



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

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BHDDH Receives \$8,000,000 Grant to Help Adults with Substance Use Disorders Access Treatment

The Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) has received an \$8,291,875 grant (\$1,658,375 per year for 5 years) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Rhode Island Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT) grant targets the entire population of Rhode Island, with a special focus on health care settings in communities with higher rates of substance use. The grant will allow BHDDH to pilot a screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment program for adults disproportionately affected by substance use who are not accessing treatment.

Rhode Island SBIRT will carry out 250,000 pre-screenings of Rhode Islanders over a five year period: approximately 30,000 in year 1 and 55,000 in years 2 through 5. The screening will cover tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, other substance and depression. They will be delivered to individuals in primary care and health centers, emergency departments, and the Department of Corrections. The grant is scheduled to begin start-up in October.

The program will be incorporated into several State priority initiatives, providing a much-needed connection between physical and behavioral health care services. These initiatives include the Governor's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force, Discharge Planning, the State Innovation Model (SIM) and the Health Equity Zones (HEZ). The Department of Corrections Discharge Planning initiative created local Re-entry Councils that address inmates' needs as they return to their communities. Implementing SBIRT will provide critical assessments and referrals to treatment in the community.

Through the SIM initiative, a grant focusing on integrating health and behavioral health care across the lifespan, Rhode Island has created an interagency Team that includes members of departments overseen by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS): BHDDH, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Division of Medicaid, as well as the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) and HealthSource RI. This team will oversee the implementation of the SBIRT grant.

Substance use disorder treatment has been identified as an issue by the majority of communities served by the Department of Health's Health Equity Zones (HEZ), and SBIRT will allow communities connections to these critical services. RI-SBIRT will be implemented in clinical sites and Community Health Teams serving populations at higher risk for substance use disorders.

SBIRT goals related specifically to patient care include reducing substance-related mortality and the prevalence of substance use disorders; reducing opioid and alcohol use/consumption; increasing abstinence; and reducing the use of costly healthcare services. Evidence from earlier SBIRT initiatives indicates that early identification and intervention in a healthcare setting can reduce and prevent more serious and expensive consequences of substance abuse in the general population.

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