

Jason Brame

From: Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative [jasonb@communityadvocates.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 4:26 PM
To: Jason Brame
Subject: May 12 Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI) e-Newsletter



e-Newsletter

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Upcoming MATI Committee Meetings

Program and Policy
 • 9-11 a.m. Wed., May 13
 (Milwaukee Enterprise Center,
 2821 N. 4th St., Room 300)

• 9-11 a.m. Wed., June 10
 (Marquette Univ/address TBD)

Steering Committee
 • 9-11 a.m. Thur., May 14
 (Milwaukee Enterprise Center,
 2821 N. 4th St., Room 300)

Dear Jason,

Despite some of the highest alcohol consumption rates in the nation, Wisconsin does not offer sufficient treatment options for people suffering from alcohol abuse. According to a March [report](#) by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, **in Wisconsin in 2005-06, 21 percent of individuals age 18-25 needed but did not receive treatment for alcohol use**, compared to 17 percent nationally -- the fourth consecutive year Wisconsin's results were higher than the national average.

For more information about the gap in available addiction treatment as well as the cost of untreated substance abuse in Wisconsin, download the Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap [fact sheet](#) from the [Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative Web site](#).

Community Advocates Receives \$100,000 from Greater Milwaukee Foundation for MATI

Community Advocates, Inc. has received a three-year, \$100,000 grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to help support the

Resources

[MATI Web Site](#)

[MATI Blog](#)

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

[Community Advocates Public Policy Institute](#)

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Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI), a multiyear project to expand access to high-quality treatment for people suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, according to Executive Director Joe Volk.

MATI is a collaboration of more than 80 local and state organizations -- including treatment providers, advocates, faith-based organizations, and law enforcement and public health agencies -- to close the gap that separates those who need addiction treatment and those who can receive it.

In Milwaukee, this "treatment gap" has reached epidemic proportions: a recent study by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that in 2004, more than 82,000 Milwaukee County residents who needed addiction treatment were denied services due to lack of health insurance, inadequate insurance coverage or a lack of available services.

Nationally, nine out of every 10 people who need treatment do not receive it.

"Symptoms of drug and alcohol abuse are all too familiar in Milwaukee and Wisconsin: drug-related crime, a high percentage of drunken driving deaths and injuries, and inflated medical costs," said Douglas M. Jansson, Executive Director of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. "We all suffer from this abuse, as well as the pronounced gap in our ability to provide sufficient treatment. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation supports the pioneering work of the Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative."

"I'm confident that the support of such a strong community leader as the Greater Milwaukee Foundation will further strengthen MATI's ability to make the changes necessary to close the treatment gap," said Volk. "From its inception MATI has been a high-level collaboration bringing together some of our most trusted community partners. We're honored to have the support of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation for this partnership."

In addition to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative is funded by Milwaukee's Zilber Family Foundation and Helen Bader Foundation; and the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation in Baltimore.

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is a family of over 1,000 individual charitable funds, each created by donors to serve the charitable causes of their choice. Grants from these funds serve people throughout Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties and beyond. Started in 1915, the Foundation is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the world.

Wisconsin Legislature Must Protect Funding for Alcohol and Drug Interventions

By Genyne Edwards, advocacy director, Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative

Note: This proposed guest editorial was distributed to newspapers statewide.

Each year in Wisconsin we tally the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse like the fallout from a natural disaster: thousands dead or injured, hundreds of families destroyed, billions of dollars lost.

Drug- and alcohol-related injuries and diseases are the fourth-leading cause of death and hospitalization in Wisconsin, and excessive drinking is the leading cause of disability among men.

Sadly, it often takes an injury or health problem for people with alcohol or drug problems to seek treatment. But what if there was a way to reach those people before their drinking or drug use resulted in injury, disease or arrest?

There is -- a program called [Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment \(SBIRT\)](#) currently administered at more than 20 clinics statewide by the [Wisconsin Initiative to Promote Healthy Lifestyles \(WIPHL\)](#). With WIPHL's help, clinics intervene every year for thousands of people with risky and problem drinking and drug use.

Thanks to Gov. Doyle's forward-thinking administration, \$381,000 has been penciled into the 2009-11 state budget to expand these remarkably effective -- and cost-effective -- services to Wisconsin's Medicaid population. It's of critical importance that the state legislature protect this funding.

SBIRT identifies and addresses risky alcohol and drug use at an early stage, before this use and related problems intensify. While waiting to see their doctors, patients complete screening surveys with questions such as "Have you consumed five or more standard drinks in a day or night within the last three months?" Health educators utilize motivational interviewing to help patients who screen positive understand in real terms the effects of their alcohol and drug use: on their health, their ability to work or parent, and even their pocketbook. The entire process typically takes 10 to 30 minutes, and is often the only drug and alcohol counseling a patient receives all year.

Remarkably, between 30-60 percent of at-risk patients will decrease their alcohol and drug intake based solely on these SBIRT services, a success rate besting screenings for hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes and obesity, according to the National Center for Prevention Priorities.

SBIRT targets the 25 percent of Wisconsin adults who engage in at-risk drinking or drug use, a population far larger than those suffering from addiction (roughly 6 percent). These patients, because they are not yet addicted, can make behavioral changes, and often do.

Repercussions of this decreased drinking and drug use are profound:

- Reduced substance-related hospitalization and emergency

room visits lead to dramatic health care savings. Studies have shown that for every dollar spent on brief intervention, we save about \$4 within the first 12 months. What's more, a 2000 University of Wisconsin study shows savings of nearly \$1,000 in health care and criminal justice costs for every patient that receives SBIRT services. With Medicare facing a \$415 million deficit, Gov. Doyle's investment stands to realize tremendous fiscal benefits.

- Decreased episodes of drunken driving lead to fewer drinking-related deaths and injuries on our roadways and fewer substance-related crimes. An added benefit is that fewer crime results in fewer prisoners, helping to unburden our overworked criminal justice system.

WIPHL currently utilizes federal seed grant funds to administer SBIRT interventions in all areas of Wisconsin, from Central City Milwaukee to the rural Northwest; from suburbs like Waukesha to farming and tribal communities. Since 2007 the program has screened more than 57,000 patients and intervened in nearly 9,500 cases. An increased investment in this screening can only lead to less abuse, fewer accidents and a safer, healthier population.

While policymakers, treatment providers and advocates work to make addiction treatment more readily available to the thousands of people who need it, efforts like SBIRT to reduce the number of people who lapse into addiction are equally important. There's no easier person to rescue from the grip of addiction than the person who doesn't become addicted in the first place.

For these reasons, funding for SBIRT must stand.

Genyne Edwards, former deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, is advocacy director for the Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative, a project of Community Advocates, Milwaukee.

Congratulations to Friendship, Inc. for 35 Years of Service

Congratulations to Friendship, Inc. for 35 years of service to the recovery community!

Thirty-five years is an accomplishment for any nonprofit organization, and this one is run by a group of self-proclaimed inner-city alcoholics and drug addicts!

In the early 70s, 12 recovering alcoholics founded the Friendship Club, later Friendship, Inc., as the only African American, alcohol-free social and recreational sobriety club in Milwaukee. For three and a half decades it has provided a safe, healthy, educational, social and recreational place for recovering people and their families.

Of its members, it is known that over 70 percent of the people who come to the club and find a home there stay clean; and 50 percent

of the membership have been sober for over 10 years.

Friendship, Inc. owns and operates the large building located at 2245 W. Fond du Lac Ave. Contact them at (414) 931-7033.

Wendell Harris, current president of Friendship, Inc. serves on the MATI Program and Policy Committee.

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 and the Zilber Family Foundation. Visit MATI online at www.ca-mati.org.

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