## Task Force Work Groups

View all meeting schedules and get involved at [PreventOverdoseRI.org/task-force-work-groups](http://PreventOverdoseRI.org/task-force-work-groups)

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Group</th>
<th>Meets</th>
<th>Next Mtg</th>
<th>Meeting Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td><a href="mailto:James.C.Rajotte@ohhs.ri.gov">James.C.Rajotte@ohhs.ri.gov</a></td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>1st Tues., 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Sept. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Farrar@bhddh.ri.gov">Elizabeth.Farrar@bhddh.ri.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescue:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jennifer.Koziol@health.ri.gov">Jennifer.Koziol@health.ri.gov</a></td>
<td>Every Other Month</td>
<td>2nd Thurs., 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Aug. 11</td>
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<td>Harm Reduction:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Katharine.Howe@health.ri.gov">Katharine.Howe@health.ri.gov</a></td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>2nd Tues., 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Sept. 13</td>
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<td>Treatment:</td>
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<td>1st Tues., 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Sept. 6</td>
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<td>+1 333 201-5833, 189953277# United States (Toll-free)</td>
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<td>First Responders:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:C.RobertsSantana@health.ri.gov">C.RobertsSantana@health.ri.gov</a></td>
<td>Every Other Month</td>
<td>3rd Thurs., 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Aug. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Racial Equity:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Monica.Tavares@health.ri.gov">Monica.Tavares@health.ri.gov</a></td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Last Thurs., 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Aug. 25</td>
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<td>Substance-Exposed Newborns:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Margot.Katz@health.ri.gov">Margot.Katz@health.ri.gov</a></td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>2nd Tues., 2 p.m.–3 p.m. Sept. 13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kristy.Whitcomb@health.ri.gov">Kristy.Whitcomb@health.ri.gov</a></td>
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<td>Microsoft Teams Click here to join the meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Task Force:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Trisha.Suggs@bhddh.ri.gov">Trisha.Suggs@bhddh.ri.gov</a></td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>2nd Tues., 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Sept. 13</td>
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</table>
Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Funding Proposal – July 2022

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

- **Social Determinants**
  - First Responder/Peer Recovery Specialist Trauma Supports ($1.0 M)
  - Basic Needs Provision for High-Risk Clients and Community Members ($700,000)
  - Housing Capital, Operating, and Services for High-Risk Communities ($1.75 M)

- **Harm Reduction**
  - Expanded Street Outreach—including Undocumented Resident Engagement ($1.5 M)
  - Harm Reduction Centers Infrastructure and Technologies ($2.25 M)
  - Alternative Post-Overdose Engagement Strategies ($750,000)

- **Treatment**
  - BIPOC Industry Workers and Chronic Pain Treatment and Prevention ($500,000)
  - Bricks & Mortar Facility Investments, Treatment On-Demand, and Contingency Management ($1.5 M)
  - Additional SUD Provider Investments ($800,000)

- **Recovery**
  - Recovery Capital and Supports—including Family Recovery Supports ($900,000)
  - Substance-Exposed Newborns Interventions and Infrastructure ($600,000)
  - Recovery Housing Incentives ($500,000)

- **Prevention**
  - Enhanced Surveillance and Communications (e.g., Race/Ethnicity Data and Multilingual Media) ($1.0 M)
  - Youth Behavioral Health Prevention in Schools and Communities ($4.0 M)
  - Non-Profit Capacity Building and Technical Assistance ($1.0 M)
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Expanding or creating paid or organic media campaigns as well as providing information to inform and educate via a variety of communication channels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Response</td>
<td>Improving, expanding, or collaborating with emergency response services, or related to naloxone utilization by emergency responders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>Sharing information and collaborating across organizations and members, as well as community training, naloxone distribution, and naloxone utilization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy, Legislation, or Government Agency</td>
<td>Developing, enhancing/updating proposals for policy or legislation as well as developing proposals for structural changes addressed by government agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers</td>
<td>Sharing information, expanding services, or improving communication with healthcare providers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery</td>
<td>Expanding, enhancing, or collaborating to develop or improve recovery support services and programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>Expanding or enhancing treatment services including increased access to medications for opioid use disorder. Improving care coordination across treatment providers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highlights: February and May 2022 Recommendations
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.
• **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
Family Recovery Community Resources for Our Children and Youth
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®

[Logos of BHDDH, The Family Task Force, RISAS, and SAMHSA]
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, LGBTQI2s, 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, lcmdac11@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
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.
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 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!
• **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
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](http://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