



Governor Dan McKee's Overdose Task Force

January 10, 2024

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**RHODE
ISLAND**

Welcome and Announcements

**RHODE
ISLAND**

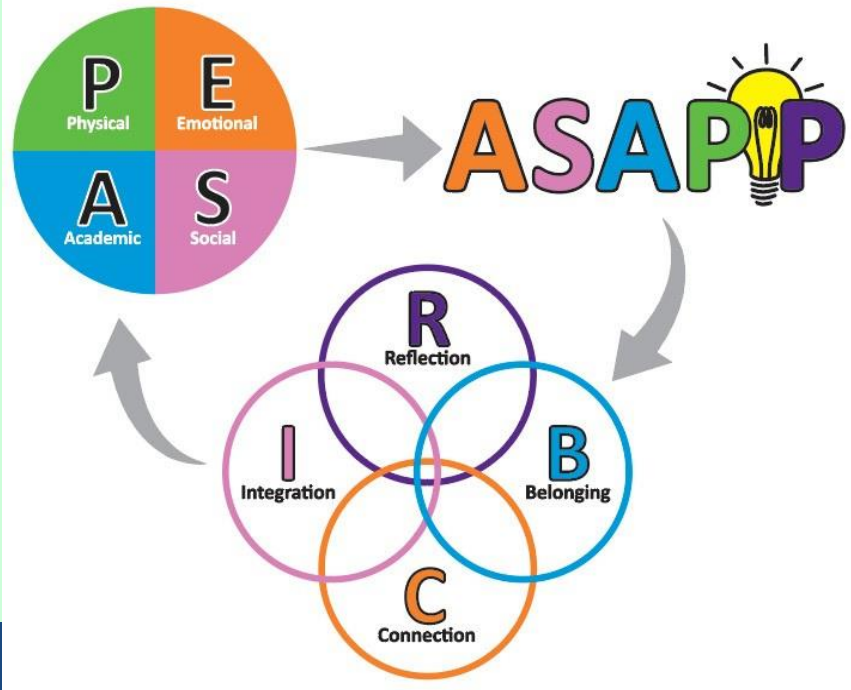
In Memory

Celebrating the Work of Bob Houghtaling



Remembering Bob Houghtaling







Elevating youth voices -
even during a pandemic





"I'll remember you. When I've forgotten all
the rest. You to me were true.
You to me were the best."
Bob Dylan

Forever in Memory

"I'll remember you. When I've forgotten all the rest. You to me were true. You to me were the best."

[Bob Dylan](#)





Rhode Island's Center For Harm Reduction & Recovery Services

Presented by: Ashley Perry, Deputy Director

Harm Reduction

Harm reduction, or harm minimization, refers to a range of public health policies designed to lessen the negative social and/or physical consequences associated with various human behaviors, both legal and illegal.

Definition from National Harm Reduction Coalition

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.

**Radical Love/
Radical Neutrality**





Sex Worker Support Group:

- Started May 2023
- Funded by National Council for Mental Wellbeing to Prevent Overdose in Marginalized Populations
- Has served 100 Women & gender nonconforming individuals
- Over 90% of participants have experienced an OD in the past

Project Break

EST Since 2019

Funded by SAMSHA in partnership with Miriam Hospital

Primarily serves men who have sex with men and who uses meth

“Our services are designed to engage individuals who identify as gay, bisexual, queer+ who are thinking about how to gain new ways to manage their substance use, develop healthier ways of living, and work towards living a life in line with their values and goals.”

Enrolled 175 - 132 of those were enrolled at PWR

There were 94 six-month follow ups done on time.

Provided 1,141 therapy sessions

We had 3,773 Project break encounters in total

- **1,849 were case management**
- **2,893 were peer support**
- **600 weeks of rent**

BEYOND the Understanding of Gender



- Partially funded through AIDS United
- Served 84 individuals in 2023
- Had over 600 case management sessions
- Has become a resource for trans and non gender conforming people to access treatment

Recovery Housing

In 2023, we placed 500 individuals into recovery housing. In total, we paid for 23,000 nights in recovery housing.

Thank You

aperry@weberrenew.org

Woonsocket Overview

Christa Thomas-Sowers

Community Outreach Coordinator

Community Care Alliance

Community Support

- Made possible by support from Community Overdose Engagement (CODE), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), and Health Equity Zone (HEZ) collaboration
- Support from numerous community partners: Blackstone Valley Prevention Coalition (BVPC), Thundermist, Landmark Hospital, New Beginnings, MAE Organization, CTC/Discovery House, Parent Support Network (PSN), Milagros Project, AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS), Preventing Overdose and Naloxone Administration (PONI), and MORE!





We <3 Our Community Partners!

Woonsocket Mobile Outreach Team

- Supported by the RIDOH
- Targeting overdose hot spots and engaging with individuals who are at high risk for overdose
- Consistent engagement within our community to maximize distribution of information and improve health outcomes for our people!
- Connection to individuals in emergency shelter projects in NRI



Safe Haven Drop-In Center

- Supported by funding from BHDDH
- Peer-led program opened February 2021
- Currently serving 50-100+ people **daily**
- Have served more than **1,195** unduplicated visitors
- Meet basic needs, provide peer support, naloxone, needles, safer smoking kits, condoms, and other harm reduction materials
- Referrals to detox, treatment, primary care, and additional supports
- A comfortable place for people to get warm, build relationships, and be connected to peer supports and other resources



What's Working!

- Harm Reduction!
 - Narcan Distribution
 - Safer Use Materials
 - Dissemination of Information
- Connection to PCP Doctors/First Aid
 - Thundermist
 - Wound Care Kits
 - Vaccine Clinic
- Peer Support and Interventions
 - Improved outcomes for treatment readiness
- Research/Surveys
 - Brown, Lifespan, PONI



What We Need:

- Suitable, adequate shelter beds and Permanent Supportive Housing for **every** type of client
- Ability to focus on harm reduction and recovery supports, not the housing crisis
- Appropriate wages and supports for peers and other frontline workers
- Access to safe transportation for clients



Dream Team!



Public Comment
