



Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative

Guidelines for Submissions to the MATI Monthly e-Newsletter

Length: 250-300 words

Deadline: 15th of each month

Process: Please send your article by email to Jason Brame, MATI Communications Coordinator, at jasonb@communityadvocates.net.

Articles submitted to the newsletter will be reviewed and edited by MATI staff before posting.

If you have any questions, contact Jason at (414) 270-2951.

Subject: Please stick within the MATI general messages as outlined below:

- **The Treatment Gap:** A wide treatment gap exists in the nation and especially in Wisconsin where people are not getting treated for their addictions due to funding, access and capacity issues.
- **Health Issue:** Addiction is recognized as a disease by the medical profession. People seeking addiction treatment suffer discrimination in health care coverage. There is much stigma and misunderstanding of the disease of addiction. We need a health care system that treats addiction in the same way as other chronic, relapse-prone diseases such as diabetes. We need parity in insurance coverage.

Addiction is also a public health issue. When left untreated it impacts family life, the criminal justice system, the workplace and public safety. The community needs to provide understanding and support for effective long-term recovery.

- **Budget Issue:** The cost effectiveness of a rational system of funding and treating addiction. The savings will outweigh the cost of treatment. In Wisconsin, instead of assessing people effectively and sending them to treatment, we are spending money incarcerating them, in lost productivity and absenteeism, in responding to accidents and crime, in broken families and troubled youth.

Thank you for your submission—it is deeply appreciated. You are helping us to work toward improving the way addiction treatment is funded and delivered.