2026 Community Conversations and Community Overdose Engagement (CODE) Summit

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Grand Ballroom
801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI 02886
Thursday, November 5, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wi-Fi: IHGWifi.com **Access Code**: WRWRI

Scan the QR code to access live captions on your phone or device during today's event.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Welcome

- Stacey Levin, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, Certified Community Health Worker; Deputy Director, Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES)

9:40 a.m. Opening Remarks

- Cathy Schultz, MPH; Director, Overdose Task Force, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)
- Ana Novais, MA; Assistant Secretary, EOHHS
- Tom Coderre, Director, Intergovernmental and Public Health Affairs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Rebecca Boss, MA; Senior Consultant, Technical Assistance Collaborative and Board Chair, RICARES
- Thomas Martin, Director, Behavioral Health Division, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

10 a.m. Keynote Address

Eliminating Stigma: Leading with Empathy, Humanization, and Justice

- Steven Parkhurst, Co-Founder and Director of Operations, Rhode Island Freedom Collective, and Chief Operating Officer, Reentry Campus Program

10:45 a.m. Break and Resource Fair

11 a.m. Moderated Panel Discussion

Mainstreaming Anti-Stigma Work: Experiences from the Field Grounded in Lived Experience, Evidence, and Science

Panelists:

- **Sarah Edwards, CPRS, Community Health Worker; Assistant Director of Recovery Housing, RICARES**
  - Efforts to provide anti-stigma training within public health systems.
- **Cecilia Fix, MD; Division Director, Addiction Medicine, Brown University Health, and Assistant Professor of Medicine, Alpert Medical School of Brown University**
  - Rhode Island Hospital's anti-stigma campaign, Recovery Month initiatives, and longer-term work to address structural stigma.
- **Lex Morales, Pawtucket Program Manager, Project Weber/RENEW (PWR)**
  - Efforts to make anti-stigma work an essential part of organizational culture.
- **Ashley Perry, Deputy Director and Overdose Prevention Center Director, PWR**
  - Addressing the community's ongoing experiences with stigma while leading Rhode Island's largest peer-led harm reduction and recovery services organization.

12:30 p.m. Lunch and Resource Fair

1:15 p.m. Rhode Island Health Equity Zones (HEZ) Overdose Response Implementation: Community Impact and Key Accomplishments

Introduction with Jerome Larkin, MD; Director of Health, Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)

- **Bristol and Warren: East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)**
  - Melissa Goldstein, Project Director, Bristol HEZ
  - Kristin Read, Director, Warren HEZ, EBCAP
- **Central Providence Unidos**
  - Izzy Irizarry, Community Advocacy, Prevention and Empowerment Specialist

- **Cranston: Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)**
    - Ivy Swinski, Project Manager, OneCranston HEZ, CCAP
- **East Providence: EBCAP**
    - Alyssa Gleason, MPH; Project Director, East Providence HEZ, EBCAP
- **Newport: Women's Resource Center**
    - Jazmine L. Wray, Director of Prevention and Outreach, Women's Resource Center/Newport HEZ
- **Pawtucket and Central Falls: Local Initiatives Support Corporation**
    - Carlene Fonseca, The Greatest You Consulting, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Consultant
- **South Providence: Family Service of Rhode Island**
    - David Martins, Director, AIDS Project Rhode Island and Team Support, South Providence HEZ
- **Warwick: Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)**
    - Tammy Kjonaas, Project Manager, Warwick HEZ
- **Washington County: Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds (HBHM)**
    - Barbara Gavin, MPH; Program Director, HBHM, Washington County HEZ
- **West Warwick: Connecting for Children & Families**
    - Meg Remson, Director, West Warwick HEZ
- **Woonsocket: Connecting for Children & Families**
    - Dupe Akinrimisi, Project Director, Woonsocket HEZ
    - Shelly Hyson, Operations Coordinator, Woonsocket HEZ

2:55 p.m. Closing Remarks