

August 2023 Newsletter

SUPR Staffing Update:

Bernadette Gordon has joined the SUPR team as a Grant Assurance Specialist in the Bureau of Business and Fiscal Operations!

Bernadette has worked with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) since April 2022 and is excited for her new role within SUPR!



Bernadette Gordon

Ruby Scherpinsky has joined the SUPR team as the Substance Use Prevention Program (SUPP) Coordinator in the Bureau of Prevention Services.

Ruby has a B.A. in Ministry and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Lincoln Christian University. Before joining SUPR, she worked at the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) in Child Support Services. Most recently, she was on special assignment launching Child Support Services' social media platforms, working as a graphic designer, planning outreach events, and promoting positive culture and professional development!



Ruby Scherpinsky

Flavia Boneu has joined the SUPR team as a Grant Manager in the Bureau of Business and Fiscal Operations.

Flavia completed her undergraduate studies in Lima, Peru and her master's degree in Rural Planning and Sustainable Management in Madrid, Spain! Before moving to the United States, Flavia worked for the United Nations as a Rural Development Specialist. After moving to Springfield, she worked for Big Brothers Big Sisters as a Case Manager. Most recently, Flavia worked as an Office Specialist within HFS.



Flavia Boneu

continued on page 2

Upcoming Gambling Training:

Problem Gambling Training- Working with Couples

When: August 14, 2023
1:00pm-2:30pm CST

In this **free**, interactive workshop, presenter **Bonnie Lee, PhD** will provide guidance for counselors determining when it's suitable to involve couples, identify their emotional barriers, bring out their hopes and wishes and find goodness in both partners.

To register, visit [Struggling Together: The Impact of Problem Gambling on Couples and Paths to Recovery](#).

2023 CRSS/CPRS Competency Trainings:

The Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health is halfway through their Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS)/Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) Competency Training Sessions! There are 3 options for each of the remaining Sessions.

You can find more information about the trainings, including the registration link at [2023 CRSS/CPRS Competency Training](#). Once you register for a session, you will receive your WebEx link via e-mail for that Session. Don't forget to register for ALL the sessions you are interested in!

Event Contact: Thomas Troe, Recovery Support Specialist II DMH- Bureau of Wellness & Recovery Services Thomas.Troe@illinois.gov.

Recovery Wrap-Up:



Since our last Recovery Wrap-Up in January 2022, Recovery has continued to grow by leaps and bounds in Illinois! We have added Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) councils in the counties of: Alexander/Pulaski, Clark, Dewitt, Edgar, Franklin/Williamson, Greene/Scott, Jackson/Perry, Johnson, Lee/Whiteside, Massac, Moultrie, Ogle/DeKalb, Pope/Hardin, Union, and many additional neighborhoods in Chicago.

There are now ROSC councils in more than half of the counties in Illinois! ROSC Councils are coordinated networks of community-based services and supports that are person-centered and build on the strengths and resiliencies of individuals, families, and communities to achieve recovery and improved health, wellness, and quality of life for their community members.

Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) have expanded into the counties of DuPage, Jackson, LaSalle/Bureau/Putnam/Marshall, Kane/Boone/Winnebago, Macoupin/Montgomery, and McLean. RCOs provide three pillars of service: 1. peer recovery support services, 2. education and outreach about recovery, and 3. advocacy for folks in recovery.

We have also increased the footprint of Oxford Houses across the state and have a total of 86 houses and totaling 696 beds in all regions of the state. Oxford Houses are democratically run, self-supporting and drug free homes for those recently or currently in recovery.

continued on page 3

Recovery Trainings:



IDHS/SUPR has partnered with Faces and Voices of Recovery to assist in the expansion of recovery community organizations (RCO) across the state. Part of this expansion involves providing free trainings to providers and community stakeholders on recovery topics. For more information about upcoming trainings, visit [Faces and Voices of Recovery](#).

Please share these trainings widely within your agencies and communities. If you have questions or would like to discuss starting a recovery community organization in your community, please contact Kim Sriner at Kimberly.Sriner@illinois.gov.

Drug Paraphernalia Control Act Amendment:

On July 28, 2023, HB3203 was passed and enacted into Public Act [103-0336](#). This legislation amends the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act, most notably adjusting the definition of “drug paraphernalia” so that it does not include equipment, products, or materials to analyze or test for the presence of fentanyl, a fentanyl analogue, or a drug adulterant within a controlled substance.

This follows the passage of HB1121 (Public Act [103-0115](#)) on June 30, which allows trained overdose responders from organizations enrolled in IDHS/SUPR’s Drug Overdose Prevention Program to dispense drug adulterant testing supplies (such as fentanyl or xylazine test strips) to any person.

NCPG Multicultural Communications Award:

On July 28th, 2023, IDHS/SUPR and affiliated team members the Illinois Council on Problem Gambling, Health Resources in Action, The Way Back Inn and a5 Branding and Digital received the National Council on Problem Gambling’s (NCPG) Multicultural Communications Award.

Announced in Washington DC, the award represents significant work on the “Are You Really Winning?” public awareness campaign to develop marketing materials that reflect multiple cultural norms and languages (e.g. Spanish, Simple Chinese, Polish).

Training programs were also held to address specific cultural issues. The First Annual Latinx Gambling Conference hosted in Cicero, IL engaged the public, providers, and media around gambling issues in the Latinx community. These activities originated with the first statewide gambling needs assessment completed by IDHS/SUPR in 2021, which identified communities and issues impacted by gambling disorder.



Pictures left to right: Keith Whyte, NCPG; Anita Pindiur, ICPG; Jim Wilkerson, SUPR; Kellie Gage, SUPR

continued on page 4

MAR NOW- A New Service Offered by the IL Helpline:

[Medication-Assisted Recovery \(MAR\) NOW](#) is a new service offered by the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances. Increasing treatment access for people with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) with MAR at risk for fatal overdosing continues to be a priority for communities, local, state, and federal government agencies.

MAR is an effective treatment and harm reduction intervention for OUD: patients on MAR have a lower risk of fatal overdose than those receiving behavioral therapies alone. MAR now connects callers to immediate treatment for opioid use disorder, including telephonic prescription and home induction on buprenorphine or same-day clinic appointments for methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone.

MAR NOW can also connect patients to withdrawal management and residential treatment. MAR NOW is accessible through the 24/7 Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances (833-234-6343). Callers asking for opioid treatment, 24 hours per day, seven days/week, will be immediately connected to a provider. After induction on MAR, patients with MAR NOW will be referred to community-based care for ongoing treatment and assisted by a MAR NOW Case Manager. MAR NOW can be initiated in the home, hospital, outpatient, and emergency department settings.

The Program can serve as a bridge clinic and assist patients with insurance enrollment and connection to other behavioral health supports, as needed.



When you're ready for recovery, we're here for you.

Call **833-2FINDHELP**
(833-234-6343)

Text **HELP** to **833234**

Visit **HelplineIL.org**



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continued on page 5

Recovery Residences Registry

The IDHS/SUPR Recovery Residence Registry has been moved to the [Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances](#) to simplify public inquiries for Recovery Residence. Information in the registry helps IDHS/SUPR better understand recovery residences' capacity and support for Medication Assisted Recovery. If you partner with a residence that is not listed, please invite them to register and/or contact Kimberly.Sriner@illinois.gov to list the organization. Search the [Recovery Residences Registry](#) at any time.



Overdose Response Funding Updates:

SUPR publishes a quarterly report summarizing funded projects in response to the overdose crisis. We invite you to review the [Overdose Response Funding Report](#) at your convenience.

Smart Alerts and Other Communications:



Smart Alerts are periodic bulletins released by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery. Information may include policy, funding, training opportunities or any information that might be relevant for providers of substance-related disorders treatment services.

[Smart Alerts link](#)