

Genesis House, Harrison County Substance Abuse Coalition

Executive Summary

The Harrison County Substance Abuse Coalition (HCSAPC) has served as the local coordinating council (LLC) for Harrison County since 1990. Each county in Indiana has a local coordinating council who plan and coordinate strategies to lower alcohol and drug abuse. In 2006 HCSAPC became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Many previous grants from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to the Department of Mental Health Addiction have been obtained. HCSAPC has always been a good steward while meeting grant deliverables. Previous grant evaluations have been completed by Indiana University Southeast and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

HCSAPC believes in the potential goodness of all people and that the healthy development of our citizens is being threatened by the problems and challenges of drug use in today's culture. Our purpose is to make a positive difference in the area of substance abuse issues. This mission led HCSAPC to becoming the lead agency in opening another transitional home to serve women in Clark, Floyd and Harrison County.

Traditionally HCSAPC has focused on prevention. A Communities That Care grant was received 2012, partnering with Crawford County, to identify risk/needs factors of area youth and developed strategies to lower substance abuse. Those initiatives continue and we have been requested by other Indiana counties to share our program. HCSAPC's coordinator was awarded the William J. Bailey Leadership Award in 2013 and coalition officers were awarded the Annual Spirit of the Red Ribbon Award in 2017 and 2018.

HCSAPC's board is structured to include representatives of many sectors of our community including law enforcement, schools, health care providers, youth, civic organizations, youth-serving organizations, etc. to better address substance abuse from a community perspective.

In 2016 HCSAPC recognized a huge need in southern Indiana, specifically Clark, Floyd and Harrison County for more women's transitional homes. Women suffering from the opioid epidemic and the increase in methamphetamine abuse led to probation departments with some reports of 100 more female clients since 2013. This increase in Harrison County alone led to jail overcrowding for women inmates. Currently fifteen women are being held in a neighboring county. Long waiting lists for transitional homes in Jeffersonville and New Albany have led to unserved women struggling for help and some remain incarcerated until a bed becomes available or receiving no treatment at all.

Transitional homes provide a six month to two year stay for clients suffering from substance abuse. This long term care provides residents an opportunity to work twelve-step programming, obtain employment for self-sufficiency, develop relationships in the support community and develop pro social skills to remain drug-free after graduation. There are many studies including from the American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse stating clients who complete at least six months of continued care have much higher rates of sustained sobriety. In 2016 the Surgeon General reported one out of seven people would suffer from a substance abuse disorder and only one in ten will receive treatment. HCSAPC wants to provide that opportunity to women in Clark, Floyd and Harrison County by providing a new transitional home.

A community meeting was held in 2017 where the director for the Indiana Affiliation of Recovery Residences (INARR) spoke with close to thirty people in attendance representing many sectors of the community including faith-based entities. HCSAPC's coordinator is also a probation officer and visits many women transitional homes which include the Bliss House (Clark County), the Breakaway (Floyd County) and Ruth Haven (Jefferson County, IN) on a regular basis and has requested guidance for a more successful program. HCSAPC searched for a home that would be large enough to serve fifteen clients and close walking distance to employers and service providers. The home will be certified by INARR while using a combination of twelve-step programming, individual counseling and cognitive change instruction. Different life skills will also be available as well as exposure to pro social activities such as yoga, art and a disabled animal farm. A home was found located at 500 N. Capitol Avenue in Corydon meeting the need criteria. HCSAPC approached the Harrison County government and with community support, specifically from Harrison County Prosecutor Otto Schalk, \$130,000 was obtained to purchase the property. HCSAPC will call the women's transitional home Genesis House. HCSAPC closed on the property in July of 2018 and hired an architect to begin an extensive remodel. The renovation helped the home meet state codes and guidelines set forth by INARR to allow Genesis House to become a nationally recognized recovery residence.

All these costs including the hiring of an architect and remodeling was funded with support from the Harrison County Community Foundation (HCCF). HCSAPC was able to obtain all renovation funding from the HCCF, totaling over \$171,000. The renovations were completed in March of 2020 but due to COVID 19, Genesis House was unable to open its doors to women in the community until August of 2020. The HCSAPC requests funding to assist with the first year programming expenses. This will include furniture, appliances, program material and literature, program facilitators and a van for transportation to community meetings. HCSAPC has been successful in previous substance abuse initiatives and have positioned themselves to make Genesis House a huge resource for women recovering from substance abuse. HCSAPC has hired Meghan Stockdale as Executive Director of Genesis House. Miss Stockdale is a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor and has worked with this population inside the jails, providing court ordered classes for probation and inpatient rehabilitation facilities for 7 years. In addition to her work in the community, she brings a powerful story of hope, filled with her personal experience of addiction, incarceration and redemption. Miss Stockdale is able to relate with the residents and build trust and rapport, while providing evidence based programming. Miss Stockdale works with all residents individually to develop personalized treatment goals, provide counseling and case management services and group facilitation to promote cognitive change.