

Words Matter: A Conversation About Stigma, Substance Use, and COVID 19

09/25/2020 10:00am - 12:00pm

Rhode Island continues to face an overdose crisis. All across the country and in our state, rates of drug overdose are increasing, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. **More than 300** Rhode Islanders lost their lives to an overdose in 2019. In the context of the larger addiction crisis, the widespread use of dated and stigmatizing language when reporting on substance use is a genuine public health concern.

Journalists, anchors, radio talk show hosts, bloggers, and other media figures play an important role in shaping how we talk about substance use, addiction, and recovery. All members of the press are invited to attend this virtual event that will include personal testimony by Rhode Islanders in recovery and professional training by the nation's leading experts on stigma.

Join RICARES and the City of Providence for a workshop led by **veteran journalists, leading researchers, and people in recovery about:**

The importance of using de-stigmatizing language to support connections to treatment and recovery services

How the overdose epidemic is impacted by COVID-19 and systemic racism

Updated Associated Press guidelines for person-centered and scientifically accurate language regarding addiction and substance use

Speakers will include

Dr. John Kelly (Director, Recovery Research Institute, Harvard/ Mass General), **Maia Szalavitz** (Nationally recognized journalist and author of *Unbroken Brain*), **Machiste Rankin** (RICARES), **Ashley Perry** (Project Weber/Renew), **Diego Arene-Morely** (RICARES)

Location: Zoom Questions? Contact **Jon Soske** at jsoske@ricares.org

Simultaneous Spanish translation will be provided

