



Open House Event

On Thursday, June 8th, from 3:00pm-7:00pm the Clubhouse will be having our annual open house. All members are welcome and encouraged to invited friends, family, and any other guest who might be interested in seeing and learning more about the Clubhouse.

Weekly planning meetings for this event will be occurring every Monday at 10:30am at the Clubhouse. So far we have ideas for decorations, food, entertainment, and marketing for the event. If interesting in helping to plan this event, or sharing your story at the event, please feel free to attend one of these meetings.

CIRCLE CITY CLUBHOUSE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT : Josh P.



Clubhouse Member Josh P.

This month's member spotlight is Josh P. Josh first heard about the Clubhouse through a staff member at his group home. Josh was really amused and amazed by the Clubhouse from the beginning. "Everyone showed me respect, was kind to me, and was so welcoming. It is a place that I can grow and get

better by getting out into the community and staying positive with myself." Josh really enjoys working with everyone at the Clubhouse, especially the LIFE unit, because they are so kind. Josh likes to inspire people, make others laugh, and play video games. Josh wants all new and future members to know that the food here is amazing.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

- ⇒ Bowling
Wednesday, April 5th, 2017
Time: 5:30—7:30 pm
Cost: \$10.30 (2 games & shoes)
- ⇒ Monument Circle History Walk/ Scavenger Hunt
Tuesday, April 11, 2017
Time: 5:30pm—7:30pm
Cost: Free
- ⇒ Easter Celebration
Sunday, April 16, 2017
Time: 1:00pm—4:00pm
Cost: Free
- ⇒ Keep Indy Beautiful Community Cleaning Day
Saturday, April 22, 2017
Time: 8am—12pm
Cost: Free. Volunteers will receive a free breakfast.
- ⇒ Game Night
Thursday, April 27, 2017
Time: 5:30—7:30 pm
Cost: Free. Bring your own snacks to enjoy!

Our Visit to the State House by: Timothy O'Donnell

February 23rd the Clubhouse was able to visit the state house. This was a great opportunity for the Clubhouse because we spoke to many people about the Clubhouse model and what we do here. I personally got to speak with a young student named Hannah from IUPUI during lunch. I was able to talk to her about my business, my involvement with the Clubhouse, and mental illness as a whole. The main thing I told her was that developing recovery skills is essential for living successfully.

Unfortunately in the afternoon only two people could go speak with Senator Taylor. I stayed downstairs and did some networking with other professionals about the Clubhouse. One man I met with was a police officer. I explained to him how important it is to not stereotype individuals with a mental illness. We had a in depth discussion about self-defense and other rights of citizens. The police officer was very willing to listen to what I had to say about these topics. I think he walked away from our conversation with a better understanding of mental illness being unique to each person affected by it.

Later I spoke with staff from the Attorney General's office. I spoke with them about Senate Bill 155, and the current death penalty policy. He found the subject captivating. I can only hope that my input on the subject has made him and others more aware that prejudices should not be tolerated when it comes to people with mental illness. The death penalty should not be for those who are struggling with mental illness.

Lastly I would like to note that I find sanity through the Spirit, the living G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, by the power of Jesus Christ, Shalom.

"Update on Senate Bills; Keeping a Clubhouse eye on..."

On February 22nd Circle City Clubhouse visited the State House. There were two Senate Bills (SB) that we addressed with Senator Greg Taylor during our 1:30 PM meeting. Those were SB-231 and SB-155, the latter of which he was very passionate about. However SB-155 is in its early stages, as no other representatives have sponsored this bill and more than likely it will undergo some redrafting.

Indiana Senate Bill 231 was authored by Senator Michael Crider, Dist. 28 (East of Indy includes: Cumberland, New Pal, Greenfield, McCordsville, Morristown, etc.) and Jeff Raatz, R Dist. 27 (Eastern border of Indiana/Richmond area). The Co-Authors are Senators James Merrit, Blake Doriot, Mark Stoops, Greg Taylor, and Lonnie Randolph. Bill Sponsors are Harold Slager, Kevin Mahan, and Linda Lawson.

Bill 231 relates to crisis intervention teams and substance abuse programs. This bill provides that the chairperson of the Indiana commission to combat drug abuse (commission) is a member appointed by the governor who is either the executive director for drug prevention,

treatment, and enforcement or a member of the governor's staff. (Current law provides that the chairperson is a member of the governor's staff.) This bill specifies that the commission: (1) shall meet at the call of the chairperson, but at least four times in a calendar year; and (2) shall approve requests for substance abuse treatment and prevention programs. This bill transfers the administration of the technical assistance center for crisis intervention teams from the Indiana criminal justice institute to the Indiana law enforcement training board. It provides that in conjunction with the commission and the division of mental health and addiction, the law enforcement training board may establish the technical assistance center. Finally, this bill provides that the commission may make grants of up to \$300,000 annually to the law enforcement training board to carry out the purposes of the technical assistance center and make technical corrections.

Status: The Senate referred this bill to the House of Representatives on February 22nd and on February 28th the House had its first reading of this bill and referred it to the Committee on Public Health. We will be "keeping our eye on this" because if the Committee on Public Health chooses not to act on this bill, it is the same thing as if the bill was struck down.

Lance Washington Nami Criminal Justice Summit

March 10, 2017

At the Nami Criminal Justice Summit, I learned that the police force does not fully understand how to deal with the mentally ill community. They struggle to grasp the concept of people that have a hard time controlling their emotions because there are so many different thoughts coexisting at one time inside one's mind. It led me to the conclusion that when an officer has to reprimand a citizen with mental illness there was a lot of unseen trauma that led up to the confrontation.

I also attended workshops pertaining to death penalty for mental illness and autism. The keynote speaker for the death penalty talked about how people that are in favor of the death penalty are not in favor of the death penalty for mental illness. The budget for the death penalty is ten times more costly than the cost of life without parole. In the autism workshop, I learned that there are not as many resources across the state of Indiana for autism vs other disabilities.

I attended a speech by the uni-bomber's little brother, David Kaczynski. He really broke down the fact that even though his brother went on to commit horrendous crimes, he still had a good-natured heart. When he was nine months old he got really sick and had to go to the hospital for a long time and his parents could only visit him three days a week for only two hours a day. And so in hind sight he felt abandoned and that feeling of abandonment was internalized. When Ted Kaczynski was nine and David was three, Ted built a make shift door handle for his little brother because he struggled to reach the regular door handle. It was such a moving speech that by the end of it there was not a dry eye in the building. He was so captivating that it felt like you were watching a great movie.



Like a fresh flower

Sprouting towards the sun.

We hope your spring is a delightful one!

Happy Spring from Circle City Clubhouse