

With a new year comes new IL laws. Here are a few that apply to MH/SUD services. The Center is already actively engaged in HB 3819 (Part of a deflection leadership team), HB 3203 (D.O.P.P. and open to providing fentanyl test strip education/distribution), and HB 3924 (D.O.P.P. – we are the main provider of Naloxone training in Piatt County and open to providing psychoeducation on the dangers of fentanyl to all Piatt/DeWitt Schools which we already have Prevention Services established).

- HB 1364 (P.A. 103-0105) Creates the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Workgroup Act. This directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Division of Mental health to convene a working group tasked with examining the first year's implementation and use of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Illinois. The workgroup must prepare an action plan that includes recommendations for a future structure of 9-8-8 centers in Illinois, as well as metrics for success and further funding to strengthen the rest of Illinois' behavioral health services and crisis assistance programs.
- HB 3819 (P.A. 103-0361) Authorizes law enforcement to develop and implement deflection programs in Illinois that offer immediate pathways to services as an alternative to criminal justice involvement and unnecessary admission to emergency departments.
- SB 1543 (P.A. 103-0382) Establishes a new governor-appointed position within the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to serve as the Statewide PTSD Mental Health Coordinator. The Statewide Coordinator is to be responsible for implementing a program of mental health support and education for law enforcement officers.
- SB 1886 (P.A. 103-0391) Eliminates fees for probationers who can't afford them; limits judges' ability to order probationers to stop using medically prescribed drugs, such as methadone and cannabis; and prohibits courts from requiring drug tests or monitoring devices for legal substances, such as alcohol or cannabis in case unrelated to alcohol or substance abuse.
- HB3203 (P.A. 103-0336) To help combat the opioid epidemic, this measure allows pharmacists and retail stores to sell potentially lifesaving fentanyl test strips over the counter. County health departments could also distribute the test strips to the public for free under this new law. Also, the word for test strips will be removed from statute as currently considered "drug paraphernalia".
- HB 3924 Requires high schools to teach students about the dangers of fentanyl in state-required health courses. The coursework would include differentiating legal and illegal uses of the drug, details about "the process of lacing fentanyl in drugs and why drugs get laced with fentanyl," as well as information on how to detect fentanyl in drugs and how to save someone from an overdose.