



Governor Dan McKee's Overdose Task Force

May 14, 2025

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

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

Alex Gautieri, MSW; Task Force Community Co-Chair

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

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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To help share messaging and foster conversations about mental health, SAMHSA offers a [Mental Health Awareness Month Communications Toolkit](#) with shareable content for social media, promotional materials, and graphics.



Mental Health Action Day | May 15 | Noon-1 p.m. | Facebook Live

Don't miss this [radio show-style event on Facebook Live](#) hosted by Director Kasim Yarn of the [Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services](#).



Step Up for MHARI Walkathon | May 31 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Roger Williams Park Temple to Music

[Register](#) to participate in the first community walkathon hosted by the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island (MHARI). Join us as we walk to raise awareness and funds for mental health services across Rhode Island.

Join Us! Recovery Day at the Capitol



Recovery Day is an inspiring gathering that brings together individuals in recovery, their loved ones, treatment providers, and community advocates to raise awareness and reduce stigma surrounding addiction and mental health recovery. Your presence will help strengthen our message that recovery is possible!

May 29; 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Join Us! Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Learning Community



May 2025 Learning Community *Community at the Core: Systems Thinking for a Resilient Rhode Island*

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick
801 Greenwich Ave, Warwick, RI 02886

Register today! tinyurl.com/2h52s5xz





Olmstead Planning: Integration for All

May 2025

Governor Dan McKee's Overdose Task Force Meeting

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Disability Types and Data Findings

Nearly 1 in 3 Rhode Island adults have a disability, and 1 in 5 children have a special healthcare need.



**Medical
disabilities**



**Visual
disabilities**



**Mobility
disabilities**



**Hearing
disabilities**



**Neurological
disabilities**



**Behavioral health
disabilities**



**Cognitive
disabilities**

Differences in Outcomes:

Individuals with disabilities are more likely to be housing insecure and less likely to be employed than individuals without disabilities.

The Olmstead Decision: Community Integration for Everyone



[VIDEO: youtube.com/watch?v=Sw-nnhDoOG8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sw-nnhDoOG8&feature=youtu.be)

Olmstead Decision: What it Means for Rhode Island

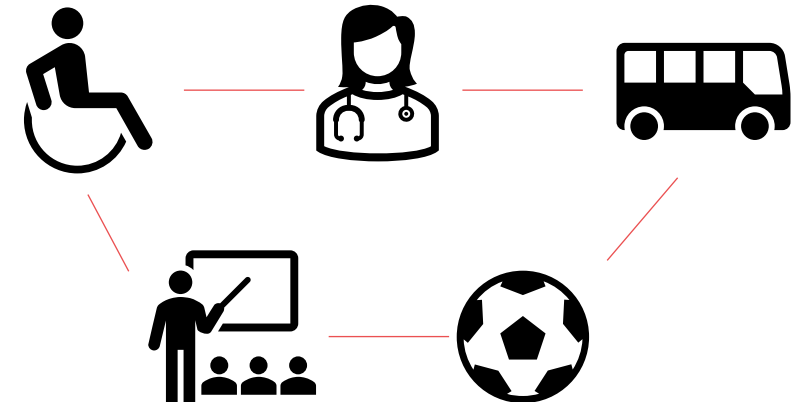
Olmstead is a US Supreme Court ruling that found that segregation of people with disabilities is discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



Whole-of-Government Planning



Olmstead Advisory Group



Governor Dan McKee issued an Executive Order 24-11 on August 14, 2024 that directed the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to lead the development of an initial draft of an Olmstead Plan by February 2025 and the formation of the Olmstead Advisory Group to guide the process.

Rhode Island's Olmstead Plan Goals

"I'd like people to understand that inclusion isn't just about physical access; it's about changing attitudes and making everyone feel valued and respected."

-Rhode Island
Community Listening
Session Participant

- **Goal 1:** Focus on fixing the **root causes of segregation** and the factors that lead to individuals and families being or feeling isolated in society.
- **Goal 2:** Increase opportunities for people to live independently and be part of their communities, with a special focus on improving **housing, transportation, and continuous access to utilities**.
- **Goal 3:** Make **care networks stronger**, especially for mental health services, and **improve coordination** between different systems to make sure people get the support they need without gaps or confusion.
- **Goal 4:** Create fair opportunities and **inclusive environments** for people in places like work, school, and recreation.
- **Goal 5:** Build stronger communities by **supporting reentry, recovery, and engagement** to make sure people feel connected and involved.
- **Goal 6:** Ensure good management, responsible use of resources, **improved data collection** and progress tracking, and continued planning to fully complete goals and agreements.

Opportunities to Engage in Olmstead

Rhode Island Department of State
Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Business Services Elections Civics and Education Open Government

Olmstead Advisory Group

Contact Information

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Open Meetings Board Members

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Show 5 entries Filter Filter below results

Date	Time
Apr 29, 2025	03:00PM

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries Previous 1 Next

Olmstead Advisory Group Meeting:

Join us at our [monthly public meeting](#) and participate in a work group or action planning team.



Version 1.0 Olmstead Plan:

Review the latest draft here:
[Integration for All: Rhode Island Olmstead Plan 2025-2030](#)

What is Olmstead?

The Olmstead Decision: Community integration f...
Watch on YouTube
Disability activists fought back by organizing.
Separate is not equal
Copy link

Olmstead is a U.S. Supreme Court ruling: it found that segregation of people with disabilities is discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Under the Olmstead ruling, states have a legal obligation to have the supports in place for individuals with disabilities to live, work, and receive services in the community in the **least restrictive setting** permitted by their disabilities. Specifically, the United States Supreme Court requires states to have supports in place for people with disabilities in community settings, rather than in institutions, *whenever treatment professionals determine that such placement is appropriate, the affected persons do not oppose such placement, and the state can reasonably accommodate the placement, taking into account the resources available to the state and the needs of others with disabilities.*

The first step of complying with Olmstead is developing a plan that works "for moving people out of restrictive settings into the community." In Rhode Island, we strive to design a plan that also prevents unnecessary institutionalization in the first place.

Once the plan is designed, the next step is to implement it, track Rhode Island's progress, and adjust where necessary.

Press release: Governor McKee Signs Executive Order to Better Support Rhode Islanders with Disabilities | [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Portuguese](#)

Sign up for our newsletter

Take our survey

Take our Olmstead Planning Survey in [English](#), [Spanish](#), or [Portuguese](#) to provide your feedback today.

- Who does Olmstead cover?
- Are Rhode Islanders with disabilities living like their peers without disabilities?
- What programs and services are currently in place in RI?
- What can we do to reduce institutionalization?

Olmstead Planning Webpage:

Visit eohhs.ri.gov/Olmstead-Planning for updates and to subscribe to our monthly newsletter.

Thank You



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Governor's Overdose Task Force Recommendation Process

Cathy Schultz, MPH; Overdose Task Force Director

Governor's Overdose Task Force Recommendation Process

Each year, the Governor's Overdose Task Force provides priority recommendations to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee for consideration in their allocation of funding for the next State fiscal year.

Task Force Work Group Co-Chairs

- In March 2025, an Annual Recommendations survey was developed by EOHHS and Brown University's People, Places & Health Collaborative. The survey gathered feedback about the Task Force Overdose Strategic Plan (Roadmap) and priorities. It also asked open-ended questions about emerging issues and future challenges.

Gather Task Force Work Group Recommendations

- The survey was released in March 2025 to participants in all nine Overdose Task Force Work Groups and was featured in the March Task Force Newsletter.

Overdose Task Force Community Conversation

- The May 2025 Overdose Task Force meeting includes a community conversation about the survey findings. Additionally, facilitated group discussions will focus on eight areas: Racial Equity; Social Determinants of Health (Families); Social Determinants of Health (Housing); Emerging Response to the Epidemic, Harm Reduction and Rescue; Treatment; Recovery; and Prevention.

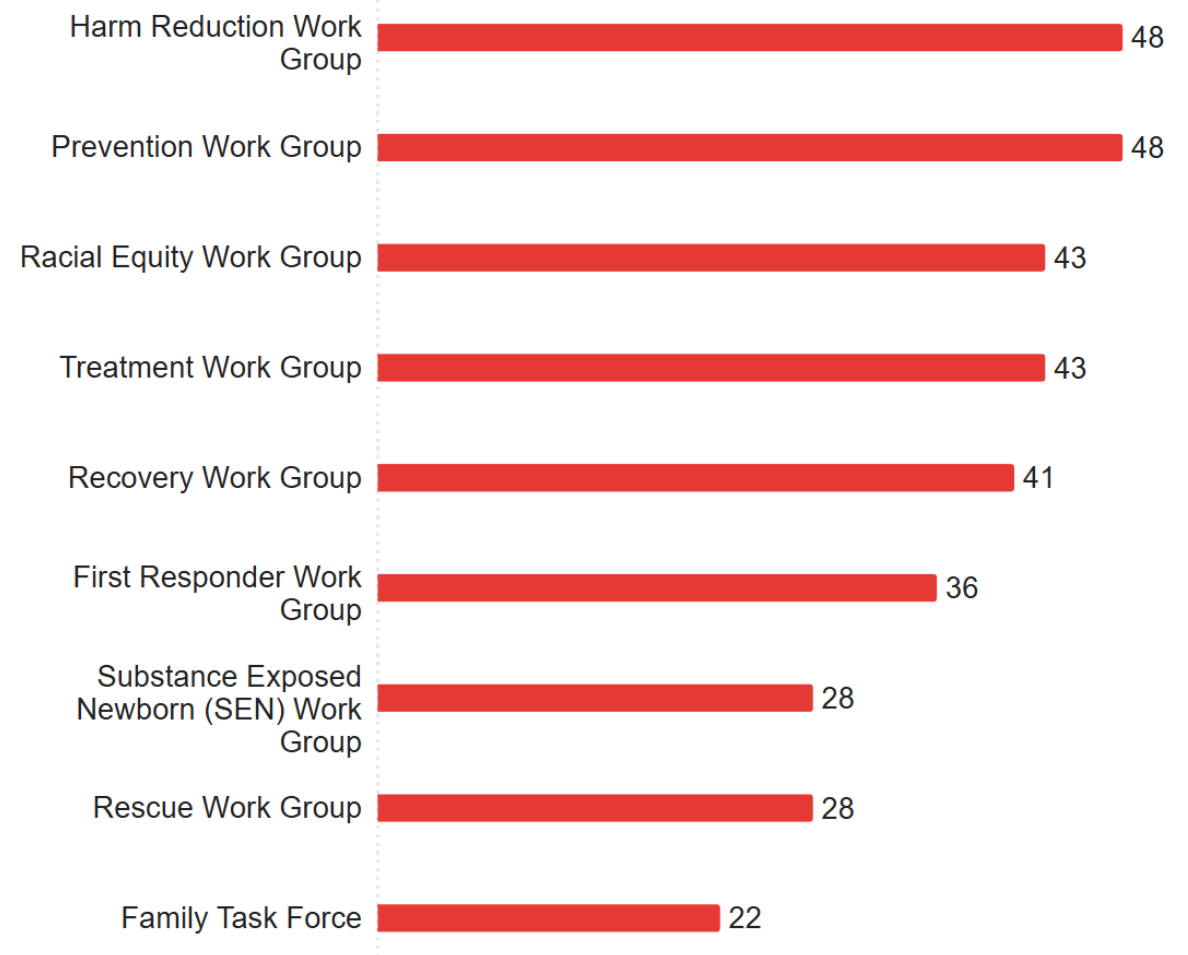
Report Out to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

- During the May 2025 meeting of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, the Task Force Director will share a report out of the key takeaways from the Annual Recommendations Survey and May Task Force Community Conversation.

Task Force Annual Recommendations Survey

Survey for feedback and recommendations on priorities, issues, and strategic focus for the upcoming year.

- Survey respondents could choose multiple Work Groups they were most involved in.
- Respondents could arrange a list of priorities associated with each Work Group to indicate which ones they thought were most important.
- We also asked open-ended questions about emerging issues and upcoming challenges.
- We identified key priorities within each Work Group and analyzed open-ended answers to identify themes.
- **149 surveys were completed between March 12 and April 1.**




Community Conversation and Facilitated Breakout Sessions

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Breakout Rooms

1. Emerging Response to the Changing Epidemic
2. Social Determinants of Health: Strengthening Families and Communities Across the Lifespan (i.e., trauma)
3. Social Determinants of Health: Housing, Employment, and Basic Needs
4. Harm Reduction and Rescue
5. Treatment
6. Racial Equity
7. Prevention
8. Recovery

How to Join a Breakout Room:

- Click  for Breakout Rooms in your meeting controls.
- Select a breakout room from the list.
- If you need assistance, please raise your hand.

Public Comment
