

# No Easy Answers on Opioids

I'm taking over – for this issue, with permission – this space usually reserved for Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar. It's because I “went back to school” in the month of January in the form of learning more about the opioid epidemic plaguing our state and nation.



When seeking manufacturers willing to discuss drugs and the workplace, leaders at Mursix Corporation in Yorktown were quick to volunteer to share their experiences. And when Indiana Workforce Recovery (the partnership between the Wellness Council of Indiana and the Indiana Chamber to help educate employers and reduce the stigma around drug use) conducted the first of a series of strategy sessions in Terre Haute, I had the opportunity to be there to hear from professionals fighting this battle every day.

At Mursix, Susan Murray Carlock is adamant when she says she believes that at one time as many as 80% of the company's associates were impacted (either personally or through family members and friends) by drug misuse. And despite the proactive measures from Mursix in dramatically reducing (or eliminating) drug use on company grounds and assisting employees with resources for treatment, I was shocked to learn how few individuals (answer on Page 20) have been able to resume their careers with no further issues.

Another employer, not included in the story, also focuses on helping its associates in need. As the name implies, the “last chance agreement” does not account for the all-too-frequent cycle of recoveries and relapses. These employers and others, however, are rightfully looking out for the safety of all their associates. What a difficult predicament!

At the employer strategy sessions, in-your-face statistics and tug-at-your-heart stories set the stage for the tactics business leaders should embrace. One of the most important facts to remember is that employers have even more influence than family members when it comes to convincing those suffering from drug misuse to obtain the help they need.

Our yearlong series continues on Page 18.

Thank you, as always, for reading *BizVoice*®.

Tom Schuman  
Editor



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**BizVoice®**

**Publisher**  
Kevin Brinegar  
kbrinegar@indianachamber.com

**Editor**  
Tom Schuman  
(317) 264-3792  
tschuman@indianachamber.com

**Art Director**  
Tony Spataro  
tspataro@indianachamber.com

**Managing Editor**  
Rebecca Patrick  
rpatrick@indianachamber.com

**Advertising**  
Tim Brewer  
(317) 496-0704  
tbrewer@indianachamber.com

**Writers/Editors**  
Symone C. Skrzycki  
Charlee Beasor  
Caitlyn Beck

**Mission**  
To inform and influence

**Contributors**  
Beth Cobert  
Marc Levy  
Bill Turner  
Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Marianne Watson

**Indiana Chamber Chair**  
Paul Thrift  
Thompson Thrift  
Terre Haute

**Indiana Chamber Vice Chair**  
Tim Haffner  
Faegre Baker Daniels  
Indianapolis

**President and CEO**  
Kevin Brinegar

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Indiana Chamber of Commerce, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: (317) 264-3110 | Fax: (317) 264-6855  
www.indianachamber.com | bizvoice@indianachamber.com

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