

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Indiana Community Mental Health Centers Applaud Governor Pence's Plan to Cover Uninsured Hoosiers**

Indianapolis — May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014—Indiana's Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) today applaud the announcement from Governor Pence related to his plan to cover uninsured Hoosiers. Under the proposed plan, uninsured individuals with serious mental illness will have improved access to comprehensive behavioral health services. Based on estimates, 21,000 of the approximately 350,000 newly Medicaid eligible Hoosiers have severe and persistent mental illness. The inclusion of Medicaid based rehabilitation services under the proposed Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) provides more comprehensive behavioral health services for individuals with serious mental illness who previously were not enrolled in the Medicaid program. By including rehabilitation services for this medically frail population, thousands of previously uninsured Hoosiers will be able to gain access to behavioral health services for areas such as; crisis intervention, case management, living skills, and medication management. Such services are broader than basic out-patient mental health therapy through the use evidenced-based and wrap-around services that are person centered for those suffering from serious mental illness. In addition, the plan includes access to critically needed substance abuse services under the HIP for thousands of Hoosiers suffering from substance abuse disorders. By including substance abuse as a covered service under the HIP, individuals seeking treatment, who previously were uninsured, now have access to treatment, something that has historically not been covered under traditional Medicaid programs.

Matt Brooks, ICCMHC Chief Executive Officer, stated "Governor Pence is demonstrating his strong commitment to individuals suffering from mental illness in Indiana by including comprehensive behavioral health services under the proposed Healthy Indiana Plan." Brooks further stated that "on behalf of the community mental health center system in Indiana, I applaud Governor Pence's efforts and anxiously await federal approval of the proposed plan to ensure individuals suffering from mental illness, who previously had no access to mental health services, become eligible and obtain needed services."

**About the ICCMHC**

The Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Center's represents the interests of Indiana's twenty-five (25) community mental health centers providing statewide mental health and substance abuse treatment services. CMHCs in Indiana provide services to over 220,000 individuals in need of behavioral health and substance abuse services. Indiana's community mental health network provides services to every county in Indiana and maintains a number of treatment centers, group homes, hospitals, and other treatment facilities. CMHCs have over 8,000 full-time employees, including over 5,600 fully trained and qualified behavioral health services professionals, making our system the largest provider of behavioral health services in Indiana.

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