Governor Gina M. Raimondo’s Task Force on Overdose Prevention and Intervention
June 10, 2020

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
COVID-19 HOMELESS RESPONSE
Maintain State Quarantine/Isolation Sites
- Provide safe places to isolate
- Provide wrap-around services
- Develop sustainable staffing plan

Shelter Reduction Program
- Implemented a program to reduce numbers in the congregate shelters during the surge (May, June):
  - Two hotels
  - 200 rooms

Core to Our Work:
- Engagement
- Mitigation
- Sustainability

Continue Shelter Mitigation Efforts
- Operate hotel shelters through May
- Dispatch mobile testing to shelters
- Develop “new normal” ops plan
- Support PHA/cooling centers

Pivot to Long-term Planning
- Develop affordable housing plan
- Enhance response programs
- Increase partner coordination
- Eviction diversion program

Populations

Experiencing Homelessness
- Living in congregate settings
- Unsheltered population
- Medically complex/older adults

At-Risk
- Housing insecure
- Frontline workers

Core to Our Work:
- Engagement
- Mitigation
- Sustainability
Strategy:

- Campaign to secure 100+ private rental housing units to rapidly rehouse households

- Resource Surge to set households up for success as they transition to housing; provides connection to health insurance, health care, access to food stamps/nutrition programs and other mainstream benefits, etc...

- Housing Development/Subsidy Strategy to bring more housing units online as part of a Phase 2 of the housing surge
SAFE STATIONS is a path to recovery.

pvdsafestations.com
Opioid Overdose Prevention: Downtown Providence, RI

Ellen Cynar, MS, MPH
Director, Healthy Communities Office
City of Providence
Overview

1. Introduction: Healthy Communities Office
2. Downtown Providence opioid overdose overview
3. Needs assessment process
4. Key themes
5. Challenges
Healthy Communities Office

• Created in 2012 by Executive Order
• Developed out of the Mayor’s Substance Abuse Prevention Council
• Leads the City’s health policy and advocacy
• Region 3 prevention coalition backbone
Downtown Overdose Overview

Downtown Needs Assessment

• Working with RI Public Health Institute

• Process/Methodology
  – Secondary data compilation and analysis
  – Key informant interviews to identify priority needs, community infrastructure, and recommendations
  – Community engagement
  – Recommendations based on priority health and service needs
  – Action plan portraying community needs, strengths, and opportunities
Key Themes (so far)

- Downtown looks very different during Covid-19 pandemic
- Important intersection between behavioral health and housing
- Opportunity for dedicated and coordinated social service supports
Challenges

• Engagement with Providence Place Mall
• Acute need for basic services
• Community engagement barriers due to social distancing requirements
• How to make recommendations based on current/future Covid-19 conditions
Contact Information

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Providing Integrated Services Under Unprecedented Conditions – Lessons from COVID-19

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Chief Operating Officer  
VICTA
Overview/Context

• Who is VICTA?
• Impact of COVID-19 on our population and operations
• What’s happening with substance use, mental health, and medical needs in our communities?
• Coping with our collective trauma

Lessons Learned/Next Steps

• Changing drug supply: addressing carfentanil, methamphetamines
• Policy changes: methadone, suboxone, telehealth, and health promotion
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