

STATE EMPLOYER OPIOID STRATEGY SERIES RETURNS THIS FALL

Over the next few months, businesses throughout the state will have an opportunity to help their employees deal with substance misuse and learn prevention methods by attending a free opioid strategy session.

The programs will also include legal guidance as well as optional naloxone training from the Indiana State Department of Health on how and when to use the opioid overdose reversal drug.

Indiana Workforce Recovery, which is conducting the events, is a joint initiative created in collaboration with the Wellness Council of Indiana, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Gov. Eric Holcomb's administration.

The goal of the initiative is to prepare

Hoosier employers to deal with public health crises that impact the Indiana workforce. The employer opioid strategy series is part of that effort. The South Bend stop kicks off the series' fall schedule and takes place September 11, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Morris Park Country Club (2200 McKinley Avenue). A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Among the other locations are regional stops for southern Indiana – Perry County on October 8 and Scott County on October 31 – as well as Muncie (October 17), Indianapolis (November 5) and Elkhart (November 12). A Kokomo date is pending.

While the events are complimentary, registration is required. Company representatives can register at www.wellnessindiana.org/recovery (under Upcoming Events) and also learn more about Indiana Workforce Recovery.

Mike Thibideau, director of Indiana Workforce Recovery, notes that more than

350 employers participated in eight similar opioid strategy events earlier this year.

"Our goal is to educate as many employers as possible on how to reduce the short-term impact of the opioid epidemic on their businesses, while creating long-term solutions to help retain skilled workers," he says.

"One of the most impactful aspects of these events are the connections made, especially with treatment facilities and recovery programs right in their own community. This local approach provides a better and more successful support system for employees who need treatment."

The Indiana Workforce Recovery employer opioid strategy series is presented by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, RALI (Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative) and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

RESOURCE: Indiana Workforce Recovery at www.wellnessindiana.org/recovery



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