

## ***Why We Need to Fund the RI Substance Abuse Prevention Act Coalitions***

The Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions were formed through legislation (RISAPA) in 1988. There are currently 35 Prevention Coalitions across the state. Funding originally came from an additional fee on speeding tickets but comes now from a line item in the RI State Budget through the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. The coalitions have suffered a series of cuts over the years, most recently in the FY14 budget that initially cut almost 46% of the RISAPA line item, but was limited in impact to about 25% when BHDDH replaced some of the cut funds with federal block grant money. For instance, Providence had been receiving \$90,000 and now receives just under \$70,000; Narragansett was budgeted at \$24,900 and now is allocated only \$18,080. **The RISAPA coalitions need their funding restored to at least the FY13 level!** The status of providing adequate prevention resources to the communities of RI is at a dangerous point; and just as problems (i.e. prescription drug overdoses) increase the funding has decreased. This year, the Governor is proposing a further cut to spend less than \$500,000 across the state for prevention, down from \$1.1 million in FY13. The Prevention Coalitions request that the FY15 budget restore the \$1.1 million in order to provide adequate prevention resources to RI communities.

### ***What do the municipal prevention coalitions do across Rhode Island?***

Substance abuse prevention is a well-documented science. Gone are the roller skating parties and post prom parties that were the core of the coalitions early on. Coalitions now base their strategies on assessments and problem identification and focus on bringing a range of local stakeholders to the table to craft local solutions. What works in Central Falls might not work in Little Compton. These coalitions support evidence-base strategies to reduce community problems. Some of the strategies that are being implemented across the state include:

- parent support programs
- youth development programs
- local policy changes including social host laws
- community forums and trainings regarding emerging drug trends
- prescription drug drop off programs and receptacles
- evidence-based curricula in schools and student assistance counselors
- media campaigns and newsletters
- law enforcement support, including funding for tobacco and alcohol compliance checks.

Without adequate funding, prevention efforts will disappear. When delivered in a comprehensive community-wide context, every dollar invested in these programs, strategies and activities have the potential to save up to \$7 in areas such as substance abuse treatment and criminal justice system costs, not to mention the wider impact on the trajectory of young lives and their families and communities.(National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2007). *Research Update from the National Institute on Drug Abuse – Drug Abuse is a Preventable Behavior*. Bethesda: MD. Available: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/tib/prevention.html>.) The few communities in RI that have secured federal funding through Drug Free Communities Grants have dedicated strategies to reducing substance abuse and have seen notable improvements in reducing youth substance use, increasing perception of harm and overall cultural shifts to sustain those changes. However, cuts to the RISAPA program make it harder to secure federal funding as matching funds are required. Adequate funding does make a difference!

### ***Where can Rhode Island find additional financial resources for prevention?***

When marijuana was decriminalized in April of 2013, 50% of the fees from those penalties were supposed to be allocated for prevention and treatment. If, in fact, those monies were directed to prevention and treatment, some of the lost revenues for prevention could be recouped. Instead, those monies are going directly into the general fund and prevention and treatment have been left in the dust. Providing a restricted receipt account would be another avenue to help fund prevention science in RI. The municipal substance abuse prevention coalitions are an integral part of maintaining the integrity of community prevention and keeping Rhode Island safe; they need adequate funding.



*The Barrington Adult Youth Team  
Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse*

## Barrington

Senate District: 32

House District: 66, 67

Barrington Population: 16,819 people

**The BAY Team is a strong coalition with representation from twelve community sectors including parents, youth, schools, law enforcement, health care, businesses, local government, faith communities, and youth serving organizations.**

**The BAY Team collects comprehensive student data biannually to assess and track underage substance abuse and its related consequences. We implement evidence-based strategies to help create a safe and healthy community through communication and collaboration. We are proud to report our efforts have resulted in decreased use for all substances measured over the past five years. Our biggest challenge is the declining perception amongst youth of the dangers of marijuana use despite a wealth of scientific evidence that marijuana is addictive, and impairs learning, driving and long-term success.**

Our coalition has successfully been awarded a Drug Free Community grant and Marijuana Block grant in addition to our RISAPA funding. With just a RISAPA grant our coalition would be limited to one very part-time staff leader and very limited funding for programs.

### **Partner Organizations:**

Barrington School's Health & Wellness Committee

Barrington Education Foundation

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Committee

Attorney General's Work Group on Marijuana

Smokefree RI

Ocean State Prevention Alliance

Arts Alive Barrington

Bayside YMCA

### **Programs Impacted by Funding Cuts:**

- Reduction in RISAPA funds from \$25,160 to \$18,520- a loss of \$6,640.
- Reduced program support for the after prom party .
- Reduced support to send youth to the MADD Teen Spirit youth leadership conference and implementation of their action plan.
- Reduced enforcement efforts, specifically underage drinking party patrols, which were cut in half from 16 per year to eight (8) per year.
- No funds to develop a media campaign to reach high school students and their parents.

## Bristol

Senate District: 11

House District: 68, 69

Bristol Population: 22,469

The Bristol Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force is a coalition of voluntary members representing both the private and public sectors of the community of Bristol. Its mission is to offer evidence-based school and community prevention programming with the goal of reducing youth substance abuse. The Coalition has established effective working relationships with our Town Council and School Committee members; the Bristol Police Department the Regional School District and principals of both the Kickemuit Middle School and Mt. Hope High School; and the director of the Parks and Recreation Department. This close engagement with local leadership empowers our Coalition to offer the people in the community positive alternatives and activities to address substance abuse and misuse.

Instituted in 1988 under RI general law, the Coalition's main goals are to increase the capacity of the community to plan and implement quality youth substance abuse prevention programs, disseminate the prevention message community-wide, and promote healthy lifestyles through collaborative planning, community action, policy advocacy and education. The Coalition's prime directives are to initiate and support the development and implementation of drug, alcohol and tobacco free community events and strategies, and to promote legislation and local policies that further our substance abuse prevention objectives. The Coalition meets on a monthly basis with a minimum of 10 meetings per year, as per adopted bylaws. All Coalition meetings are open to the public.

Ann Marie Roy and Maria Ursini co-coordinators are both certified associate prevention specialist. Maria and Ann Marie are very active in the community serving on numerous boards, Maria is also a strong voice for the Portuguese population in the community, and serves as a liaison to the seniors in the community.

Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- Bristol Prevention Coalitions lost \$8,000.
- Coordinators hours were cut back from 10 hours per week to six hours per week.
- Party patrols on underage drinking in Bristol during the school year, which were previously done monthly, have been reduced to quarterly.
- An after school gym supervisor who supervised students in the gym after school for 2 hours as they worked out, since there is no longer someone there the gym has been vandalized and the program has been closed effecting over 300 high school students that used the gym either in the morning or the afternoon.
- Elimination of Alcohol and Drug Curriculum at the Middle School
- The coalitions no longer sponsor alternative activities like dances, movies beach parties etc. The Juvenile Hearing board in Bristol has reported youth numbers doubled this year from youth not having alternative activities.
- The Coalition can no longer help support senior Brown Bag lunches, Informational Medical seminars for seniors.



## **Burrillville**

Senate District 23

House District 47, 48

Burrillville Population -15,955 (2010 census)

The Burrillville Prevention Action Coalition (BPAC) is the substance abuse prevention coalition in Burrillville. It has been in existence since 1988. The coalition has approximately 10 volunteer members and addresses substance abuse prevention in the community. We interface with the Burrillville Police Department to coordinate compliance checks training and implementation as well as, additional best practices to reduce underage drinking and drug use. We also work with the department to create and facilitate RBS (responsible beverage server training for owners and bartenders of liquor licensed establishments in our town. The Burrillville Schools are also a strong partner to whom BPAC works with in order to provide substance abuse prevention programs and information to disseminate to young people and their families. This information provides tools, resources and support to families. As the prevention agency in our town we also share and address emerging drug trends and other risky behaviors. BPAC also supports our community when the state targets dangerous driving behaviors which included seatbelt safety and texting while driving. We continue to support state efforts that would increase safe driving in conjunction with substance use.

Gabrielle M. Abbate, the coordinator of BPAC is a certified prevention specialist supervisor and represents BPAC on various state committees, such as the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, RI Traffic Safety Coalition, RI's Impaired Driving Task Force, The State Highway Safety Plan Steering Committee, The Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Coordinator for the State of RI, PPD Chief's Advisory Committee, Providence Commissioner of Public Safety Advisory's Committee, RI State Police Citizen Academy, The Governor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council, and Burrillville's Juvenile Hearing Board.

Lost programs due to funding cuts:

- Funding was decreased from \$24,645 to \$18,61 (6030.00).
- There is no funding to support a parent/student prom/grad awareness event which has been held consecutively for the past 20 years.
- BPAC was unable to provide funds to offer the athletic department resources for their annual parent/athlete awareness night in September.
- At this time we are be unable to continue our prevention training for all coaches associated with the town's recreation department.
- During a year that saw our town's hiring of a pro-active Chief of Police we are unable to offer his department partnership to conduct trainings for his officers and for the town's Class A and B license holders.
- We have less funds available to support trainings for the prevention specialist or school administration, and community advocates who need to remain updated and alert to new prevention and treatment resource's and information.

## Central Falls

The Central Falls Prevention Coalition is housed within Progreso Latino and has been serving Central Falls for over 20 years. The Coalition is often the only organization that is focused on substance abuse prevention in our city. We partner with the schools and law enforcement to provide strategies to best address these issues in our diverse community. Central Falls has suffered intensely due to the 30% cut to the small budget CF was receiving to begin with. We have not held one event at the middle school or the elementary schools this year due to not having the funding! Past events middle school health fair, tobacco awareness, myths regarding Marijuana use, healthy mind healthy body, etc.

RISAPA funding also helped with purchasing tee-shirts, donations/prizes to CF students who participate in a prevention contest, community activities, parent workshops, and the purchase of prevention materials.

The funding also cut the Synar checks we went from four a year to two a year, which effects the State's ability to secure Block Grant funding from the federal government.

The funding cut hurt the prevention initiatives CF needs to continue to help lower substance use, tobacco use and alcohol use in the CF community, and in our schools! The emerging epidemic regarding prescription drugs has made its way to Central Falls, and the Central Falls Prevention Coalition will need our funding restored in order to effectively address these additional problems. Please help us.

### Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- Alcohol and tobacco compliance checks have been reduced in Central Falls so that our police are checking each liquor store and tobacco store in the city only once per year, rather than twice.
- There is no funding for the Central Falls Prevention Coordinator to attend professional development trainings like the New England School of Prevention Studies.
- There is no longer a budget to purchase information to give out at Central Falls community events.
- There is no funding to send students from CF high to programs like Teen Institute New Hampshire ( Summer 2013 12 Central Falls high school students were funded through RISAPA funds)



## The Chariho Tri-Town Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention

P.O. Box 611  
Wyoming, Rhode Island • 02898

Senate District: 34. 38

House District: 36

Charlestown Population: 7,827 (2010 census)

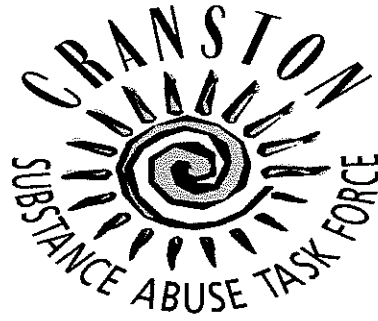
The Chariho Tri-Town Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention is a substance abuse coalition serving the communities of Charlestown, Hopkinton, Richmond and the Narragansett Indian Tribal community. It has been in existence since 1988. The Task Force has approximately 33 volunteer members and addresses substance abuse prevention in the community. Current Task Force members include school, prevention and treatment professionals, youth, parents, law enforcement, faith community, health care, youth organizations, business owners, media and local government. All members live or work in the Chariho area. Our mission is “Creating a Substance Abuse Free community by enhancing collaboration, enhancing social norms and implementing and enforcing policy change.” Our strategies for community change are: providing information, enhancing skills, providing support, enhancing access/reducing barriers, changing consequences, physical design, modifying/changing policy.

To provide substance abuse prevention services, the Task Force partners with Charlestown, Hopkinton and Richmond Police Departments as well as Narragansett Indian Tribal Police, DEM Enforcement Police and RI State Police. We partner with South Shore Mental Health, Wood River Health Services and Narragansett Indian Health Services. We hold community forums on drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse prevention. We work closely with Chariho School District to provide training and education to the students and staff on substance abuse prevention. We provide funding for Student Assistance/Prevention Counselors at both the high school and middle school.

The Task Force Administrator is a certified prevention specialist supervisor and two other staff members are certified prevention specialists. The prevention counselors are master level clinicians.

### Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- About 60% of the RISAPA budget goes towards paying the Chariho Prevention Counselors salaries, which has been directly impacted by the budget cuts.
- Chariho Prevention Counselors serve about 2,000 students in the middle school and high school.
- Chariho Prevention Counselors currently work about 50 hours per week, with a heavy workload and that's a reduction from hours used last year due to cuts.
- Due to the cuts, the capacity to leverage funds from the school department (40% match) is also affected. Hours are spent at budget workshops and committee meetings in the winter to ensure their share is not cut. If they do, the impact is even greater.



## **Cranston**

Senate District:26,27,28

House District: 14,15,16,17,18,19,20,41

Cranston Population:80,387 (2010 census)

In 2005 The Cranston Substance Abuse Task Force was reorganized and taken over by Comprehensive Community Action Program. The Task Force is comprised of 12 volunteer community members from a variety of sectors all with desires to help the citizens of Cranston. It is the mission of the Task Force to continually assess the needs of the residents of Cranston and developed a comprehensive substance abuse prevention program. The Task Force has assumed a leadership role in encouraging initiatives that will curb youth violence, addresses substance abuse and promote a nurturing environment for the youth of Cranston. The Task Force Coordinator has forged a strong relationship with the City of Cranston, the Police Department and the School Department. In helping address children and youth in the schools in making smart choices through a number of workshops and presentations. The Task Force works to provide educational forums to help the citizens of our community make education choices in their lives concerning substance abuse prevention.

### **Lost Programs due to funding cuts:**

- For the past 5 years the Cranston Substance Abuse Task Force has used RISAPA funds to broadcast a positive public service message about the benefits to substance-free living targeted to local high school students and parents. We filmed it at each of the schools and air it during prom season and graduation season on Channel 10. Each year the feedback has been wonderful and seen by thousands. This year we had to cut the \$5,000 we have spent in previous years to buy airtime for the commercial
- Small grants given to the school department for after school program is not able to be funded this year. These programs served a total of 55 students.

# **Cumberland Prevention Coalition**

Senate District: 19, 20

House District: 45, 51, 52, 57

Cumberland Population: 33,506 (2010 census)

The Cumberland Prevention Coalition has been an integral part of the Cumberland community on addressing substance abuse prevention. Since its inception in 1988, the Coalition has worked in collaboration with all sectors in the community, including the Cumberland Police Department, which we coordinate with to conduct compliance checks and additional best practices to reduce underage drinking and tobacco use. The Prevention Coalition also distributes monthly e-newsletters, with the support of Lincoln schools that are distributed to parents. These newsletters provide up to date information on current drug trends, tips for parents on how to effectively communicate with their teen, and other risky behaviors. The Cumberland Prevention Coalition also meets monthly with the Cumberland/Lincoln Boys & Girls Club to provide support for their after school programs, as well as providing educational materials, resources, and offering parent support programs. The Coalition also holds annual community forums regarding emerging drug trends to the Cumberland community, as well as, prescription drug drop off programs. The Cumberland is a valued and essential entity to the Cumberland Community.

Pamela Shayer, the coordinator of the Cumberland, Lincoln, and North Smithfield Prevention Coalition is a certified prevention specialist and is Chair of the RISAPA (RI Substance Abuse Prevention Act) Coalitions. She is an active member of the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, the Governor's Council on Behavioral Health Prevention Advisory Committee, and is the SADD advisor at Lincoln High School.

Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- The Cumberland Prevention Coalition is no longer able to fund for after school programs at the Boys and Girls Club. This will impact approximately 500 middle and high school students.
- The Cumberland Prevention Coalition is no longer able to fund party patrols for enforcement of underage drinking.
- The Cumberland Prevention Coalition is receiving less of a match from the Town of Cumberland due to budget cuts.
- Cumberland high school post graduation party transportation is no longer being funded by the coalition. Approximately 400 students take the bus for safe transportation on graduation night.
- The Cumberland Prevention Coalition is unable to do a media campaign on underage drinking due to the budget cuts.

As a result, I would like to request that the Senate Committee on Finance restore RISAPA funding to the FY13 level in order to provide adequate prevention resources to RI communities. Community prevention is essential to keeping our youth safe.

Thank you for your attention.

Pamela C. Shayer, M.Ed. APS  
Cumberland/Lincoln/No. Smithfield Prevention Coalition  
401-333-8426  
pshayer@lincolnri.org



## The East Greenwich Drug Program / Citizens Who Care Join Task Force

The East Greenwich Drug Task Force has continued working collaboratively to provide community resources, community services, awareness, experts in behavioral health issues, schools, police, health care providers, clergy and community activists in order to provide greater accessibility and information to citizens and families in need of support services whether for drug, tobacco and alcohol addiction or behavioral and mental health issues. In addition, we have extended the Task Force reach by creating an advisory committee made up of task force and other coalition members from all aspects of the community. We maintain an information website at ([www.eastgreenwichfaces.org](http://www.eastgreenwichfaces.org)) to outline information about the coalition, its members and programs.

Alcohol, marijuana and tobacco use have traditionally been precipitated by availability and a way for teens and young adults to “fit in” with peers. However, we are now seeing an increasing amount of substance abuse that is being precipitated by increasing levels of stress on this population. While our goal has always been to address this issue both by prevention, counseling/support, and by offering alternatives to substance abuse by connecting with young people at their level, a more external approach appears to be needed to address the latest trends.

We are also seeing that those teens and young adults who are ‘self-medicating’ with prescription meds are taking much longer to recover than most. Prevention goals now go beyond awareness and are moving towards actively assessing the stressors placed upon this population through schools, parents and other outside stressors.

Most recently, we have seen an increase in the overuse and abuse of prescription medications among teens and young adults. While we have seen that alcohol and marijuana remain the predominant cause for intervention, the rise of prescription drug over use and abuse of becoming significantly more prevalent. To address this, we have created a partnership with the University of Rhode Island School of Pharmacy to create additional community and parent forums, to engage youth at both the annual and mini-conferences and through in-school educational opportunities.

Our drug program, police department and schools have built an excellent working relationship with one another to address these issues. The issues of peer substance abuse and stress related substance abuse has been the subject of several workshops conducted between the town and the schools. We hope to continue to maintain an ongoing dialog as we continue to track ongoing indicators of any changes in the community.



# City of East Providence

## EAST PROVIDENCE PREVENTION COALITION

CITY HALL  
145 TAUNTON AVENUE  
EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02914-4505



### East Providence

Senate District: 14, 18, 32  
House District: 63, 64,65,66  
East Providence Population: 48,673

#### EPPC Officers

Katie Saraiva, *Chair*

Courtney Lacerda, *Vice Chair*

Scott Rose, *Treasurer*

#### EPPC Board Members

Sgt. John Andrews

Officer Andy Benoit

Officer Doug Borden

Pam Byrd

Britney Dias

Chris Gasbarro

Mark Gee

Brigitte Haywood

Catherine Legault

Laura Levine

Elmer Pina

Chief Joseph Tavares

Kevin Tavares

Maggie Veiga

The East Providence Prevention Coalition (EPPC) is a small 501C3 non-profit organization who has been dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles for all East Providence residents since 1988. The EPPC has 17 voting volunteer board members that meet throughout the year to address substance abuse prevention in the community. Some of the EPPC's initiatives include:

- **Educating the Community About Prevention-** electronic newsletters, a Facebook page, newspaper articles and the "Don't Get Bagged" lawn & leaf bag campaign.
- **Policy Work-** advocate for ordinances & laws that keep EP residents safe & healthy.
- **Enforcement-** working collaboratively with the EP Police Eept. on comprehensive enforcement initiatives (ie: alcohol & tobacco compliance checks, party patrols, Cops In Shops); monitoring Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) certifications.
- **Trainings & Outreach-** coordinating special forums on emerging drug trends (ie: underage drinking, opiate overdose, etc); offering local RBS certification trainings; coordinating public & private, middle & high school assemblies; offering community event organizers best practice manuals & signage for events; implementing the Townie Leadership Academy, a program which educates high school athletes about teen dating violence, substance abuse & leadership.
- **Special Events-** coordinating prescription drug take back days, the community's largest egg hunt & other family friendly preventative events; participating in national & state campaigns (ie: Zombie Walk, Mocktail competitions, Youth to Youth Int.).

The EPPC's Executive Director, Jennifer Wall is a certified prevention specialist and represents the EPPC on various state committees (Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws, Governor's Council on Behavioral Health Prevention Advisory Committee & Tobacco Free Rhode Island) and is an active member of the EPHS Parents, Teachers, Students Association.

#### FUNDING CUT EFFECTS

- Funding was decreased from \$40,914 to \$29,557.
- Approximately 10 less weekly coordination hours working on prevention efforts.
- Elimination of the DICE youth education program and high school post prom party, which served approximately 200 students.
- Elimination of educational trainings for approximately 200 alcohol license holders and employees (fake ID trainings, etc).
- Lack of capacity to apply for federal funding & to leverage other prevention dollars.
- Inability to collect effective prevention data at elementary, middle and high schools.



## The Chariho Tri-Town Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention

P.O. Box 611

Wyoming, Rhode Island • 02898

Senate District: 34

House District: 38, 39

Hopkinton Population: 8,188 (2010 census)

The Chariho Tri-Town Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention is a substance abuse coalition serving the communities of Charlestown, Hopkinton, Richmond and the Narragansett Indian Tribal community. It has been in existence since 1988. The Task Force has approximately 33 volunteer members and addresses substance abuse prevention in the community. Current Task Force members include school, prevention and treatment professionals, youth, parents, law enforcement, faith community, health care, youth organizations, business owners, media and local government. All members live or work in the Chariho area. Our mission is "Creating a Substance Abuse Free community by enhancing collaboration, enhancing social norms and implementing and enforcing policy change." Our strategies for community change are: providing information, enhancing skills, providing support, enhancing access/reducing barriers, changing consequences, physical design, modifying/changing policy

To provide substance abuse prevention services, the Task Force partners with Charlestown, Hopkinton and Richmond Police Departments as well as Narragansett Indian Tribal Police, DEM Enforcement Police and RI State Police. We partner with South Shore Mental Health, Wood River Health Services and Narragansett Indian Health Services. We hold community forums on drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse prevention. We work closely with Chariho School District to provide training and education to the students and staff on substance abuse prevention. We provide funding for Student Assistance/Prevention Counselors at both the high school and middle school.

The Task Force Administrator is a certified prevention specialist supervisor and two other staff members are certified prevention specialists. The prevention counselors are master level clinicians.

Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- About 60% of the RISAPA budget goes towards paying the Chariho Prevention Counselors salaries, which has been directly impacted by the budget cuts.
- Chariho Prevention Counselors serve about 2,000 students in the middle school and high school.
- Chariho Prevention Counselors currently work about 50 hours per week, with a heavy workload and that's a reduction from hours used last year due to cuts.
- Due to the cuts, the capacity to leverage funds from the school department (40% match) is also affected. Hours are spent at budget workshops and committee meetings in the winter to ensure their share is not cut. If they do, the impact is even greater.

# Jamestown

Senate District: 13

House District: 74

Jamestown Population: 5,405 (2010 Census)

The Jamestown Prevention Coalition has been in existence for over two decades. Present participants include Jamestown residents who represent youth, the police, the Teen Center, the Juvenile Hearing Board, parents, and other interested professionals and citizens. Through the coalition, programs have been instituted such as the Community Theatre, Teen Center, Juvenile Hearing Board, Student Assistance Program, Project Northland (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade prevention curriculum) and a permanent prescription drug depository at the police station.

Currently, the group is working on town ordinances regarding social host and prohibiting the sale of tobacco products at the local pharmacy. The coalition recently held a program at the middle school, through a partnership with the school, police, Student Assistance Program and PTO, for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents, discussing the issues, trends and resources available. Also, the Health & Wellness Survey was conducted; the results will be utilized in a social norms marketing campaign. The North Kingstown High School "Varsity Athletes against Substance Abuse" will be coming to Jamestown again and working with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to let them know that most high school students do not use substances and to give them tips and support on their upcoming transition.

The prevention coalition is aiming to help Jamestown become as healthy and safe as possible. At our current rate of funding, however, the coordinator is only paid for four hours per week and the coalition only meets every other month. The town is in imminent danger of losing the coalition and all of its potential benefits if the funding cuts of recent years are not restored. Considering the current climate and the heart-breaking overdose situation, the investment in prevention is more important than ever.

Lost programs due to funding cuts:

- In order to be able to maintain the funding that the coalition contributes for one day a week for a student assistance counselor at the middle school, we had to cut everything else substantially. Since the state does not contribute for student assistance in Jamestown, this contribution from the coalition funding is critical (the school district funds an additional two and a half days for the student assistance counselor).
- Only have four hours of work per week from a Jamestown coalition coordinator, eliminating any recruitment efforts, publicity for the coalition and policy development.
- We used to be able to provide funding for professional development for staff and members, as well as bring in speakers for the students – up to 600 total. This has been cut.
- No funding to support other prevention programs in Jamestown, which we used to fund through a mini-grant process.
- It is a bare bones operation, which is disappointing, considering the progress this group has made in the past.



## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

Coordinated By Tri-Town Community Action Agency

### Johnston

Senate District: 22, 25

House District: 13, 42, 43, 44,

Johnston Population: 28,769

In 2006, the town of Johnston contacted Tri-Town Community Action Agency regarding the fact that the former Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition had not been operational for approximately a year and half. Tri-Town agreed to sub-contract with the town and to reestablish the coalition and became fully functioning and operational within three months. The coalition has approximately 18 active stakeholders (Superintendent, Principals of both schools, Town Council, School Committee . . .) on the board whom address substance abuse prevention within the community. Because our focus is underage substance abuse, the coalition works very closely with both the middle and high schools. The police also play an important role in addressing underage substance abuse. Throughout the year, the coalition sends selective facts sheets, newsletters, resources, tools, and offers support to all parents through the schools list-serv. Rack cards were designed with specific internet resources located on the back side and are placed in reusable bags which are disseminated to all families who attend the annual Apple Festival in September. Members attend Freshman Orientation Night to hand out informational magnets to place on refrigerators and yearly informational calendars where parents have immediate access to resources. Policies and ordinances are reviewed, modified, changed or created according to the community needs. The Johnston Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is highly regarded by the community and plays an integral role in prevention.

Patricia Sweet, the coordinator of the Johnston Coalition is a Certified Prevention Specialist and represents the coalition on state and local committees such as Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws, SEOW, Teen Outreach Program, Children's (youth) Mental Health Coalition, Johnston and Smithfield Truancy Courts and serves on Johnston, Smithfield, and Scituate Juvenile Justice Hearing Boards

Hardship due to funding cuts:

Funding was decreased from \$30,777 to \$23,477 a loss of \$7,300.

Coordinators hours were cut, less time on prevention efforts.

Reduction/ Elimination of local media campaign.

Elimination of SADD group in the middle school.

Reduction of prevention activities in both the middle and high schools

Funding for professional development has been reduced.



# LINCOLN PREVENTION COALITION

## Education is the key

Senate District: 17, 19

House District: 44,45,46

Lincoln Population: 21,105 (2010 census)

The Lincoln Prevention Coalition has been an integral part of the Lincoln community on addressing substance abuse prevention. Since its inception in 1988, the Coalition has worked in collaboration with all sectors in the community, including the Lincoln Police Department, which we coordinate with to conduct compliance checks and additional best practices to reduce underage drinking and tobacco use. The Prevention Coalition also distributes monthly e-newsletters, with the support of Lincoln schools that are distributed to parents. These newsletters provide up to date information on current drug trends, tips for parents on how to effectively communicate with their teen, and other risky behaviors. The Lincoln Prevention Coalition also meets monthly with the Cumberland/Lincoln Boys & Girls Club to provide support for their after school programs, as well as providing educational materials, resources, and offering parent support programs. The Coalition also holds annual community forums regarding emerging drug trends to the Lincoln community, as well as, prescription drug drop off programs. The Coalition is a valued and essential entity to the Lincoln Community.

Pamela Shayer, the coordinator of the Cumberland, Lincoln, and North Smithfield Prevention Coalition and is a certified prevention specialist and Chair of the RISAPA (RI Substance Abuse Prevention Act) Coalitions. She is an active member of the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, the Governor's Council on Behavioral Health Prevention Advisory Committee, and is the SADD advisor at Lincoln High School.

Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- No more high school assembly during prom/graduation time This presentation served approximately 500 high school students.
- The number of trainings that the coalition sponsored has been reduced by 50%. Trainings were for educators and students. Approximately 40 adults and 25 students are impacted by this cut.
- Post graduation party transportation is no longer being funded by the coalition. Approximately 300 students take the bus for safe transportation on graduation night.
- The Lincoln High School SADD is no longer able to buy materials and supplies for events at the high school. This impacts approximately 1000 students at the high school.
- The Life of an Athlete Program which is currently being implemented at the high school was cut.
- No funds to pay for the speaker for our annual and mandatory summer presentation for all athletes and their parents. This impacts approximately 400 students.
- The Lincoln Prevention Coalition discussed purchasing a prescription drug drop off box for the police station. The funds are no longer available to purchase the box this year.

As a result, I would like to request that the Senate Committee on Finance restore RISAPA funding to the FY13 level in order to provide adequate prevention resources to RI communities. Community prevention is essential to keeping our youth safe.

Thank you for your attention.

Pamela C. Shayer, M Ed. APS  
Cumberland/Lincoln/No. Smithfield Prevention Coalition  
401-333-8426  
pshayer@lincolnri.org



## Little Compton

Little Compton Population -3,492 (2010 census)

The Little Compton Prevention Coalition (LCPC) was established in 1988. The LCPC is a coalition of volunteers representing both the private and public sectors of Little Compton who are concerned with the development, implementation and advocacy of effective community-based substance abuse prevention programs, policies and practices as they pertain to the RISAPA. The Coalition is designated to act as an advisory committee to the Little Compton Town Council and to provide assistance in the development and implementation of effective substance abuse prevention strategies.

The coalition has approximately 8 active volunteer members and a 5 hour per week coordinator. Our members and partners represent multiple community sectors: youth, parents, law enforcement, school personnel, local business and civic organizations, media, government, faith organizations, and agencies providing behavioral health supports to Little Compton.

The LCPC employs strategic, evidence-based approaches to substance abuse prevention supported in current research and best practices. Our environmental approach to prevention aims to create population level change by addressing the community's perception of acceptability of youth substance use, accessibility of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, other drugs by youth, and changes in policies within the community that impact youth use rates.

Rebecca Elwell, the coordinator of LCPC is a certified prevention specialist and represents LCPC on various state committees, such as the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Committee and the Attorney General's Marijuana Work Group.

Programs lost due to funding cuts:

- Little Compton's budget was cut from \$18,609 to \$13,527.
- Little Compton Coordinator hours cut by 10%, impacts ability to coordinate prevention efforts, town wide.
- Program to provide orientation for students transitioning from Little Compton's k-8 school into Portsmouth High School has been discontinued. This vital program served to provide support to our transitioning students and linked younger students with an upperclassman mentor. We view the transition from our local elementary/middle school to an out of district high school to be a critical time to impact and support our students.

**Middletown Prevention Coalition**  
*“promoting health and wellness in the community”*

Senate District: 12

House Districts: 72, 73, 74

Middletown population: 16,150 (2010 census)

The Middletown Prevention Coalition (MPC) is a community based coalition created in 1988 under the Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act (RISAPA) to reduce youth substance abuse in the Town of Middletown. The coalition has evolved considerably since that time and has become a strong and credible organization whose mission is not only to reduce the number of youth that use alcohol, marijuana and other drugs but to also create a safe and healthy community. Thirteen different sectors are represented around the table such as schools, parents, civic and volunteer organizations, law enforcement, media, business, health care, military, faith community, local government, to name a few. In order to engage the youth of Middletown in prevention we have created an active youth subcommittee called PUSH (Peer Union for Safety and Health), which is comprised of committed “community change agents”.

The MPC relies on a community needs assessment which is updated annually to drive their programs, practices and policies. An annual student survey, focus groups and key informant interviews are part of that process. As a result of the assessment process we implement evidence-based strategies and activities designed to meet our specific needs. The cross section of individuals that sit on the coalition truly allows us the opportunity to do true community prevention planning and implementation, the goal of RISAPA. Subcommittees comprised of the membership drive the work and an external evaluator evaluates our efforts and helps us to determine our annual work plan. The MPC has collaborated with the school department, one of our key stakeholders, on the implementation of their Chemical Health and Safety policy, the Mock Car Crash event and post prom parties. We work closely with law enforcement on the DEA Prescription Take Back Days and offer both police and fire departments “best practices training” related to substance use/abuse. Additionally, the coalition coordinates the Town’s Family Day, Beach Bonfires and Community Forum events and distributes an e-newsletter and other media updates to increase community awareness.

Lost Programs Due to Funding Cuts: (RISAPA cut from \$25,405 to \$17,707. approx 30%)

1. PUSH students will not be able to participate in MADD’s Team Spirit Retreat
2. MPC will not be able to support the Junior and Senior post prom parties
3. The MPC will not be able to support April Alcohol Awareness Month, Kick ButtDay and other prevention activities at the schools and in the community





*Working in the community to prevent substance abuse*

## Narragansett

Senate District 35, 36  
House District 33, 34  
Narragansett Population -15,868 (2010 census)

The Narragansett Prevention Partnership is the substance abuse prevention coalition in Narragansett. It has been in existence since 1988. The coalition has approximately 15 volunteer members and addresses substance abuse prevention in the community. We interface with the Narragansett Police Department to coordinate compliance checks and additional best practices to reduce underage drinking and drug use. The Narragansett Schools are also a strong partner to whom NPP develops an academic calendar distributed to all school families yearly with prevention information. NPP provides e-newsletters that are distributed by the school department that provides tools, resources and support to families. NPP collaborates with school personnel to address emerging drug trends and other risky behaviors. NPP meets regularly with administrators at the University of RI to strategize about reducing the negative impact of housing the off-campus students in our community. NPP also works closely with the business community to provide trainings, educational materials and resources. Our yearly presentations to both the Town Council and the School Committee provide community information that gets televised to many families. The Narragansett Prevention Partnership is an established and valued entity to the community.

Nancy DeNuccio, the coordinator of NPP is a certified prevention specialist supervisor and represents NPP on various state committees, such as the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, RI Traffic Safety Coalition, RI Impaired Driving Task Force, RI Prescription Drug Monitoring Collaborative, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws and serves on the Narragansett Juvenile Hearing Board.

Lost programs due to funding cuts:

- Funding was decreased from \$24,900 to \$18,080.
- Elimination of a grade 7-12 youth substance abuse survey to determine drug use and perceptions.
- Reduction of the number of newsletters being developed and sent to approximately 1,200 families, government officials etc. from 10 to 6 per year.
- Elimination of all supplemental funding (\$5,000) for substance abuse prevention activities at both the middle and high school.
- Elimination of all supplemental funding of bullying prevention funding in the middle school.

25 Fifth Avenue Narragansett, RI 02882 Phone 401.782.1380

[ndevaney@narragansettprevention.org](mailto:ndevaney@narragansettprevention.org)

[narragansettprevention.org](http://narragansettprevention.org)



# Working Together for Wellness

## North Kingstown Prevention Coalition

*Promoting a Drug-Free Community for Optimal Living and Health*

Senate District: 35, 36  
House District: 31, 32  
North Kingstown Population: 26,486

The North Kingstown Prevention Coalition (NKPC) has been operating as a community substance abuse prevention coalition since 1987. The coalition meets monthly, has approximately 16 volunteer citizens and provides prevention services in the community. We interface with the North Kingstown Police Department to coordinate compliance checks and additional best practices to reduce underage drinking and drug use. The North Kingstown Schools are a strong partner. NKPC provides prevention education presentations to all athletes and parent/guardian before each sports season and monitors the implementation of Chemical Health and Wellness policy. NKPC provides e-newsletters that are distributed by the school department and a website that provides tools, resources and support to families. NKPC provides professional development presentations for school personnel to address emerging drug trends and other risky behaviors. NKPC also works closely with the business community through engaging them in projects and media campaigns that raise awareness and provide education about the issues of substance abuse. The North Kingstown Prevention Coalition is an established and valued entity to the community.

Kathy Yeager, the coordinator of NKPC, Associate Prevention Specialist (2011), represents the coalition on state committees, such as the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws and the North Kingstown School Department Wellness Committee.

Lost programs due to funding cuts: Drug Free Community Grant funding for North Kingstown will end as of October 2014. This funding has allowed NKPC to keep program cuts to a minimum for 2014. Funding was decreased from \$29,853.00 to \$ 22,459.00.

- Elimination of supplemental funding to the peer education program by high school students to middle school students transitioning onto high school.
- Funding for professional development has been eliminated. This includes training for coalition members, staff and community stakeholders and reaches about 6 people each year. Members and staff were able in the past to attend national conferences to gain information about programs and strategies to decrease substance abuse, especially among youth. These conferences can no longer be funded due to having to adjust the Drug Free Community (DFC) budget to accommodate the gap in coalition funding. This includes funding for staff training, certification and community trainings.

100 Fairway Drive North Kingstown, RI 02852 Phone 401.336.3124 kathy\_yeager@nksd.net

northkingstownprevention.org

## North Providence

Senate District: 4, 5, 15, 17, 22

House District: 6, 54, 55

North Providence Population: 34,000

Since its founding, the Coalition has worked closely with the schools, the police and fire departments, the recreation department, youth serving organizations, the local media, the Mayor's office, the Town Council, local businesses and faith-based organizations. The Coalition has been at the forefront of achieving consensus among all stakeholders regarding prevention, programming and treatment services.

During the years, 2004-2011, the Coalition applied for and received an additional \$260,000 in grant funding.

The Coalition can tout numerous accomplishments: All or in part, the following have been accomplished through the direct efforts or influence of the Coalition:

- The enactment of an ordinance in 1999 regulating the sale and delivery of tobacco products to, and the purchase and use of tobacco products by, minors.
- Police diligence in conducting annual compliance checking of liquor distributors resulting in very low infractions pertaining to the retail sale of alcohol to minors.
- Passage of a local ordinance requiring all liquor licensees who violate the underage drinking laws to be summoned before the Liquor Licensing Board.
- The School Department revised their breathalyzer policy to include random screenings at school functions.
- The implementation of a School Department athletic policy requiring all parents of athletes to attend a mandatory training on the signs and symptoms of substance abuse.
- The formation of the group "Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse"- (VAASA). This group speaks to middle school students twice a year about the dangers associated with the use of substances, such as steroids, alcohol, marijuana and abuse of prescription drugs.

Jeannie Vickers a Certified Prevention Specialist Supervisor has developed relationships with a list of partners in the community that are vast. The Coalition cannot survive any more funding cuts. As it is the coalition is holding on due to the strong commitment of the members and staff. The reality is however that without funding the members can only do so much.

The loss of funding has resulted in;

- eliminating media campaign materials,
- limited staff hours committed to the Coalition,
- increased enforcement funded initiatives stopped
- Ad placements in local papers

## North Smithfield Prevention Coalition

Senate District: 17, 23, 24

House District: 48

North Smithfield Population: 21,430 (2010 census)

The North Smithfield Prevention Coalition has been an integral part of the community on addressing substance abuse prevention. Since its inception in 1988, the Coalition has worked in collaboration with all sectors in the community, including the North Smithfield Police Department, which we coordinate with to conduct compliance checks and additional best practices to reduce underage drinking and tobacco use. The Prevention Coalition also distributes monthly e-newsletters, with the support of North Smithfield schools that are distributed to parents. These newsletters provide up to date information on current drug trends, tips for parents on how to effectively communicate with their teen, and other risky behaviors. The Coalition also holds annual community forums regarding emerging drug trends to the North Smithfield community, as well as, prescription drug drop off programs. The Coalition collaborates with the North Smithfield School department in implementing evidence-based curriculums. The Coalition is a valued and essential entity to the North Smithfield Community.

Pamela Shayer, the coordinator of the Cumberland, Lincoln, and North Smithfield Prevention Coalition and is a certified prevention specialist and Chair of the RISAPA (RI Substance Abuse Prevention Act) Coalitions. She is an active member of the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, the Governor's Council on Behavioral Health Prevention Advisory Committee, and is the SADD advisor at Lincoln High School.

### Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- The North Smithfield Prevention Coalition is no longer able to fund after school programs at the middle and high schools. This will impact approximately 300 students.
- The North Smithfield Prevention Coalition will no longer be able to fund the annual summer concert series for families. This 8-week program was held on Sundays during the summer months. This will impact approximately 250 families in the Town of North Smithfield.
- The North Smithfield Prevention Coalition will no longer be able to provide funds for a youth to attend Camp Phoenix in North Smithfield, an opportunity for youth age 6-13 to enjoy structured summer activities for eight weeks in the summer that was originally established in part with support from the Coalition. The cost for one youth is approximately \$500.00.
- The North Smithfield Prevention Coalition is receiving less of a match from the town due to budget cuts.
- The North Smithfield Prevention Coalition is unable to give funds to help implement the Life of an Athlete Program at the high school. This will impact approximately 200 students.
- The North Smithfield Prevention Coalition does not have the funding available to help support the comprehensive anti bullying program, "Open Circle" which serves approximately 400 students at the elementary level.

As a result, I would like to request that the Senate Committee on Finance restore RISAPA funding to the FY13 level in order to provide adequate prevention resources to RI communities.

Community prevention is essential to keeping our youth safe.

As a result, I would like to request that the Senate Committee on Finance restore RISAPA funding to the FY13 level in order to provide adequate prevention resources to RI communities. Community prevention is essential to keeping our youth safe.

PAWTUCKET

"Reaching across Cultures ..



Prevention Coalition

To Build an Informed and Caring Community"

**The Pawtucket Prevention Coalition is a group of voluntary members representing both public and private sectors of our community. It is concerned with the creation, implementation, and advocacy for effective community development in substance abuse as well as other areas of prevention. Since 1988 when the state legislature provided funding for prevention to all 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island through the RISAPA (Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act), the Coalition has been assessing Pawtucket's prevention needs and addressing them by designing and implementing prevention activities. Since its inception, the Coalition has received state and federal grant funding totaling more than 10 million dollars for substance abuse prevention in our municipality and has received recognition for its innovative programming. Included in its activities are prevention strategies that involve local schools, churches, businesses, neighborhoods, municipal departments, public housing developments, ethnic communities, and various other sectors. The community development approach to prevention, which the Coalition employs, seeks to empower individuals and groups in Pawtucket by increasing knowledge and skills to enable them in making a difference within their spheres of influence. The Coalition seeks to diminish the root causes of substance abuse by developing a community atmosphere that supports healthy children, good schools, stable families, safe neighborhoods, and an overall strong community. In Pawtucket, it has become a department of the City. We believe prevention, although inclusive of substance abuse issues, actually encompasses a wide variety of social ills and we endeavor to address any and all prevention arenas.**

**Reduced funding has impacted the Coalition in the following ways:**

- **The director's weekly hours decreased from 35 to 28**
- **Various events held annually have had to be reduced and/or eliminated; this includes the Red Ribbon Rally, the Teen Hall Of Fame, the Prevention Academy Awards, school & senior citizen Wellness Fairs & the bi-annual printing of the "Teen Resource Guide"**
- **Negatively impacted our ability to provide "match" funding previously used as leverage in applying for federal grants**

**We therefore appeal for restoration of prior funding levels in order to maintain & achieve our stated goals.**

**Sincerely,**

**Diane Dufresne, Director**

## Portsmouth

Portsmouth Population: 18,000 +Largest student population in Newport County

The Portsmouth Prevention Coalition has conducted two yearly Community Needs Assessments- which were approved by the Rhode Island Dept. of Education and the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration to gather the most comprehensive and accurate study of adolescent substance abuse ever undertaken in the town.

That information has been disseminated and presented throughout the community to inform the community of the facts about our substance abuse issues with our youth and they are alarming. From this information we worked with our school department and school committee, our town council, our faith communities and our neighbors in the surrounding area to put together revised student and staff chemical health policies, coordinate prescription drug take back efforts with our Police Department, advocate for more stringent policies within the Portsmouth athletic programs by adopting the Life of an Athlete Program for all our students, rally the town of Portsmouth to celebrate Project Purple and the work of the Chris Herren Project that encourages our youth to make healthy choices, concentrated on recognizing and working with our faith communities, alcohol vendors, and student bus drives in making them welcomed partners in prevention efforts along with our neighbors in Tiverton and have provided parents, students and town officials with factual data and information regarding the rising numbers of our youth who use alcohol and marijuana in increasing numbers while trying to educate on the REAL consequences of the use of these substances on developing bodies and minds. In addition, Portsmouth has completed and applied for a federal Drug Free Communities grant that would provide prevention efforts in Portsmouth with funding- that must be matched yearly- of \$125,000 a year for 5 years. That grant application process was an additional 185 hours of work above and beyond other duties. This is just a snapshot of our efforts in Portsmouth.

- The Portsmouth Prevention Coalition funding was reduced by over \$6,000. Our state funding is \$19,196 a year and we pay \$19,000 towards the Student Assistance Counselor's salary at Portsmouth High School. We raise all our other funding from the community and we have GREENLEAF Marijuana distribution center in our town.
- The Portsmouth Prevention Coalition has had to forestall discussions about increasing the coordinator position hours from the current 10 a week and any support for a Parents' Group. The coordinator has worked an additional 199 overtime hours from July 1-April 12.
- We funded the most comprehensive community needs assessment ever conducted in Portsmouth in 2013 and that information was completely overlooked by BHDDH in distributing the SPF awards because they used inferior state wide data instead.
- Forty-nine percent of our high school seniors reported smoking marijuana within the last 30 days, far higher than the state average, in a small town that has not only one of the state's two marijuana distribution centers but also an estimated 100-300 marijuana caregivers who are able to legally grow the drug.
- Portsmouth had three overdose drug related deaths in 2013; we had two overdose deaths and a related suicide during the week of March 17, 2014.

# Providence

Senate Districts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 28 \* House Districts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13  
Providence Population: 178,000

The Mayor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council (MSAPC) has been bringing together stakeholders in Providence to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse for 27 years. Since 2012, the MSAPC has been housed within the Providence Healthy Communities Office.

The Council is the lead drug, tobacco and alcohol prevention voice and advisory body for the City of Providence. The Council advocates for policies that prevent youth alcohol, tobacco and drug use and promote safe and healthy choices for kids in the City of Providence. The vibrant and diverse Council membership is made up of more than 25 committed individuals and organizations from across the City. Over the last several years the MSAPC has worked to

- Develop and help implement **nationally recognized policies** banning the sale of flavored tobacco products and redemption of tobacco discounts in Providence;
- Conduct **education and training** for youth, parents, school staff, police and others related to synthetic drugs, marijuana, and opiate overdose prevention;
- Educate the public broadly on the **dangers of prescription drug misuse and abuse** and reduce diversion through a series of drug take back days, the installment of a permanent take back bin in the public safety complex.
- Support revision and implementation of ordinances to **reduce overserving and service to underage individuals in city nightclubs**, as well as promoting safer club environments,
- Provide **free trainings** to staff and employees of nightclubs and liquor stores.
- Provided **resources and support for local Veterans and Military Families** to prevent and reduce substance abuse in these populations as a participating coalition in the national Vetcorps Program.

Obed Papp, an Associate Prevention Specialist, is the Drug Free Communities Coordinator for the City of Providence and represents MSAPC on various state committees, such as the Tobacco Free RI, the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, and the state's Overdose Prevention Coalition.

Due to funding cuts

- We have had to cut back on the funding for advertising and promotion of twice annual prescription drug take back days.
- We have reduced the amount of funding by one-third that we make available to the Providence Police to conduct tobacco and alcohol compliance checks, which are critical to ensuring that city businesses are following the laws relating to sale of tobacco and alcohol to underage people.
- Because we are in the final year of a federal Drug Free Communities grant, we were able to use that funding to minimize the blow of losing more than \$20,000 in RISAPA funds this year. However, after our DFC funds end in September 2014, the current level of state funding will only be sufficient to support about 21 hours per week of work for a coordinator (0.6 FTE) for a city of 178,000 people and 24,000 public school students.



## The Chariho Tri-Town Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention

P.O. Box 611

Wyoming, Rhode Island • 02898

Senate District: 34

House District: 39

Richmond Population: 7,708 (2010 census)

The Chariho Tri-Town Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention is a substance abuse coalition serving the communities of Charlestown, Hopkinton, Richmond and the Narragansett Indian Tribal community. It has been in existence since 1988. The Task Force has approximately 33 volunteer members and addresses substance abuse prevention in the community. Current Task Force members include school, prevention and treatment professionals, youth, parents, law enforcement, faith community, health care, youth organizations, business owners, media and local government. All members live or work in the Chariho area. Our mission is "Creating a Substance Abuse Free community by enhancing collaboration, enhancing social norms and implementing and enforcing policy change." Our strategies for community change are: providing information, enhancing skills, providing support, enhancing access/reducing barriers, changing consequences, physical design, modifying/changing policy.

To provide substance abuse prevention services, the Task Force partners with Charlestown, Hopkinton and Richmond Police Departments as well as Narragansett Indian Tribal Police, DEM Enforcement Police and RI State Police. We partner with South Shore Mental Health, Wood River Health Services and Narragansett Indian Health Services. We hold community forums on drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse prevention. We work closely with Chariho School District to provide training and education to the students and staff on substance abuse prevention. We provide funding for Student Assistance/Prevention Counselors at both the high school and middle school.

The Task Force Administrator is a certified prevention specialist supervisor and two other staff members are certified prevention specialists. The prevention counselors are master level clinicians.

Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- About 60% of the RISAPA budget goes towards paying the Chariho Prevention Counselors salaries, which has been directly impacted by the budget cuts.
- Chariho Prevention Counselors serve about 2,000 students in the middle school and high school.
- Chariho Prevention Counselors currently work about 50 hours per week, with a heavy workload and that's a reduction from hours used last year due to cuts.
- Due to the cuts, the capacity to leverage funds from the school department (40% match) is also affected. Hours are spent at budget workshops and committee meetings in the winter to ensure their share is not cut. If they do, the impact is even greater.





Senate District 21  
House District 2  
Scituate Population 10,329 (2010 census)

The Scituate Prevention Partnership (SPP) is a substance abuse prevention coalition made up of volunteers from the Scituate community. There are many concerned citizens involved with the SPP including: parents, school administrators and personnel, students, Youth Ministers, Scituate Health Alliance, school nurse – psychologist – social worker – speech therapist, prevention specialist, coaches and law enforcement.

The SPP works closely with the Scituate High School, providing prevention programs to the students and faculty. SPP supports the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club and provides scholarships to students attending a 4-day drug prevention conference at Bryant University. The SPP sends out e-newsletters that are distributed by the School Department providing tools, resources and support to families. SPP sponsors the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Spartan Leadership Academy for emerging leaders and the Credit Recovery program for students at risk of not graduating. Students are sponsored to attend summits that address topics such as distracted driving, Marijuana and Opioid abuse. SPP also sponsors High School assembly speakers who present on current drug abuse topics.

The SPP partners with the Police Department to collaborate on current substance abuse prevention programs. We are preparing to participate in next year's "Drug Take Back Day", and plan to have a drug "drop off box" installed at the police station for citizens to dispose their unused prescription medications. The SPP is assisting with a seat belt safety campaign and it is our goal to support a "party patrol" and assist with compliance checks in the near future.

The SPP also has an established relationship with the Scituate Business Association and collaborates with their Holiday Stroll event by setting up a booth with drug prevention materials. A monthly marijuana up-date newsletter is distributed in the local newspaper and community forums are provided on a variety of drug prevention topics.

The SPP has suffered a budget cut of \$5,532 bring our annual operating budget to \$16,406. The budget cuts for the SPP have affected our ability to provide drug prevention programming in the following ways:

- Elimination of supplemental funding for Middle School bullying prevention program.
- Elimination of supplemental funding for the Credit Recovery Program for seniors.
- Reduced funding support for the Spartan Leadership Academy program.
- Reduction of professional development and drug prevention training.
- Reduction in support of Police Dept. prevention programs.

*The Scituate Prevention Partnership creates a healthy and safe environment by advocating, promoting and supporting prevention strategies for the Scituate Community.*



## SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

Coordinated By Tri-Town Community Action Agency

### **Smithfield**

Senate District: 22

House District: 53

Smithfield Population: 21,430

The Smithfield Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition was formed in 1988. Tri-Town agreed to sub-contract with the town. The coalition has approximately 18 active stakeholders (ED of the YMCA, Principals of schools, Town Council, School Committee ...) on the board whom address substance abuse prevention within the community. Because our focus is underage substance abuse, the coalition works very closely with both the middle and high schools. The police also play an important role in addressing underage substance abuse. Throughout the year, the coalition sends selective facts sheets, newsletters, resources, tools, and offers support to all parents through the schools list-serv. Rack cards were designed with specific internet resources located on the back side and are placed in reusable bags which are disseminated to all families who attend National Night Out. Members attend Freshman Orientation Night to hand out informational magnets to place on refrigerators and yearly information calendars where parents have immediate access to resources. Policies and ordinances are reviewed, modified, changed or created according to the community needs. The Smithfield Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is highly regarded by the community and plays an integral role in prevention.

Patricia Sweet, the coordinator of the Smithfield Coalition is a Certified Prevention Specialist and represents the coalition on state and local committees such as Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws, SEOW, Teen Outreach Program, Children's (youth) Mental Health Coalition, Johnston and Smithfield Truancy Courts and serves on Johnston, Smithfield, and Scituate Juvenile Justice Hearing Boards

Hardship due to funding cuts:

Funding was decreased from \$27,027 to \$21,020 a loss of \$6,007.

Coordinators hours were cut, less time on prevention efforts

Elimination of local media campaign for both students and parent awareness.

Reduction in sponsoring After Prom activities

Reduction of prevention activities in both the middle and high schools

Funding for professional development has been reduced

Reduced enforcement efforts for underage drinking.



## **South Kingstown**

Senate District 35, 37, 38

House District 33 34, 35, 36

South Kingstown Population – 30,630 (2010 Census)

The South Kingstown Partnership for Prevention (SKPP) is an organizational structure that captures the individual excellence and collective experience of many facets of the community. Working collaboratively together to reduce substance abuse in our community through specific initiatives, community outreach, coalition training and parent forums. There is one paid coordinator, Heidi Driscoll, who oversees all day to day operations, facilitates strategic planning, oversees implementation of evidence-based curriculum in the schools, prepares budgets and fiscal reports and most importantly addresses community issues of underage drinking, substance abuse including marijuana, over the counter and non-medical use of prescription drugs.

SKPP has a rather large and eager coalition comprised of educators, law enforcement, social workers, substance abuse counselors, Doctors, teachers, parents and most importantly, students from various grade levels. With the hiring of a new coordinator in February, many of the coalition's members are new and require training to maintain sustainability in the town. Our coalition meets monthly and various breakout subcommittees regularly meet also. Some of our initiatives include Access to Excellence Chemical Health Policy for student athletes, Too Good for Drugs evidence-based curriculum implemented in grades 5-9, 8<sup>th</sup> grade lock-in, focus groups for health teachers and students, Above the Influence peer mentoring groups, slogan contest, parent forums, newsletters, training and professional development.

Heidi Driscoll, the coordinator has a Master's degree in Education and sits on various committees, such as the Multi-Tiered Support System and A2E Jr. for the SK School District, Children's Mental Health Advisory Board and the Community Advisory Board for the Washington County Coalition for Children.

Though we accomplish a great with very little funding we have had to make many cuts due to lack of funding;

- SKPP has eliminated various initiatives in the middle and elementary schools, adversely affecting 2200 students.
- SKPP has had to reduce staffing and eliminate a part time employee
- Professional Development has been greatly impacted reducing sustainability with-in the district



## Tiverton

Tiverton Population – 15,780 (2010 census)

The Tiverton Prevention Coalition was established in 1988. The Coalition's mission promotes the health and safety of all residents through effective community-based substance abuse prevention initiatives. The coalition has approximately 15 active volunteer members and a full time coordinator. Our members and partners represent multiple community sectors: youth, parents, law enforcement, school personnel, local business and civic organizations, media, government, faith organizations, and agencies providing behavioral health supports to Tiverton.

The Coalition employs strategic, evidence-based approaches to substance abuse prevention supported in current research and best practices. Our environmental approach to prevention aims to create population level change by addressing the community's perception of acceptability of youth substance use, accessibility of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, other drugs by youth, and changes in policies within the community that impact youth use rates.

Among our successes in 2013: (through our Federal Drug-Free Community Grant)

- Establishment of a permanent 24/7 medication drop box for safe disposal of prescription and OTC drugs at the police department, with notification to all town residents.
- Passage of local ordinance to prohibit the sale of all synthetic drugs by local Tiverton retail establishments: passed prior to state law and strengthens state law by attaching penalty to vendor sales license.
- Hosted Marijuana Summit with local leaders and area state legislators for information sharing; followed up with the distribution of a town-wide marijuana mailing and the establishment of a marijuana ordinance sub-committee to recommend ordinances to protect the community from the unintended consequences of marijuana legislation.
- Provided Responsible Beverage Server Training to class A vendors in Tiverton and Portsmouth.
- Established peer led campaign, UnMarketing Weed, to address common misperceptions about marijuana among high school students. Effectiveness of their efforts are being measured through the Coalition's annual student survey for grades 7-12.

Rebecca Elwell, the coordinator of IPC is a certified prevention specialist and represents TPC on various state committees, such as the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Committee and the Attorney General's Marijuana Work Group.

Programs lost due to funding cuts:

- Tiverton's RISAPA budget was cut from \$24,380 to \$18,852.
- Cuts in RISAPA funding have impacted the Tiverton Prevention Coalition's support of the student assistance counselor program. The Tiverton Student Assistance Counselor is currently shared by the Middle and High Schools. This arrangement is not nearly adequate to meet the growing needs amongst our youth population. In the first 2 1/2 months of school the Counselor saw 42 individual students at the high school and 64 individual students at the middle school. Some students were seen only once, most were seen multiple times.

## Warren

Senate District: 10

House District: 67, 68

Warren Population: 11,360

The Warren Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force is a coalition of voluntary members representing both the private and public sectors of the community of Bristol. Its mission is to offer evidence-based school and community prevention programming with the goal of reducing youth substance abuse. The Coalition has established effective working relationships with our Town Council and School Committee members; the Warren Police Departments; the Regional School District and principals of both the Kickemuit Middle School and Mt. Hope High School; and the CEO of East Bay Community Action. This close engagement with local leadership empowers our Coalition to offer the people in the community positive alternatives and activities to address substance abuse and misuse.

Instituted in 1988 under RI general law, the Coalition's main goals are to increase the capacity of the community to plan and implement quality youth substance abuse prevention programs, disseminate the prevention message community-wide, and promote healthy lifestyles through collaborative planning, community action, policy advocacy and education. The Coalition's prime directives are to initiate and support the development and implementation of drug, alcohol and tobacco free community events and strategies, and to promote legislation and local policies that further our substance abuse prevention objectives. The Coalition meets on a monthly basis with a minimum of 10 meetings per year, as per adopted bylaws. The Coordinator Ann Marie Roy is a Certified Prevention Specialist who works closely with the board chair Mike Carbone, Director of East Bay Head Start and former Bristol /Warren Middle School Principal.

Ann Marie serves as a liaison for the Methodist, Baptist and Catholic churches in the Town of Warren. Assisting on the St Vincent DePaul Society boards, Ann Marie continues to be a pillar of the community

Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- Warren Prevention Coalitions lost \$9,000.
- Coordinator hours were cut back from 10 hours per week to six
- Party patrols for underage drinking in Warren during the school year, which were previously done monthly, have been reduced to quarterly.
- Elimination of a Drug and Alcohol Curriculum at the Middle School
- An after school gym supervisor who supervised students in the gym after school for 2 hours as they worked out , since there is no longer someone there the gym has been vandalized and the program has been closed effecting over 300 high school students that used the gym either in the morning or the afternoon.
- The coalitions no longer sponsor alternative activities like dances, movies beach parties etc. The Juvenile Hearing board in Warren has reported youth numbers doubled this year from youth not having alternative activities.

Warwick Youth Programs and Prevention Committee  
Warwick Substance and Alcohol Prevention Task Force

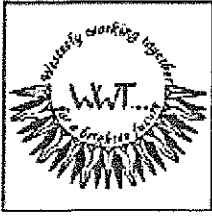
Senate District 29,30,31

House District 19,20,21,22,23,24

Warwick Population 82,672 (2010 census)

Warwick Youth Programs and Prevention Committee was formed in 1992 for the purpose of developing a comprehensive community and school based program addressing the danger of underage drinking and drug use among our youth. Our collaboration with the Warwick School Department has been instrumental in bringing more activities and educational programs to students and parents. It is our job to increase public awareness on the trends that are constantly changing with our community. Our programs are planned to help students develop problem solving skills and better decision making abilities so that when they are faced with risky behaviors, they will make positive decisions. We have the support from the Warwick Police Department with all of the SRO officers on the Task Force along with other members of the community including representation from the city council, faith based, medical community and municipal government, and school department.

Funding cannot be cut without having a direct result on our future. Effective early family and school interventions strengthen protective factors and reduce risk factors to help prevent substance abuse among young people. Investing in all of our children and supporting the educational programs for families in Warwick will always be our biggest investment for the future. As told by Mayor Avedisian ...."Our mission statement is simple. All children will enter school ready to learn. All children will leave school ready to work and lead productive lives. All families will continue to live in safe and nurturing neighborhoods and communities."



Westerly  
Substance Abuse  
Task Force  
c/o Westerly  
Town Hall  
45 Broad Street  
Westerly, RI  
02891

westerlysatf.org

Senate District - 38  
House District - 36, 37, 38  
Westerly Population - 23,500 increases to 60,000 in summer

The Westerly Substance Abuse Prevention coalition has been in existence since 1988 with approximately 20 volunteer members. The coalition addresses substance abuse prevention in the community. We coordinate with the Westerly Police Department on compliance checks and best practices to reduce underage drinking and drug use. Westerly Public Schools is also a strong partner. The coalition collaborates with school personnel to address emerging drug trends and other risky behaviors. The coalition also works closely with the business community to provide trainings, educational materials and resources. Our yearly presentations to both the Town Council and the School Committee provide community information that is televised to many families. The Westerly Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force is an established and valued entity to the community.

Mary Lou Serra, the coordinator has a B.A. in psychology and served for 6 years on the Westerly Licensing Board and on many other civic groups, including the Downtown Business Association, the Parent Academy and the Youth Task Force.

Programs that were lost due to funding cuts:

- Funding was decreased from \$28,191 to \$21,251
- Media initiatives were cut
- Programs offered at Westerly Middle School were eliminated
- Sticker Shock project had a significant reduction

Substance abuse prevention is a well-documented science. Coalitions base their strategies on assessments and problem identification and focus on bringing a range of local stakeholders to the table to craft local solutions. The coalition supports evidence-based strategies to reduce community problems. Some of the strategies that are being implemented include:

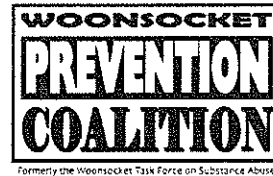
- Parent support programs
- Youth development programs
- Local policy changes including social host laws
- Community forums and trainings regarding emerging drug trends
- Evidenced based curriculums in schools and community
- Media campaigns
- Law enforcement support, including funding for tobacco and alcohol compliance checks and party patrols.

Without adequate funding prevention efforts will disappear. Every dollar invested in these programs, strategies and activities have the potential to save up to \$7 in areas such as substance abuse treatment and criminal justice system costs, not to mention the wide impact on the trajectory of young lives and their families and communities (National Institute on Drug Abuse (2007). *Research Update from the National Institute on Drug Abuse - Drug Abuse is a preventable Behavior*. Bethesda, MD. Available: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/tib/prevention.html>) the few communities in RI that have secured federal funding through Drug Free Communities Grants have dedicated strategies to reducing substance abuse and have seen notable improvements in reducing youth substance use, increasing perception of harm and overall cultural shifts to sustain those changes. However, cuts to the RISAPA program make it harder to secure federal funding as matching funds are required. The municipal substance abuse prevention coalitions are an integral part of maintaining the integrity of community prevention and keeping Rhode Island safe; they need adequate funding. Adequate funding does make a difference!

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Serra  
Coordinator

MLS:pas



Senate Districts: Districts 20 and 24

House Districts: Districts 49, 50 and 51

Woonsocket Population: 41,186

Since its inception in 1986, the Woonsocket Prevention Coalition Corporation (WPC), formerly the Woonsocket Task Force on Substance Abuse (WTFSA), has played a pivotal role in identifying and addressing the issue of substance abuse in the city of Woonsocket. Formed originally as a group of volunteers studying the problem of substance abuse, the WPC has evolved into an effective, organized, non-profit coalition of community leaders representing all sectors throughout Woonsocket with a clear and defined mission: to develop, implement and advocate for effective, community-based prevention initiatives.

The WPC acts as a catalyst, uniting the public and private sectors in preventing disease and injury, promoting wellness and building a safe and drug free community. The results of these collaborations include a number of significant and successful community-wide public awareness efforts, including educational workshops, dissemination of information through forums and Town Hall Meetings and original media campaigns and initiatives designed to effect community health choices and public policy. The WPC also organizes a Youth Committee, which focuses on youth-led "Above the Influence" after-school programming. The WPC provides regular updates to parents through their "Parenting Challenge" newsletter, which is distributed through schools and community venues. A close partnership with local law enforcement ensures on-going enforcement efforts within the community, maintenance of an anonymous Tip Line, updates on current drug and crime trends and 24-hour collection of unused/expired medications at the station. Business collaboration provides opportunity for on-going training and media campaign development, which shows that community prevention strategies are a multi-sector, coordinated effort. As a result of these strategies and many others, the WPC has continued to assume a leading role in community prevention efforts.

Lost Programs due to funding cuts:

- Impact to Underage drinking prevention strategy: Reduced support for post - graduation events No Safe and Sober Tuxedo and Prom Flower media educational campaign
- Impact to Prescription Drug abuse prevention strategy: No Senior Citizen educational workshops or annual educational forum
- Impact to Other Drug prevention initiatives: decreased support for Youth Committee after-school programming
- Overall, the decrease of more than \$11,000 in funding has challenged our ability to apply for funding that requires matching funds and decreases the availability of staff to participate in community events such as health fairs and other community coalitions

Lisa M. Carcifero, MSW, is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and represents the WPC on various local and statewide committees and Boards, including the Ocean State Prevention Alliance, RI DOH Overdose Prevention and Rescue Committee, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws, Woonsocket Juvenile Hearing Board, Tobacco-Free RI, Woonsocket Rotary Club, YWCA RI, Woonsocket Senior Services, Inc., Connecting for Children and Families.