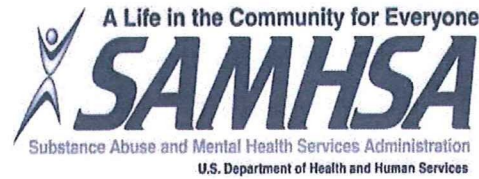


RI Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Grant Details

Rhode Island's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program (RIJDTR) is a comprehensive approach to creating a trauma-informed criminal justice system that identifies and diverts adults with trauma histories/PTSD, prioritizing veterans, from the criminal justice system and into treatment that is trauma-informed and/or trauma-specific.

RIJDTR is governed by a State Advisory Committee. It will be piloted in Kent County, RI, which was selected because of the strength of its trauma informed system of care and the commitment of its community behavioral healthcare center, The Kent Center. The project will be expanded to an additional site, and ultimately expanded state-wide. It will also build the necessary infrastructure to fill gaps in the system of care and meet the program's goals.

The project is funded by SAMHSA and will extend through September of 2014.



Rhode Island Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery is a program of the RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals in Collaboration with The Kent Center and the Federal Department of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA).

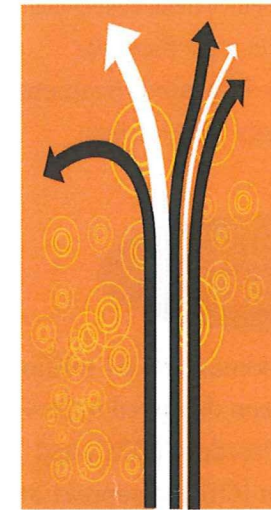
For information on RIJDTR, contact:

Corinna Roy
Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental
Disabilities and Hospitals
14 Harrington Road
Cranston RI 02920
e-mail: croy@bhddh.ri.gov
Phone: 401-462-0455

For referrals to RIJDTR, contact:

Carolyn Choquette
The Kent Center
50 Health Lane
Warwick, RI 02886
e-mail: cchoquette@thekentcenter.org
Phone: 401-822-6988
Alternate: 401-732-5656, x234

Rhode Island Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program



R
I
J
D
T
R

The RI Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program, with a Priority to Veterans, will establish a formal, statewide jail diversion structure. This structure will, at the earliest opportunity along the criminal justice continuum, divert or direct veterans and others with trauma-related symptoms to a system of integrated treatment and wraparound recovery support services. In this effort, the program will harness, coordinate and deploy the resources, strengths and good will of systems as well as citizens to meet the needs of individuals and their families impacted by trauma.

Why diversion from jail?

Many people with trauma-related backgrounds become involved with the criminal justice system due to what is essentially a normal response to the abnormal situations that they have experienced. These responses may get them into trouble with the law. With appropriate trauma-informed treatment, however, these individuals can recover.

Who will be diverted?

As of April 2008, approximately 1.64 million men and women have been deployed to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in support of the Global War on Terror. Individuals returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are at increased risk for suffering post-traumatic stress and other related disorders. Experts estimate that up to one-third of returning veterans will need mental health and/or substance abuse treatment and related services. In addition, the family members of returning veterans have an increased need for related support services.

Given the rates of co-occurring disorders among returning OEF/OIF service personnel, there has been a growing concern about the risk of their becoming involved in the criminal justice system upon return. These

concerns stem from a recognition of a high risk for incarceration among non-veteran individuals with behavioral health issues (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006) and the increase in incarceration of veterans following the Vietnam War (Walker, 1981). There has been a national movement toward developing diversion strategies to intercept veterans with mental health conditions at multiple points in the criminal justice process (CMHS National GAINS Center, 2008).

In addition to Veterans, there are many other people who become involved with the criminal justice system due to childhood or adult trauma. These individuals will also be targeted for diversion. Any individual who enters the program will be screened to determine if their trauma history contributed to their criminal behavior.

What does diversion mean?

For the purposes of this grant diversion means that a person actively participates in evidence-based trauma-informed treatment which results in the elimination or reduction in the amount of contact a person has with the criminal justice system. In some, but not all cases these people will have their records expunged. Diversion could happen prior to arrest at first contact with law enforcement or post-booking when clients begin to have contact with the court system.

What crimes can be diverted?

Some of the crimes that are typically diverted by the adult jail diversion program through the Attorney General's Office include:

- Breaking and Entering-business only
- Credit Card Fraud, Forgery, Larceny
- Driving Motor Vehicle Without Consent of Owner
- False/Altered Prescription, Obtaining Controlled Substance by Fraud, Possession of Controlled Substance
- Obtaining Goods Under False Pretenses
- Obtaining Money Under False Pretenses
- Possession or passing of Counterfeit Bills

Help is available.

If you or a loved one is concerned that your or their behavior could be leading to criminal conduct, please contact The Kent Center's TAMAR program by calling Lisa Peterson at (401) 732-5656, x373. TAMAR stands for Trauma, Addiction, Mental Health and Recovery.

