

ORGANIZING FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

For decades, **Metro IAF** affiliates have been organizing for better health care options for its members and their communities. From leading the fight to ensure passage of the first universal health care law in the U.S. in **MA**, to winning a \$56 million federal grant to launch a health insurance company of its own known as **The Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative (CGHC)** in Milwaukee, **WI**, **Metro IAF** repeatedly meets seemingly insurmountable challenges with innovative solutions. **Metro IAF** affiliates have won key victories in: Medicaid expansion in **IL & OH**; increased mental health services and lowered counselor-to-student ratios in **IL, MD, NJ & VA** schools; and lowered prescription drug costs saving consumers \$1 billion dollars over 7 years in Boston, **MA** hospital merger, improving access for low income/Medicaid customers and providing \$72 million to support community health centers.

While others continue to point out the flaws in America's healthcare system, **Metro IAF** affiliates remain in action, working to find and implement solutions to expand healthcare access and to combat skyrocketing health care costs.



2019 HEALTHCARE AT A GLANCE

Won \$140 million in savings on prescription drug costs in **MA**. Increased state Medicaid reimbursement rate for Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) in **IL**, creating a game-changing incentive for hospitals to establish CSUs for people in mental health crisis. Won \$1 million for school mental health services in Howard County, **MD**. Expanded Medication-Assisted Treatment in **IL & NY**, helping incarcerated individuals in jail and on parole.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Metro IL Increased State Medicaid Reimbursement Rate for Crisis Stabilization Units

Dupage United, Fox River Valley Initiative, United Power and **Lake County United** engaged with five hospital and behavioral systems to expand Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) across the four-county region. CSUs divert those in a mental crisis from jail and hospital emergency rooms, allowing people with mental illness to avoid incarceration and receive support by trained professionals in a therapeutic space that is safe and will be responsive to their future care needs. **Metro IAF IL** celebrated a CSU opening in Chicago (Cook County) with one expected to open in Aurora (Kane County) in 2020. **Metro IL** won a commitment from Illinois Governor Pritzker to increase Medicare/Medicaid funding from \$28 per 8 hours to \$900 per 8 hours. This will help end the pipeline to prison and reduce Medicaid cost by diverting patients from crowded emergency rooms and jails. In addition, Chicago Mayor Lightfoot committed to work with **United Power for Action and Justice (UPAJ)** to end incarceration of people with mental illness and increase the number of Crisis Stabilization Units in Chicago.



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24 Organizations in: CT, DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, NJ, OH, NY, VA, WI
Affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation

2019 HIGHLIGHTS (continued)



Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Wins Big, Saves MassHealth Budget \$140 million

GBIO won savings of \$140 million on prescription drug costs in the 2020 state budget in Massachusetts. Legislators agreed to add language as part of the 2020 Massachusetts budget to lower the cost of prescription drugs paid by MassHealth, Massachusetts' Medicaid agency. These savings will extend the impact of MassHealth as well as lay the groundwork for legislation this session for similar savings for those covered by private insurance. **GBIO** is also pushing for increasing access to affordable mental health and substance use disorder care and regulation of out-of-network “surprise” bills.

Fighting To End The Opioid Overdose Crisis

The medical standard of care for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) involves the use of one of three FDA-approved drugs proven to reduce cravings and allow users to lead productive lives and focus on recovery. Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) dramatically reduces relapse and overdose rates, but instead of evidence-based treatment, most opioid users who do receive treatment go to “rehab” programs that rely primarily on abstinence counseling – an approach that results in relapse to opioid misuse for 90% of OUD patients within three months of discharge from treatment.



- **Long Island CAN Makes Major Strides in Life-Saving Campaign**

Long Island CAN (LI-CAN) made major strides in its campaign to get life-saving medical care for the thousands of opioid users on Long Island, whose addiction exposes them to increasingly lethal synthetic opioids. **LI-CAN** is working to remove the barriers to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the medical profession, the criminal justice system, insurer practices, and the treatment system. Breakthrough wins for 2019 included: commitment from the region's two largest hospital chains to provide MAT to opioid users in their emergency departments; doctors, nurse practitioners and



physician assistants were trained and are now able to prescribe buprenorphine, a highly effective MAT drug, which will help alleviate the shortage of practitioners offering the drug on Long Island; and a group of veteran MAT practitioners launched a groundbreaking MAT Learning Collaborative to provide ongoing peer support, education and clinical mentorships for fellow practitioners. **LI-CAN** will now expand its work to root out the stigma and bias against MAT throughout the criminal justice system.

- **Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) to Treat Opioid Use Disorder Expanded for Use in Jails inside Kane County, IL and Suffolk County, NY Jails**

Fox River Valley Initiative's member institution, Lighthouse Recovery in St Charles, IL, started MAT for Opioid Use Disorder inside the Kane County jail. Over 50 incarcerated individuals are enrolled in the MAT and cognitive behavioral therapy program and linked with MAT treatment across the county upon release. Fox River Valley Initiative worked with State's Attorney Joe McMahon to offer MAT in parole.

WHO WE ARE

Metro Industrial Areas Foundation (Metro IAF) is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the first and largest network of multi-faith, broad-based citizen organizations, which has eight decades of experience winning tough battles on housing, health care, education, living wages, immigration rights, and other issues in the US and abroad. Metro IAF's 24 affiliates are in the East, Midwest, and Southeast United States (CT, DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, OH, VA, WI).