



Governor Dan McKee's Overdose Task Force

September 11, 2024

Richard Leclerc, Director, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

Jerome Larkin, MD; Director, Rhode Island Department of Health

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

Richard Charest, MBA; Secretary, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Thomas Joyce, LCDR, CPRS; Task Force Community Co-Chair

Cathy Schultz, MPH; Task Force Director, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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Welcome and Announcements

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2024 International Overdose Awareness Day Events



International Overdose Awareness Day 2024

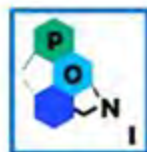
A TIME TO REMEMBER - A TIME TO ACT

A hand-drawn purple circle with a thick, slightly irregular stroke, framing the text inside.

TOGETHER
WE CAN!

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE
AWARENESS DAY

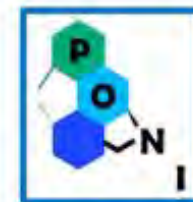
THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE





**IOAD
2024**



**Legislative Champion
Award
Deputy Majority
Leader Councilwoman
Mary Kay Harris,
City of Providence**



Lifetime Achievement Award

Jonathan Goyer





**Together we distributed 4,692 Narcan kits
across RI**



**#TogetherWeCanEndOverdose
#EndOverdoseRI**

2,578

**Providence, Pawtucket,
& Central Falls**

980

**Woonsocket, Smithfield,
& Lincoln**

427

**East Providence, Burrillville,
& Tiverton**

398

**Warwick, West Warwick,
& Coventry**







**Happy Recovery
Month!**



Governor's Overdose Task Force Recovery Work Group Updates

George O'Toole, BS, CPRS, CCHW- Community Co-Chair
Jeffrey Wolfsberg, Project Director of Rhode Island Recovery-Friendly
Workplace Initiative

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Strategic Plan: Supporting Recovery

Core Strategies

Core Strategy 1: Standardize Recovery-Focused Data Collection Methods and Success Metrics

Core Strategy 2: Build Recovery Capital Across Personal, Family/Social, Community, and Cultural Environments

Core Strategy 3: Recruit, Support, Expand, and Train Peer Recovery Specialists

Core Strategy 4: Support Substance-Exposed Newborn Interventions and Infrastructure

Core Strategy 5: Develop and Implement Recovery Policies

Governor's Overdose Task Force Recovery Work Group

- Meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to Noon
- Holds quarterly, in-person meetings usually in April, June, September, and December
- State Co-Chair: Candace Rodgers, BHDDH
Community Co-Chair: George O'Toole, East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)





A Summary of the Past Year, Current Status, and Future Direction

Prioritization of Past Report Findings

- **Top Results:**

- Compile a local resource guide that includes all resources available to Rhode Islanders, including basic needs support, treatment options, and recovery supports.
- Increase access to peer support in multiple settings such as hospitals, public housing, corrections, public schools, and criminal justice diversion programs (like mental health and drug courts).
- Increase employment opportunities available to people with criminal records.
- Increase access to trauma supports for professionals with lived experience so they have access to supportive resources in the same way as all other first responders do.
- Support recovery community centers in becoming the focal point of recovery services in their area.

Prioritization of Past Report Findings



- **Top Results (continued):**
 - Create and maintain a central job board specifically for jobs in Rhode Island that require lived experience.
 - Increase employment support available to people in recovery that focuses on finding careers rather than entry-level service jobs.
 - Increase access to mental health support for residents of recovery housing.
 - Increase the number of certified peer recovery specialists (CPRS) who speak Spanish.

Re-Engaging on Race Equity Consultant Findings (July 2024)

- Activity to reexamine the findings from the consultant group that visited with us in 2023.
 - Focus on criminal justice-involved populations as a tangible way to address racial disparities.
 - Work on creating an open and respectful workspace.
 - Example: Meeting participants were asked that Artificial Intelligence (AI) notetaking apps be disabled to encourage open conversation without fear.
 - Address social determinants of health as a contributing factor to equity issues.
 - Engaged with the Rhode Island Health Equity Zones (HEZ) during our last meeting in August 2024 to understand partnership opportunities.
 - Continues to be an area of focus.

Current Aligning Initiatives

- **Increase peer support in multiple settings**
 - Collegiate recovery programming funded in Fall 2024
 - Starting with up to three Rhode Island colleges and universities
 - Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response (SOR) grant
 - Creation of an Administrative Services Organization for criminal justice-involved individuals or individuals who are enrolled in adult or family drug court and need treatment and/or recovery services
 - Received a new SAMHSA grant that will start October 2024
 - Partially funded in Fall 2024 by the SAMHSA SOR grant
- **Increase employment opportunities for individuals with criminal records**
 - OpenDoors hosting job fairs
 - Building Futures apprenticeship program

Current Aligning Initiatives

Several employment-related priorities

- Continued investments in the Rhode Island Recovery-Friendly Workplace Initiative
 - Partnered with Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) to create and deliver Recovery Ally training to large employers and industry-related groups like the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns and Neighborhood Health Plan RI
 - Created a job board on recoveryfriendly.ri.gov



If you are interested in joining the Task Force Recovery Work Group, contact Natasha Andrews
Natasha.Andrews@bhddh.ri.gov.

For more information, contact
George O'Toole gotoole@ebcap.org
and Jeffrey Wolfsberg Jeffrey.Wolfsberg@bhddh.ri.gov.

OpenDoors
Foundations
Transitional
Recovery House for
Women

60 Terrace Ave., Providence, RI

Established September 2022



Meet Our Staff



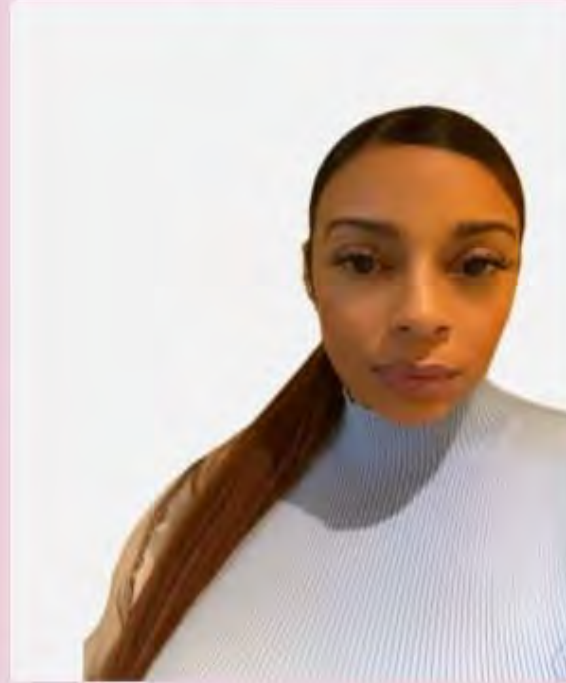
Dina Bruce

OpenDoors Deputy Director



*Cara Cote, CPRS,
CCHW*

OpenDoors Program Manager



Natasha Almeida

Foundations House Manager

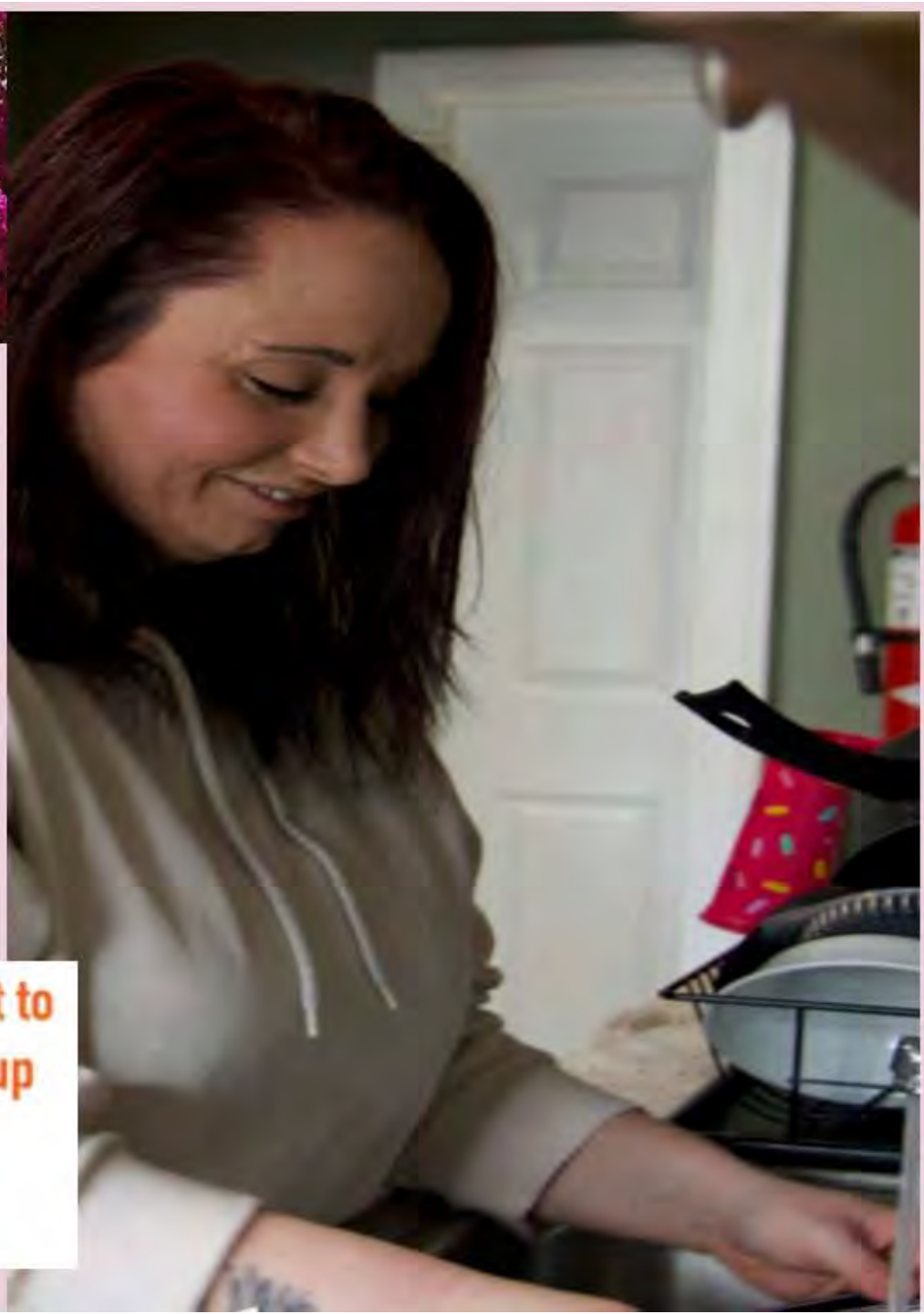


Chanelle Newkirk, CPRS,

CCHW, Doula

Foundations Case Manager





Foundations mission is to assist each resident in reaching their full potential and learning the power in their story while staying substance free, focused on recovery and away from criminal activity.

“This program makes me not want to go backwards, it was a big wake up call.”

Vanessa, program resident

About Foundations:

14 beds

6 month-1 year Program

Referrals:

- RIDOC (pre-trial, end of sentence, and/or parole)
- Treatment Programs (Zinnia, Butler, CSU, CODAC)
- 942 Stop

Recurrence Policy:

Foundations understands that triggers and/or recurrence can happen in Recovery. At Foundations, we do our best to provide a supportive environment that includes a safe place for all Residents. Our hope is that if something happens, honesty and accountability are of the utmost importance. We are available for residents to contact 24/7 if in need of extra support in their recovery or have an emergency.

Every situation is different and is treated as such.

Residents are not always automatically discharged in the event of a recurrence



Full-time Case Manager, CPRS,
CCHW

Full-time House Manager
Employment Coaching at Resource
Center

Weekly Groups:

- Hazelden Lifeskills Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment (IDDT) Recovery Life Skills -WHAM Recovery
- Monthly Activities: Movie & Pizza Night, Beach Day, Cookouts, Arts & Crafts, Holiday Activities



Public Comment

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