



RHODE ISLAND: Rhode Island Police Learn How to Respond to People Struggling with Mental Illness

January 06, 2017

News Type: Weekly Spark, Weekly Spark News

State: Rhode Island

[WBUR](#) [1]

Rhode Island is among the first states to require that all new law enforcement officials receive training in mental health first aid. In an effort to direct individuals with mental illness away from the criminal justice system and into treatment, police officers are learning tools for effectively responding to mental health emergencies, such as listening, de-escalating a crisis, and providing assistance. Trisha Brouwer, who works for Gateway Healthcare in Pawtucket and partners with the police in responding to mental health emergencies, said that mental health first aid is comparable to CPR in its potential to save lives. According to Brouwer, training law enforcement in how to respond to crisis situations could result in fewer arrests and more access to treatment for people with mental illness.

Spark Extra! Learn more about [suicide prevention in law enforcement settings](#) [2].

Links within this resource

[1] <http://www.wbur.org/morningedition/2016/12/27/mental-health-police-training>

[2] <http://www.sprc.org/settings/law-enforcement>

Printed on 03/28/2020 from <http://www.sprc.org/news/rhode-island-rhode-island-police-learn-how-respond-people-struggling-mental-illness>

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center at EDC is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), under Grant No. 5U79SM062297.

The views, opinions, and content expressed in this product do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of CMHS, SAMHSA, or HHS.

Copyright © 2002-2019 by Education Development Center, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

