

Jason Brame

From: Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative [jasonb@communityadvocates.net]
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2009 11:25 AM
To: Jason Brame
Subject: Aug. 21 Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI) e-Newsletter



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Aug. 21, 2009

Advocacy Workshop,
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 8:30-
11:30 a.m.

**FREE Advocacy Workshop,
Wednesday, Sept. 9,
8:30-11:30 a.m.**

Alcoholism in the Workplace

SPACE IS LIMITED -- REGISTER TODAY!

New Address, Phone Number
for Milwaukee Addiction
Treatment Initiative

**Upcoming MATI
Committee Meetings**

Attention recovery advocates -- learn how to influence the way that addiction treatment is funded and delivered.

**Program and Policy
Committee**

NOTE: The Advocacy Workshop replaces the September Program and Policy Committee meeting. Register for the workshop by Wed., Sept. 2.

The workshop will be presented by [Florence "Flo" Hilliard](#), national lecturer on the neurobiology of abuse, addiction and behavior; and attorney Genyne Edwards, Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI) advocacy consultant.

Wed., Oct. 14, 9-10:30 a.m.
Topic: Addiction as a public health issue. (Location TBD)

Topics include:

Steering Committee

- The advancing science of addiction and recovery



• **Wed., Aug. 26, 9-11 a.m.**
(Milwaukee Enterprise Center,
2821 N. 4th St., Room 300)

- Practice sessions to develop advocacy skills
- How to influence policy decisions

Upcoming MATI Work Group Meetings

Communications

• **Wed., Sept. 16, 9-10 a.m.**
(Springfield College, 744
N. 4th St., Ste 300)
Contact: [Hilary Chavez](#),
(414) 270-2950.

- Attendees will learn:
- Recent developments in the science of addiction and recovery
 - The addiction treatment gap in Milwaukee
 - The foundations of public policy
 - Skills to more effectively advocate to policy makers
 - How to help more people find a path to recovery

Advocacy

• **Wed., Aug. 26, 8:30-9:30 a.m.**
(Violence Prevention Initiative --
Medical College (1801 N. MLK
Jr. Dr.)
Contact: [Genyne Edwards](#), (414)
270-2952.

The workshop is for anyone concerned about the social and personal costs of not treating addiction as a disease, including:

- Advocates
- MATI members and / or their invited guests
- Addiction treatment providers
- Allies of people in recovery, including professionals, friends, family and volunteers who work with people in treatment
- Men and women with two or more years of recovery who are interested in becoming advocates.

System Redesign

• **Time TBD**
Contact: [Robert Cherry](#),
(414) 270-2953.

Resources

[MATI Web Site](#)

[MATI Blog](#)

[Closing the Addiction
Treatment Gap
\(Open Society Institute\)](#)

[Community Advocates Public
Policy Institute](#)

Join our list

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The Advocacy Workshop will be Wednesday, Sept. 9, 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Summit Building, [6737 W. Washington St. \(70th and Greenfield\)](#).

The workshop is FREE, but space is limited and registration is required. Register by Wednesday, Sept. 2 by contacting Hilary Chavez, MATI Program Coordinator, at (414) 270-2950 or hilaryc@communityadvocates.net.

For more information visit [MATI's Web site](#) or contact Genyne Edwards, MATI Advocacy Consultant, at (414) 270-2952 or ingenuity@gmail.com.

As events unfold in the political arena, advocates will be able to take advantage of situations in a strategic way. The MATI team will keep advocates informed and abreast of opportunities to shape their messages. In this way we can work together, from different vantage points, but united in our pursuit of a rational system for the funding and delivery of addiction treatment.

The MATI advocacy strategy and the MATI workgroups will develop and implement action plans and activities that send a strong message to policy makers. Your involvement and your story are vital to the success of these messages. Opportunities include:

- Media messages
- MATI Milwaukee events
- Statewide "Making Parity Real" briefing sessions
- Testimony to legislators at budget hearings
- Letters and petitions
- Community events

The workshop is made possible by the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division-Wiser Choice Program. Thanks also to workshop sponsors Barbara Beckert, Disability Rights Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and John Hyatt, IMPACT.

Alcoholism in the Workplace

By Michael R. Gabbert, CSAC
Manager of Chemical Dependency Services, Rogers Memorial Hospital

Many people think of alcoholism as something that only occurs to the unemployed or the homeless. In fact, a 2007 national survey found that of the 55.3 million adults classified as binge drinkers, 44.0 million (79.4 percent) were employed either full- or part-time. Among 16.4 million heavy drinkers, 13.1 million (79.6 percent) were employed.

Alcohol abuse and dependency impacts all segments of American society, including the workplace. Current estimates state that between 10 and 23% of the employed population suffer from alcoholism and substance abuse. More importantly, substance abuse affects a minimum of five additional individuals due to the abuser's absenteeism or poor work performance.

Employees abusing alcohol often have increased sick leave use, excessive tardiness, on-the-job absences and unauthorized time off. These absences impact not only the individual taking time off, but also his or her co-workers. Co-workers may be required to pick up the slack or feel that they must cover for the individual. Supervisors may be required to find temporary replacements or to train another person to complete the job task. All of this leads to decreased employee morale and may result in missed deadlines, wasted materials and, ultimately, loss of business.

Supervisors or co-workers must keep in mind that any activity that protects an employee from experiencing the consequences of his/her behavior is often identified as enabling. These include staying silent, covering up mistakes and accepting excuses for poor job performance. None of these are helpful to some with an alcohol problem and in fact allows the problem to grow.

Before confronting the employee, supervisors and co-workers need to be sensitive to the fact that while these symptoms may be indicative of alcohol or substance abuse, they also could stem from other issues within an employee's life. It is best to refer a suspected alcohol or drug abuse situation to a trained professional. If there are concerns, supervisors or co-workers should contact their employee assistance professional or human resources department.

The Herrington Recovery Center at Rogers Memorial Hospital offers intensive residential treatment for adults who are unable to achieve recovery in a short-term or low-intensity setting. The Center provides intensive and confidential treatment for alcoholism and substance abuse in a home-like setting. The open-ended length of stay helps to ensure a successful return to professional,

social and family life. For more information, or to begin a referral, please call the admissions department at (800) 767-4411.

New Address, Phone Number for Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative

The Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative has moved its offices. Our new address is:

**Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative
c/o Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
744 N. 4th St., # 200
Milwaukee, WI 53203**

Our new phone number is (414) 270-2790.

For complete contact information visit the Community Advocates Public Policy Institute [Web site](#).

The Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI) is a collaboration among local stakeholders -- including treatment providers, public health agencies, law enforcement, faith-based agencies, advocates and members of the recovery community -- to close the addiction treatment gap in Milwaukee County and ensure that everyone who needs treatment can receive it. MATI is sponsored by a grant from the Open Society Institute, Baltimore, with additional funding from the Helen Bader Foundation, the Zilber Family Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Visit MATI online at www.ca-mati.org.

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