arc Noble County Foundations was previously an INARF member, leaving in 2013. CEO, Kay Craig, shares their interest in pursuing INARF membership again is *“The Arc Noble County Foundations enthusiastically supports individuals to succeed! We hope to use the additional knowledge gained through INARF membership to further enhance and improve our quality supports.”*

Agency Overview:

- Non-Profit
- Staff: Full-time 10, Part-time 14, Volunteers 10-20
- Clients Served: 84
- Accreditations: CARF
- Services Provided: Community Habilitation, Extended Services, PAC, Pre-Vocational, Recreational Therapy, Transportation, 14(c) Certificate Holder, Employment and Industrial Services
- Counties Served: DeKalb, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben and Whitley

8



## Membership Recruitment

**Welcome New Organizational Member ...**

**The Arc of Evansville:** Located in Evansville, IN, The Arc of Evansville was also previously an INARF member, leaving in 1994. President, Deidra Conner, shares their interest in pursuing INARF membership again is because *“We are interested in INARF’s trainings and we believe INARF will help us to have more timely information to use for decision making purposes.”*

Agency Overview:

- Non-Profit
- Staff: Full-time 94, Part-time 12
- Clients Served: 514
- Accreditations: CARF
- Services Provided: Adult Day Services, Behavior Management, Community Habilitation, Extended Services, Music Therapy, PAC, Pre-Vocational, Residential Habilitation, Respite Care Services, Transportation, Wellness Coordination, Sheltered Work, 14(c) Certificate Holder and Employment Services
- Counties Served: Dubois, Gibson, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick

9



## Membership Retention

- ✓ 97% Retention Rate
- ✓ +3 New Members

INARF is proud to represent 71 Indiana providers. Thank you!

10



## Membership Engagement

**Virtual Engagement Continues...**

*For the consideration of our members' current priorities and safety, INARF will host most events remotely for the first quarter.*

- ❑ Professional Interest Section meetings continue to attract larger than usual audiences
- ❑ Leadership Academy – Class of 2021 participants and presenters rate their satisfaction of INARF COVID-19 protocols as 100%
- ❑ Professional Development Trainings redesigned as virtual Professional Development events are attracting higher than average registrations

*“COVID-19 will forever change the way we host events.” and INARF is committed not to lose sight of our success in adapting and embracing the virtual event world.*

- INARF Member Services Team

11



## Industry Updates

John Barth, Katy Stafford-Cunningham,  
Sarah Chestnut, and Phillip Parnell

12



## Federal Update

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### President Biden's American Rescue Plan

- States would receive “\$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, and territorial governments”
  - Funding **could be** an increase to Coronavirus Relief Funds which some states have used to support healthcare providers, but many other states have not
- \$15/hr Minimum Wage
  - What is the impact to State Medicaid funding?
- Elimination of sub-minimum wage
  - What is the impact to the State budget?
  - What is the impact to service delivery?



13



## Potential State Fiscal Relief

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- SBA has approved INARF's proposal to use the remaining ~\$15M of Coronavirus Relief Funds previously allocated for BDDS HCBS Day Services, Residential and Group Home Relief Grants to address increased COVID-19 related expenses associated with the delivery of the following services:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Day Service (All Levels and Units)</li> <li>• Day Habilitation (Individual and All Group Sizes)</li> <li>• Pre-Vocational Services (All Group Sizes)</li> <li>• Residential Habilitation and Support Hourly</li> <li>• Residential Habilitation and Support Daily</li> <li>• Respite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant Assistance and Care</li> <li>• Structured Family Caregiving</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Wellness Coordination</li> <li>• Workplace Assistance</li> <li>• Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities</li> </ul>
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- Note: OBRA Services (including Individual or Group Habilitation and Prevocational Services) will be addressed in a separate grant process.



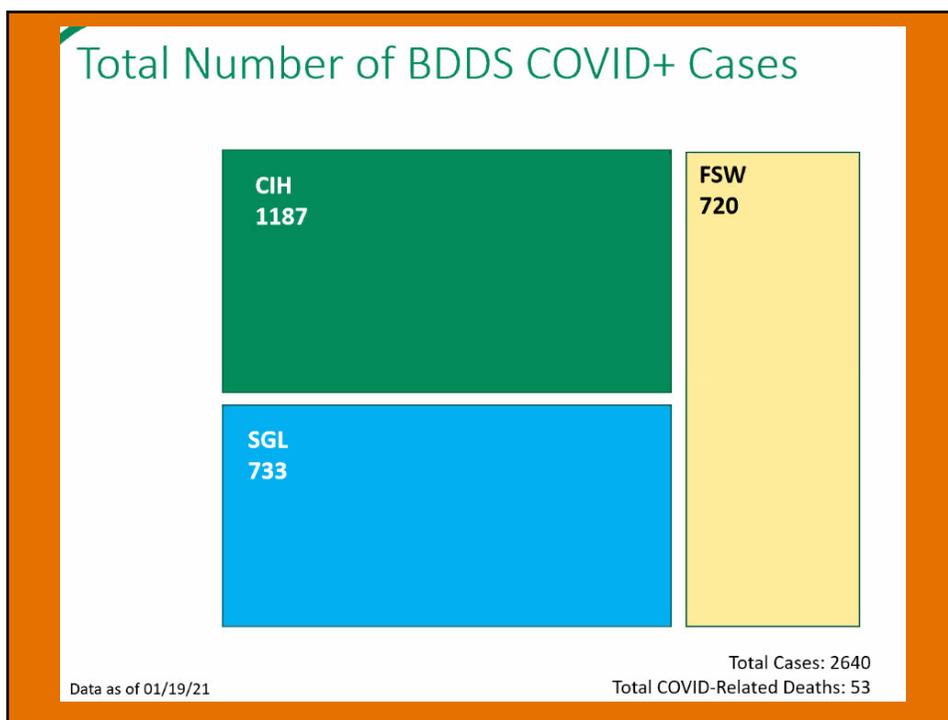
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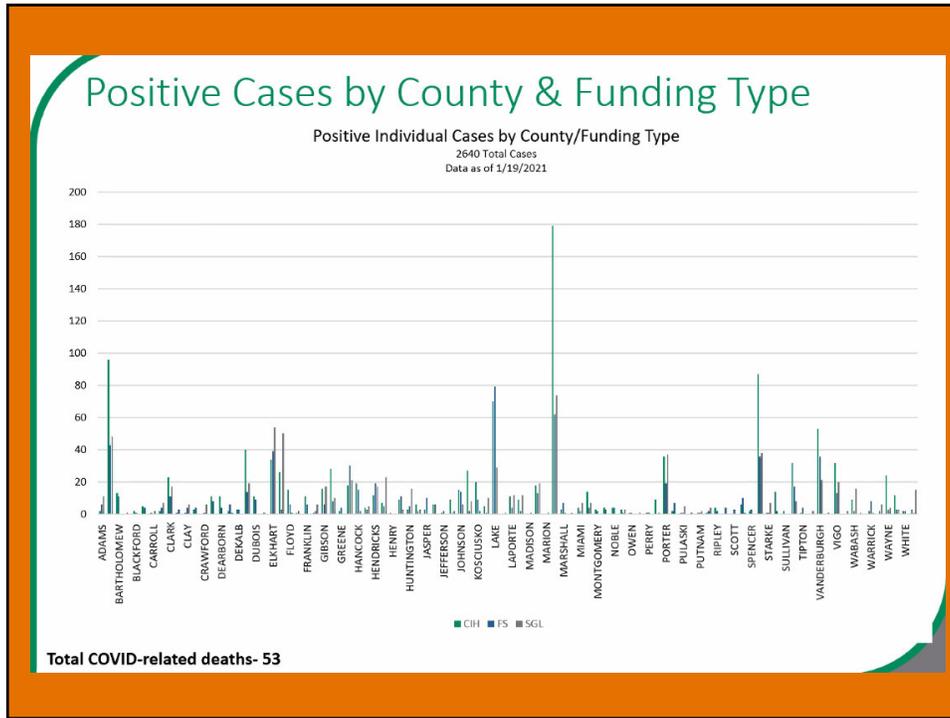
## Potential State Fiscal Relief

- Expense categories covered in the grant will include:
  - Compensation Related Expenses (overtime premiums, shift differentials, hazard pay, nursing compensation, training expenses, unreimbursed family leave and sick pay, vaccine incentives, expenses for securing and maintaining adequate staff [e.g., hiring bonuses and retention payments, childcare, transportation, and temporary housing])
  - Unemployment Claims for Non-Profit Entities
  - Increased employee benefits and Workers Compensation
  - Unreimbursed COVID-19 Testing Expense (e.g., expenses for test administration, third party labs, reimbursements to employees, increases in self-insured claims for COVID-19 Testing)
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Expense
  - Other COVID-19 Related Expense
  - Unreimbursed November and December 2020 Residential and Group Home Services Expenses (may be claimed in application for January expenses only)
- The total amount of the grant will be capped at 4.2% of average monthly Medicaid claims processed for the period from March 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

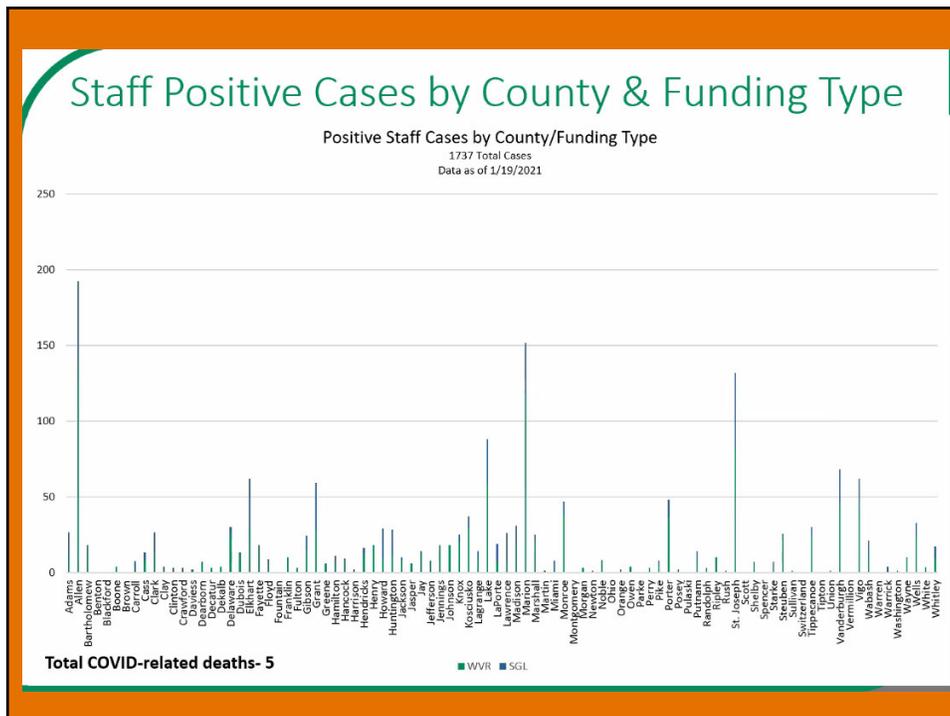
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16



17



18



## TB Testing and COVID Vaccines Update

- CDC issued [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#) includes information related to TB testing (pages 9-10).
- Inactive vaccines do not interfere with tuberculosis (TB) test results. For healthcare personnel or patients who require baseline TB testing (at onboarding or entry into facilities) at the same time they are to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine:
  - Perform TB symptom screening on all healthcare personnel or patients.
  - If utilizing the IGRA, draw blood for interferon gamma release assay prior to COVID-19 vaccination.
  - If utilizing the TST, place prior to COVID-19 vaccination.
  - If vaccination has been given and testing needs to be performed, defer TST or IGRA until 4 weeks after COVID-19 vaccine 2-dose completion.
    - All potential recipients of COVID-19 vaccination should weigh the risks and benefits of delaying TST/IGRA with their providers.
- Annual TB testing of residents should wait until four weeks after the individual has received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

19



## Provider Crisis Emergency Plans

### Administration

- Establish the essential functions of the agency and a plan for continuation
- Maintain a list of leadership teams and back-ups
- Establish a communication plan, which includes responsible entities, both internally and externally
- Establish and implement a plan for contact tracing

### Establish requirements/ expectations

- Mandatory symptom screening and temperature checks at all sites
- Enforcement of mask wearing at all times by staff
- Establish increased environmental cleaning protocols
- Ensure all staff report suspected and/or confirmed COVID-19 cases to management
- Ensure day program facilities maintain social distancing requirements
- Provide guidance on different levels of PPE based on exposure risks

### Individuals in Services

- Establish emergency plans for quarantined or positive sites
- Conduct risk assessments of individuals/sites to proactively establish higher risk protocols
- Increased monitoring of temperatures and blood oxygen levels in all homes with suspected exposures or confirmed positive tests
- Ensure all teams impacted by staff/individual exposure or confirmed cases are notified timely

Best Practices identified in Submitted Plans

20



## Core A/B Medication Administration Training

- Beginning April 1, 2021, provider agencies should begin training **new DSPs** in using the new [Indiana Direct Support Professional Training: Core A and Core B, Curriculum 2020 curriculum](#) and testing materials.
- Using the new [curriculum](#) **is required** for DSPs working in group home settings per 460 IAC 9-3-6(b).
- For DSPs working in HCBS waiver funded settings, the new [curriculum](#) **may** be used to meet the requirements for medication administration training detailed in 460 IAC 6-16-3(b)(4)(C).
- DSPs certified through the previous curriculum to administer medications **are not** required to be recertified in the new curriculum. Provider agencies can choose when to have their current employees trained on the 2020 curriculum.

21



## Core A/B Medication Administration Training

- BDDS will host Train-the-Trainer Core A/B Medication Administration training sessions on the following dates:
  - **January 29, 2021**
  - **February 26, 2021**
  - **March 19, 2021**
- Register for this virtual training and download training materials through the [Train-the-Trainer Core A/B Medication Administration training webpage](#)
- Providers may deliver Core A and Core B trainings using online using videos as a virtual option to in-person training. However, the portion of the training involving routine medication administration demonstration of an oral/liquid (and any other route) with the nurse should always be in person.
- Additional training questions may be directed to Celia Bartel at [Celia.Bartel@fssa.in.gov](mailto:Celia.Bartel@fssa.in.gov).

22



## Legislator Outreach

Thank you INARF Member CEOs for your Advocacy!

- Jim Allbaugh
- Donna Elbrecht
- Kelly Mitchell
- Debbie Bennett
- Matt Harrington
- Elizabeth Nelson
- Brianne Boles
- Leslie Green
- Rick Thompson
- Russell Bonanno
- Stan Keepes
- Danielle Tips
- Crystal Church-Stavitzke
- Connie Kurtz
- Pam Verbarg
- Pat Cockrum
- Jason McManus
- Jane Wear
- Jason Meyer
- Allison Wharry

INARF Member CEOs, if you have not yet reached out to your legislators, we request that you [contact them using VoterVoice](#) to educate them about the DSP workforce crisis.

23



## Thank You INARF PAC Contributors of 2021!

- Angie Tyler
- Melissa Walden
- Barb Young

Contribute to the INARF PAC by visiting <https://www.inarf.org/inarf-pac.html>

24



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