

**Jason Brame**

**From:** Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative [jasonb@communityadvocates.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2009 9:45 AM  
**To:** Jason Brame  
**Subject:** March 15 Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI) e-Newsletter



## e-Newsletter

**Resources**

[MATI Web Site](#)

[MATI Blog](#)

[Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap](#)  
(Open Society Institute)

[Community Advocates Public Policy Institute](#)

**In This Issue**

[Welcome Robert Cherry,](#)  
System Redesign Coordinator

[MATI Blog Up and Running](#)

[Wisconsin Suffers from High Rate of Alcohol Abuse, Unmet Treatment Need](#)

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March 16, 2009

Dear Jason,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI) e-Newsletter, a new effort to inform you of MATI's work to close the addiction treatment gap in Milwaukee County.

As we more fully develop the e-Newsletter we are counting on you to provide comments and suggestions -- as well as content -- to make each edition as informative as possible. You can reach Jason Brame, MATI communications coordinator and e-Newsletter editor, at [jasonb@communityadvocates.net](mailto:jasonb@communityadvocates.net) or (414) 475-6253 ext. 303.

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving the MATI e-Newsletter, please forward them this email and ask them to join our mailing list. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please click the SafeUnsubscribe link at the bottom of this message.

We hope you find the e-Newsletter useful and look forward to hearing from you.

**Welcome Robert Cherry, MATI**

## System Redesign Coordinator

Welcome to Robert Cherry, MATI's new System Redesign Coordinator.

Robert will:

- Work closely with criminal justice organizations, addiction / mental health treatment agencies and consumers, the recovery community, advocacy groups, child welfare, and faith-based and health care agencies to create a more effective and efficient addiction delivery system.
- Facilitate complex, inter-agency addiction and mental health purchasing, service delivery assessments and mapping.
- Identify systemic strengths / weaknesses, barriers and gaps in service delivery and purchasing.
- Help identify potential funding sources, evidence-based models and possible reallocation of resources to address gaps.



Robert most recently conducted community outreach at the Milwaukee office of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Urban Population Health, where he coordinated trainings for the Midwest Aids Training and Education Center (MATEC) and assisted with center-related, community-based initiatives. Robert, who has strong interests in public health and systems design, also worked in the central intake unit at M & S Clinical Services and Wisconsin Community Services.

Robert received a degree in criminal justice from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. You can reach Robert at (414) 475-6253 ext. 307 or email him at [robertc@communityadvocates.net](mailto:robertc@communityadvocates.net).

## MATI Blog Up and Running

### WE ENCOURAGE YOUR COMMENTS, CONTENT

Be sure to visit and bookmark MATI's new [blog](#) for the latest program updates and information about health care, addiction and treatment. The MATI blog is at <http://ca-mati-blog.blogspot.com/>

We hope that you will join in the conversation by leaving your thoughts and comments. Additionally, we encourage you to submit your addiction- and treatment-related content to be posted on the

blog, such as new studies and reports, notices of your seminars, workshops and other community events relevant to the MATI audience, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jason Brame, MATI communications coordinator, at (414) 475-6253 ext. 303 or email [jasonb@communityadvocates.net](mailto:jasonb@communityadvocates.net).

## Wisconsin Suffers from High Rate of Alcohol Abuse, Unmet Treatment Need

Despite some of the highest alcohol consumption rates in the nation, Wisconsin does not offer sufficient treatment options for people suffering from alcohol abuse, according to a recent [report](#) by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Based on national survey data, SAMHSA's [State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2005-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health](#) found that Wisconsin has some of the highest rates in the nation of alcohol use and binge alcohol use. In Wisconsin in 2005-06:

- **22.5 percent of individuals age 18-25 suffered from alcohol dependence or abuse**, compared to 17.5 percent nationally -- the fourth consecutive year Wisconsin's results were higher than the national average.
- **21 percent of individuals age 18-25 needed but did not receive treatment for alcohol use**, compared to 17 percent nationally -- the fourth consecutive year Wisconsin's results were higher than the national average.
- **63.1 percent of individuals age 12 or older had used alcohol in the past month, the highest rate in the nation.**

Wisconsin was also among the top 10 states with the least perception of harm associated with having five or more alcoholic drinks once or twice a week.

Rates of past year drug dependence or abuse in Wisconsin, however, have generally been below the national rates. In 2005-06, slightly fewer than 2.5 percent of Wisconsin residents suffered from illicit drug abuse, compared with 2.8 percent nationally.

Untreated addiction has severe consequences. According to a joint statement of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, each year in Wisconsin drug and alcohol use is responsible for more than 90,000 arrests, 2,100 deaths and \$4.6 billion in associated costs.

Read the full news release [here](#). Listen to Wisconsin Public Radio coverage of the story [here](#) ([RealPlayer](#) required).

**The Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative** is a collaboration among local stakeholders -- including treatment providers, public health agencies, law enforcement, faith-based agencies, advocates and members of the recovery community -- to close the addiction treatment gap in Milwaukee County and ensure that everyone who needs treatment can receive it. The Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative is sponsored by a grant from the Open Society Institute, Baltimore, with additional funding from the Helen Bader Foundation and the Zilber Family Foundation.

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