



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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Five Agencies Named as Regional Prevention Task Forces

Awards have been made in the creation of a new Regional Prevention Task Force model

Cranston, RI – The Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH) has made awards to create five Regional Prevention Task Forces. BHDDH has awarded \$1.4 million in Federal Block Grant funding to the newly formed Task Forces. The organizations which will receive funds to provide comprehensive substance use prevention and behavioral health promotion services are:

- **Woonsocket Prevention Coalition Corporation** – serving Burrillville, Woonsocket, Cumberland, Lincoln, Pawtucket, North Smithfield and Central Falls;
- **Providence Healthy Communities Office, City of Providence** – serving the City of Providence;
- **BAY Team, Town of Barrington** -- serving East Providence, Barrington, Warren and Bristol;
- **Newport County Prevention Coalition, Town of Tiverton** – serving Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton, Jamestown, Middletown and Newport;
- **Coastline EAP** – serving North Kingstown, Narragansett, South Kingstown, Hopkinton, Richmond, Charlestown, Westerly and New Shoreham;

BHDDH will also be funding Prevention Task Forces for Southern Providence County (Glocester, Foster, Scituate, Smithfield, Johnston, Cranston, and North Providence) and Kent County (Coventry, West Greenwich, East Greenwich, Warwick, and Exeter). The Request For Proposals (RFP) for that work will be posted in the spring of 2017 to the State Purchasing website (<http://www.purchasing.ri.gov>).

Prevention is a key initiative in Governor Gina Raimondo's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force Strategic Action Plan to reduce opioid overdose deaths in Rhode Island.

Over the next five years, the Task Forces will use their funding to assess community substance use prevention needs, resources, and behavioral health promotion. Each will develop a capacity building plan to address gaps in resources or community readiness, as well as a local strategic plan. The Task Forces will implement evidence-based and best practice interventions based on the needs of the community, while continually evaluating the impact of their efforts.

Previously, 34 organizations served as Prevention Task Forces for their cities and towns. This revitalized system, comprised of seven Regional Prevention Task Forces, will be responsible for overseeing the planning and delivery of substance use prevention and behavioral health promotion activities within the municipalities that comprise the region. Each Task Force includes city and town representation, which will ensure individual communities continue to play an active role in planning and service provision, as well as promoting behavioral health services. The regional Task Forces will provide administrative oversight, funding and other

needed resources to support the smaller municipal coalition contributions as part of the larger regional prevention plan. The Task Forces will also act as fiduciary and administrative agents.

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