



Governor Dan McKee's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force | August 10, 2022

Ana Novais, MA; Acting Secretary, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Richard Charest, MBA; Director, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare,
Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

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Welcome and Announcements

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Task Force Work Groups

View all meeting schedules and get involved at PreventOverdoseRI.org/task-force-work-groups

Work Group	State Agency Co-Chair	Community Co-Chair
Prevention	James Rajotte (EOHHS) Elizabeth Farrar (BHDDH)	Obed Papp , City of Providence Healthy Communities Office
Rescue	Jennifer Koziol (RIDOH)	Michelle McKenzie , Preventing Overdose and Naloxone Intervention (PONI)
Harm Reduction	Katharine Howe (RIDOH)	Katelyn Case , AIDS Care Ocean State
Treatment	Linda Mahoney (BHDDH)	Dr. Susan Hart
Recovery	Candace Rodgers (BHDDH)	George O'Toole , East Bay Recovery Center
First Responders	Carolina Roberts-Santana (RIDOH)	Chief John Silva , North Providence Fire Department
Racial Equity	Monica Tavares (RIDOH)	Dennis Bailer , Project Weber/RENEW Alexis Morales , Project Weber/RENEW
Substance-Exposed Newborns	Margo Katz (RIDOH) Kristy Whitcomb (RIDOH)	Michelle Sherman , South County Home Health First Connections Program
Family Task Force	Trisha Suggs (BHDDH)	Laurie MacDougall , Resources Education Support Together (REST) Family Program at Rhode Island Community for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES)

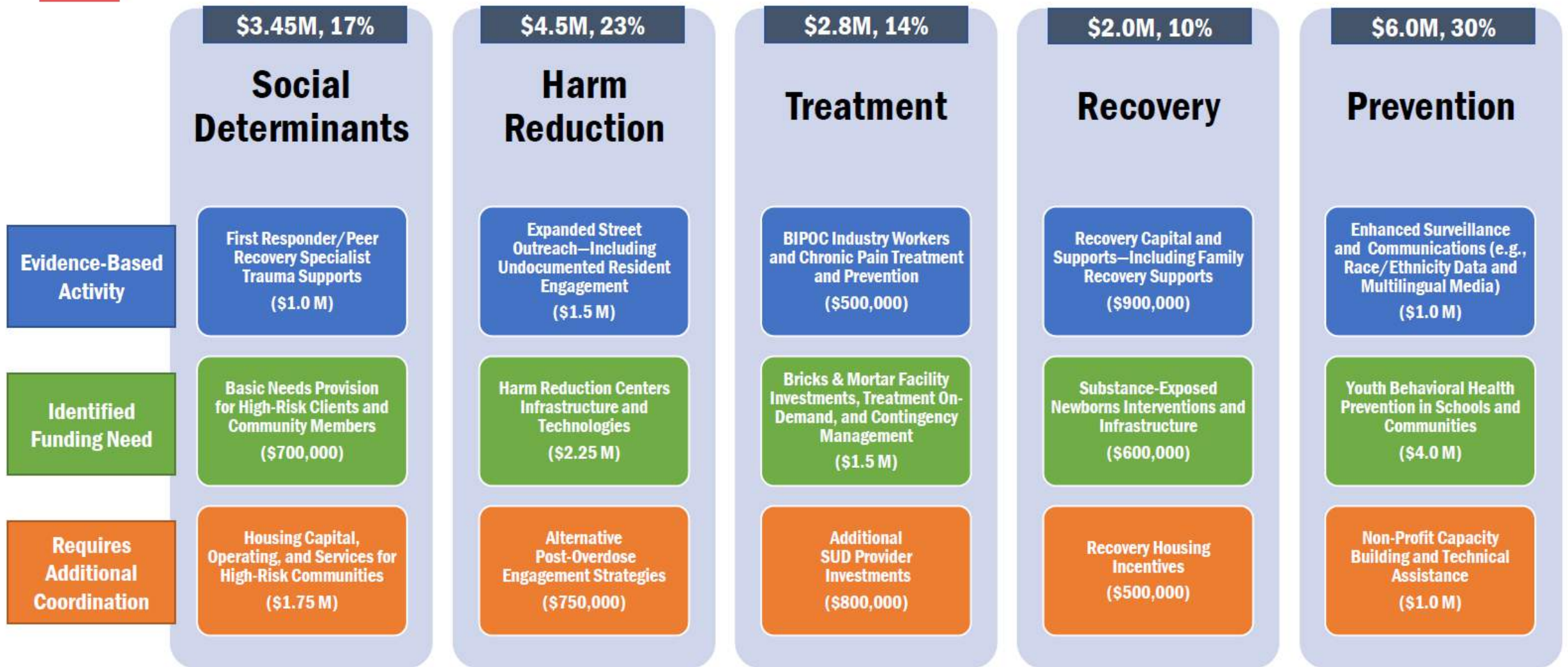
Task Force Work Groups

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Work Group	Meets	Next Mtg	Meeting Details
Prevention: James.C.Rajotte@ohhs.ri.gov Elizabeth.Farrar@bhddh.ri.gov	Monthly 1 st Tues., 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	Sept. 6	Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/94436323722?pwd=TIlvQjF2TEFIRTM5VytRDIIVUpsdz09 Meeting ID: 944 3632 3722 Dial In: 646-558-8656 Passcode: PSWG
Rescue: Jennifer.Koziol@health.ri.gov	Every Other Month 2 nd Thurs., 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Aug. 11	Join Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92263356004?pwd=c1VWVHZsWnYyYWh4U1Rhczl0WjRaZz09 Meeting ID: 922 6335 6004 Dial In: 646-558-8656 Passcode: RWG
Harm Reduction: Katharine.Howe@health.ri.gov	Monthly 2 nd Tues., 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	Sept. 13	Microsoft Teams Click here to join the meeting (audio only) +1 401-437-4452,,351888385# US, Providence Phone Conference ID: 351 888 385#
Treatment: Linda.Mahoney@bhddh.ri.gov	Monthly 1 st Tues., 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Sept. 6	Microsoft Teams Click here to join the meeting
Recovery: Candace.Rodgers@bhddh.ri.gov	Monthly 3 rd Wed., 10:30 a.m.–Noon	Aug. 17	Microsoft Teams Click here to join the meeting
First Responders: C.RobertsSantana@health.ri.gov	Every Other Month 3 rd Thurs., 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Aug. 18	Microsoft Teams Click here to join the meeting
Racial Equity: Monica.Tavares@health.ri.gov	Monthly Last Thurs., 10 a.m.–11 a.m.	Aug. 25	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82826231924 Meeting ID: 828 2623 1924 Mobile +19292056099,,82826231924# US (New York)
Substance-Exposed Newborns: Margo.Katz@health.ri.gov Kristy.Whitcomb@health.ri.gov	Monthly 2 nd Tues., 2 p.m.–3 p.m.	Sept. 13	Microsoft Teams Click here to join the meeting (audio only) +1 401-437-4452,,189953277# United States, Providence (833) 201-5833,,189953277# United States (Toll-free)
Family Task Force: Trisha.Suggs@bhddh.ri.gov	Monthly 2 nd Tues., 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m.	Sept. 13	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8467337054

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Funding Proposal – July 2022

\$18.75M Allocated below + \$1.25M for Governance = \$20M Total





Overdose Fatality Review: Introduction and Recent Recommendations

August 10, 2022

Governor's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force

Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team



Overview

- Multidisciplinary team
- Legislatively mandated
- Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant
- Information about individuals is de-identified and protected
- Four OFR meetings are scheduled for 2022

Goals

- Use qualitative data to examine emerging trends in the drug overdose epidemic.
- Identify demographic, geographic, and structural points for prevention.

Presentation Objectives



- Share highlights from the February and May 2022 Reports
- Note possible new overdose trends, directions, and priorities
- Reaffirm key priorities from previous 2017-2021 Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Reports

Focus of the February and May 2022 OFR Reports



February 2022 Report

- Individuals younger than age 25 that lost their lives to an accidental drug overdose in 2021.

May 2022 Report

- Individuals who lost their lives to an accidental drug overdose in 2021 in one of three Providence's Community Overdose Engagement (CODE) Collaborative neighborhoods: Downtown, 02907/West Elmwood, or Olneyville/Central Providence.

OFR Report: Organized by Themes



Themes	Recommendations
Communications	Expanding or creating paid or organic media campaigns as well as providing information to inform and educate via a variety of communication channels.
Data	Expanding data collection initiatives by collecting, providing, or utilizing data in different ways. Includes recommendations related to the Rhode Island Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and others.
Emergency Response	Improving, expanding, or collaborating with emergency response services, or related to naloxone utilization by emergency responders.
Outreach	Sharing information and collaborating across organizations and members, as well as community training, naloxone distribution, and naloxone utilization.
Policy, Legislation, or Government Agency	Developing, enhancing/updating proposals for policy or legislation as well as developing proposals for structural changes addressed by government agencies.
Providers	Sharing information, expanding services, or improving communication with healthcare providers.
Recovery	Expanding, enhancing, or collaborating to develop or improve recovery support services and programs.
Treatment	Expanding or enhancing treatment services including increased access to medications for opioid use disorder. Improving care coordination across treatment providers.

Highlights: February and May 2022 Recommendations

February and May 2022 Recommendations: High Priorities from Past Reviews



Treatment and Care Coordination

- **Improve care coordination** by increasing awareness of its definition and related services as well as how to access services.
- **Explore systemic changes** to provide immediate support to patients who have been discharged from local emergency departments (e.g., connection to housing and behavioral health services).

February and May 2022 Recommendations: High Priorities from Past Reviews



Housing

- **Increase the availability of safe and stable housing** in Rhode Island, including the availability of family-friendly recovery housing.

Reimbursement

- **Continue to explore ways to improve adequate, fair reimbursement rates** for substance use treatment providers.

February and May 2022 Recommendations: High Priorities from Past Reviews



Communication and Outreach

- Continue to promote awareness about the risk of counterfeit pills, fentanyl-contaminated drug supplies, and risk of overdose.
- Continue to provide [fentanyl awareness posters and educational materials](#) to local treatment facilities and behavioral health/treatment provider offices.

Leave-Behind Naloxone


- Increase the availability of Leave-Behind Naloxone Programs in Rhode Island.

Emerging Trends: Methamphetamine Use



- **Promote public messaging** (e.g., social media, earned media, and community awareness) about the increase in methamphetamine use.
- **Conduct outreach** to local businesses selling equipment commonly used for using crystal methamphetamine. Outreach could include:
 - Provide education materials, build rapport between outreach workers and owners, distribute fentanyl test strips, provide [NaloxBoxes](#), and consider cash incentives for store owners to participate.
- **Continue to collect data** on methamphetamine use and methamphetamine-related overdoses. Disseminate information about its impact.

Methamphetamine Use in Rhode Island



In 2019, an estimated 4,000 individuals used methamphetamines in the past 12 months.

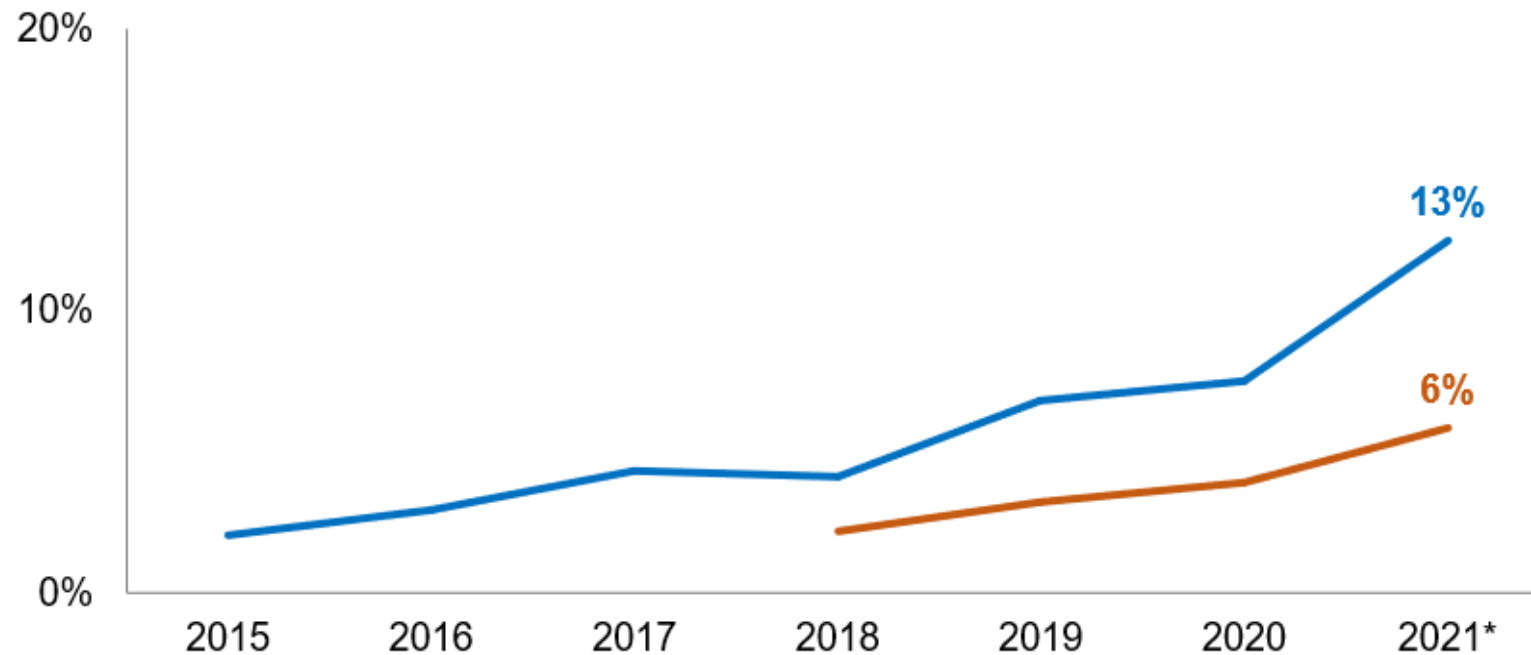
Note: RIDOH does not have any data for specifics related to age, sex, race, ethnicity, or frequency of use.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2018 and 2019.

Amphetamine and Methamphetamine-Involved Fatal Overdoses



The proportion of fatal overdoses involving **amphetamines** and **methamphetamines** has been increasing since 2018.



Note: Data reflect accidental drug overdose deaths and do not include suicides, homicides, or undetermined deaths. Drug categories are not mutually exclusive. More than one substance may have contributed to the cause of death.

Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Data updated as of March 28, 2022.

Response to Rise in Polysubstance Use



- **Train detoxification and treatment providers to educate all clients**, particularly clients who use stimulants, on the risks of contaminated drug supplies, the presence of fentanyl in stimulants, and overdose recognition and response.
- **Encourage providers to educate all patients**, regardless of reported substance use history, about the interactions of specific prescription drugs with illicit drugs. Provide educational materials and resources in multiple languages and formats.
- **Focus outreach efforts on individuals who use alcohol**, including outreach to liquor stores and existing in-reach projects conducted by Providence CODE Collaboratives. Outreach efforts should include the distribution of signage to educate people on the risks of substance use, overdose, and the availability of naloxone.

Additional Areas Highlighted



- **Children and Youth Adults:** Encourage pediatricians to discuss and continue to utilize screening for mental health conditions and substance use/misuse for all family members in the home at well-child visits.
- **Family-Focused Recovery:** Provide awareness, resources, and support to families impacted by a loved one's substance use conditions, traumas, and/or mental health diagnoses.
- **Treatment:** Encourage healthcare providers to continue to utilize universal screening for substance use and mental health conditions for pregnant people and mothers who use substances.

Key Take-Aways



- Qualitative Data from Fatal Case Reviews (four to five cases per meeting); a portion of recommendations were shared today.
- Use information shared to inform response, especially focusing on the areas highlighted today.
- You can review the full 2022 OFR Reports for February, May, and August 2022 (available in September) on [RIDOH's Drug Overdose Surveillance Data Hub](#).

Next Steps



- Make these recommendations accessible and actionable whenever possible.
- Continue to bring OFR recommendations to the Governor's Task Force Work Groups via Task Force Work Group Co-Chairs.
- Finalize and publish OFR Report from the August meeting.

Questions and Discussion



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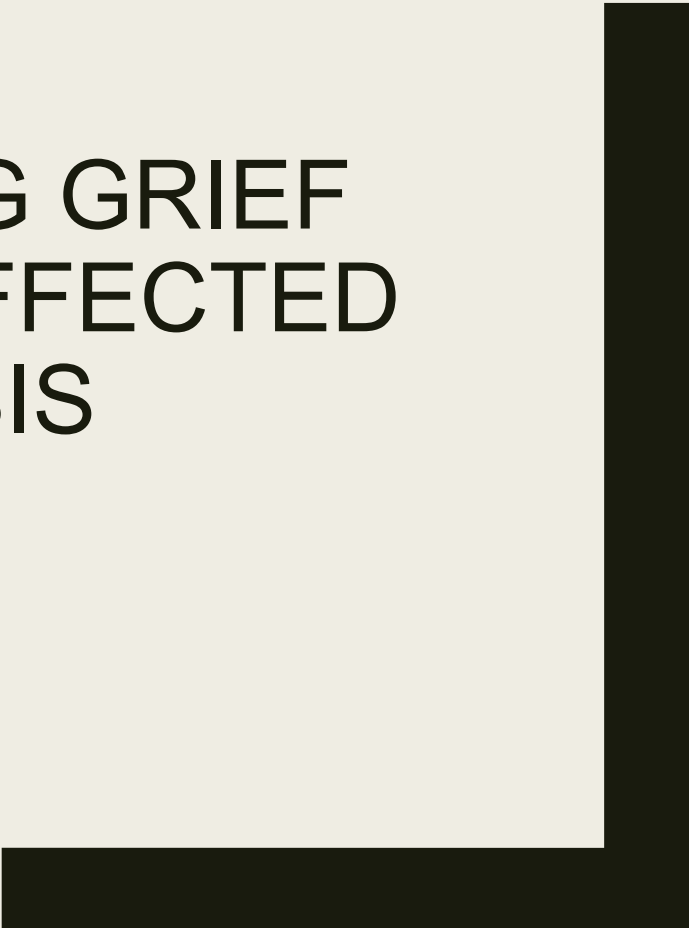

Family Recovery Community Resources for Our Children and Youth

THE SEVEN CHALLENGES®



The Family Task Force
Saving Lives, Ending Stigma





**FRIENDS WAY: PROVIDING GRIEF
SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AFFECTED
BY THE OPIOID CRISIS**

Ryan Loiselle, MSW, LICSW

Program Director

FRIENDS WAY

Grief Support in Rhode Island



- Founded in 1999, Incorporated in 2000
- Families Reaching Into Each New Day, Inc: based on the Dougy Center model in Portland, OR.
- Peer-based support groups for children and teens, ages 3-18 and their primary caregiver, after a significant death, offered at no cost
- Affiliated with Gateway Healthcare, Inc. and Lifespan
- 1.6 Full-Time Employees

Needs of grieving children and teens



- 1 in 13 children in Rhode Island will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of 18.
- 40% of the families at FRIENDS WAY have experienced a death due to overdose, suicide or an addiction related death.
- Children need honest and developmentally-appropriate information, given in small bites.
- The best predictor of how children and teens will cope with their grief depends on the mental health of the surviving adult/caregiver.

How can you help?



- Become involved: VOLUNTEER!
- Have us do a presentation for your staff
- Become an ambassador for FRIENDS WAY: help us by collaborating on grants
- Get your organization to do volunteer work: clean up, organize
- Help us raise necessary funds, to ensure that no child grieves alone

FRIENDS WAY



Ryan Loiselle, MSW, LICSW

Program Director

FRIENDS WAY

765 West Shore Rd.

Warwick, RI 02889

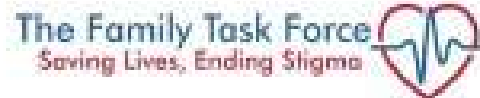
401.921.0980

friendsway.org

R.Loiselle@friendsway.org

Family Recovery Community Resources for Our Youth

THE SEVEN CHALLENGES®



State Youth Treatment

- The Seven Challenges Program
 - ages 12-25, substance and co-occurring
 - 4 provider sites
 - Private Practice Clinicians
 - Brief Challenges Program
 - 4 sessions
 - Middle and High Schools
 - RISAS
 - Seeking Safety
 - Trauma Informed
- 2nd Act, Inc.
 - Drama performances in Middle and High Schools, as well as colleges.

State Youth Treatment – new programs

- Substance Awareness Youth Ambassadors
 - High School Student Volunteer Program
 - Committed to helping improve the health and well-being of youth
 - Assist in identifying needs.
 - Share thoughts about experiences with friends who use.
- Youth Peer Recovery Specialists
 - Peers ages 15-18 who help youth engage in the recovery process.
 - Unique perspective because of they are at the same stage of life, may have similar experiences in mental health, substance use, recovery, trauma, incarceration/juvenile justice, foster care, education, LGBTQQI2s, etc.
 - Empower youth to remove barriers and obstacles associated with a youth's recovery process.

The Family Task Force

- Certified Family Peer Specialist
- Crisis Tool Kit-
 - In 2022, 100 toolkits distributed
 - 100 remaining
 - On track to distribute 2800 toolkits in 5 years

The Family Task Force

- Condolence card- three versions
Portuguese, Spanish, and English
- *Forever in Our Hearts Page*



<https://www.familytaskforce.org/copy-of-forever-in-our-hearts>

Contacts:

Trisha Suggs, The Seven Challenges Project
Director, BHDDH, trisha.suggs@bhddh.ri.gov,
401-462-2773

Laurie MacDougall, Co-Chair, The Family Task
Force, Allies in Recovery, CFPS,
lcmac11@comcast.net

Upcoming Community Events for International Overdose Awareness Day and National Recovery Month

Jonathon Goyer; Director, Rhode Island Recovery Friendly
Workplace Initiative and Task Force Expert Advisor

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THIS IS MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN EVER

#iOAD2022

 International Overdose
Awareness Day
31 August

Help end overdose today

International Overdose Awareness Day

The world's annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind.

Wednesday, August 31st 2022



**RI HAS A PLAN TO PASS
OUT 3K NARCAN
AND YOU CAN JOIN US!**

#ENDOVDOSERI

**INTERNATIONAL
OVERDOSE
AWARENESS DAY
AUGUST 31ST 2022**

REGISTER YOURSELF OR YOUR
ORGANIZATION'S PARTICIPATION
TO GET TRAINING AND JOIN
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
TO BUILD KITS!

TINYURL.COM/IOAD22

ANY QUESTIONS?
PLEASE CONTACT
IOAD@WEBERRENEW.ORG



Narcan distribution is happening across the state all day, in every town. Primary focus is at grocery stores, libraries, etc.

Please contact Ashley Perry from PWR, Selene Means from RICARES or Sarah Edwards from PSN for specific locations and times.

Ashley Perry

aperry@weberrenew.org

Selene Means

smeans@ricares.org

Sarah Edwards

S.edwards@psnri.org



Wednesday, August 31st 2022

- **Woonsocket** – Sponsored by Community Care Alliance

Speakers, Resources and Remembrance

Time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: 800 Clinton St., Woonsocket

- **Providence** – Sponsored by Project Weber/RENEW + RICARES

Food, Candlelight Vigil and Reading of Names

Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Location: Burnside Park



Wednesday, August 31st 2022

- **West Warwick** – Sponsored by the West Warwick Health Equity Zone (HEZ)
Annual Vigil and Remembrance Event
Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Location: Majestic Gazebo in Arctic

- **Warren** – Sponsored by the East Bay Recovery Center and Warren
Annual Vigil and Remembrance Event
Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Location: East Bay Recovery Community Center



Wednesday, August 31st 2022

- **Newport – Sponsored by PSN**

Water Walk Vigil

Time: 5 p.m. Start

Location: Second Beach

- **Westerly – Sponsored by PSN**

Water Walk Vigil

Time: 5 p.m. Start

Location: Misquamicut Beach

Rally4Recovery

ABOUT RALLY4RECOVERY RHODE ISLAND

Rally4Recovery RI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that hosts Rhode Island's largest celebration honoring National Recovery Month every September. It has grown each year since it was first held on a small patch of grass on the grounds of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) in 2003.

These events are an opportunity for the general public to connect with the recovery community, gather resources and learn how to access help. The Rally is also an opportune time for people in recovery to build up their network and celebrate the fact that recovery is a reality!

Rally4Recovery



- **Bristol** – Sponsored by Bristol HEZ

Resource Tables, Live Music, Food, Speakers

Date/Time: **Saturday, September 10th | Noon – 3 p.m.**

Location: Bristol Town Beach, Colt State Park

- **Warwick** – Sponsored by Warwick HEZ + Substance Abuse TF

Recovery Walk + Resource Tables

Date/Time: **Saturday, September 24th | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Location: City Park, Warwick

Rally4Recovery



- **Providence (Main Rally)**

Date/Time: **Saturday, September 17th | Noon – 4 p.m.**

Location: Temple to Music, Roger Williams Park



Job Fair, Kid Zone, Food, Live Music/Entertainment, Raffle Frenzy, Special Guest Speakers, 60+ Resource tables, and much more!

Rally4Recovery.org

Sponsors Include: RI Recovery Friendly Workplace, RIDOH, ATTC, CODAC, Parent Support Network, EB Recovery Center, Galilee Mission, Narcotics Anonymous and many more!

Public Comment

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