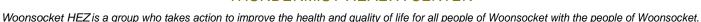


HEALTH EQUITY ZONE (HEZ)

WOONSOCKET

THUNDERMIST HEALTH CENTER





Health Equity Zones are geographical areas designed to achieve health equity by eliminating health disparities using place-based (where you live) strategies to promote healthy communities. Healthy communities are places where people live, work, play, and learn. These are neighborhoods consisting of social and physical environments that support healthy choices and safe living.

STORY SPOTLIGHT: RESIDENT ADVISORS



Woonsocket Resident Advisors are a collective group of residents with lived experiences and a mutually vested interest in the community. Resident Advisors are the most important component of the Health Equity Zone. Resident Advisors actively participate in priority area work group meetings where they provide resident perspective and relevant input. Resident Advisors have facilitated community feedback sessions where they continuously work to build their understanding of the community and needs of the people. Woonsocket HEZ Resident Advisors have identified youth leadership and prevention as well as Racial Equity their project priority areas.

PROJECT TIMELINE

May 2015
August 2015
November 2015
January 2016
March 2016
February 2017
September 2017
June 2019
July 2019
September 2019

Woonsocket Health Equity Zone kick-off and launch of priority area workgroups
Launched Comprehensive Food System Planning Project
Opening of Serepity Center, "for all stages of addiction and receivery."

Opening of Serenity Center, "for all stages of addiction and recovery"

Teen Health Survey to assess access to health education

Resident Ambassadors joined HEZ work

NWBRV's Hub to support food entrepreneurs launched

HEZ Sexual Health and Family Planner hired for Woonsocket High

3 partner innovative programs funded to support child well-being initiative

Ambassador group re-established to Resident Advisors Comprehensive Opioid Planning Assessment complete

BACKGROUND INFO

Woonsocket HEZ collaborative engages more than 30 local cross sector organizations and 7 resident leaders focusing on the following PRIORITY AREAS:

- Addressing the opioid epidemic by saving lives, making treatment and recovery available on demand in real time.
- Addressing teen health to ensure that all teens, including young parents, will have high quality healthcare and accurate and complete sex education to make informed decisions and choices about their lives.
- Improving access to food by ensuring healthy food is easy to find and affordable in every neighborhood.
- Addressing child well-being to ensure all children are safe from harm and live in families and neighborhoods that help them to thrive.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Serenity Center

At Serenity Center, people can come to be with others who support their recovery. It is a peer-run place that offers supports with Certified Peer Recovery Specialists. Support groups like Medication Assisted Treatment, AA and Narcotics Anonymous, and Families Coping with Addictions are also offered. A person can visit and get a referral for basic needs and family supports, financial literacy classes, health and wellness activities, etc. A Community Care Alliance and a Health Equity Zone initiative, the Serenity Center is operated with the advocacy of a Consumer Advisory Council.



"It's really exciting and moving to see how the residents have empowered through this process. To witness how their lived experiences, knowledge and passion for this community has informed and changed the landscape of our collaborative and the strategies identified improve the community's health outcomes, is really inspiring."

-Former Project Manager, Ckarla Agudelo

WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

Tamara Burman, Woonsocket HEZ Project Manager, makes sure that residents guide the work of the HEZ. "The Resident Advisors are the community, and truly inform HEZ work." They actively participate in workgroups, set their own priorities, and facilitate their own projects. She is especially proud of how the residents have been empowered to take ownership of their own budget by selecting how and what initiatives by supporting and initiative projects that truly help the community.

The collaborative has laid groundwork in addressing teen pregnancies, overdoses, and improving access to food by supporting and implementing collaborative projects and strategies. Looking forward, the collaborative continues to work collectively and is focusing in on engaging families and those with lived experiences to engage the entire community to help young people thrive.

VISIT US ONLINE!
FACEBOOK.COM/
HEALTHEQUITYZONEWOONSOCKET



BACKBONE AGENCY

Thundermist Health Center

HEZ COORDINATORS

Tamara Burman 401-516-4137 tamarab@thundermisthealth.org

Susan Jacbsen, MA, LMHC, CCM 401-767-4100 ext. 4304 susanj@thundermishealth.org

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (RIDOH) PROJECT OFFICER

Deb Golding 401-222-5954 deb.golding@health.ri.gov

EVALUATOR

Katie St. Amand 401-222-5371 katelyn.stamand.ctr@health.ri.gov

Shared public health strategic priorities working with partners statewide.

Addressing the social and environmental determinants of health

• Eliminating the disparities of health and promote health equity • Ensuring access to quality health services including vulnerable populations.

Rhode Island Department of Health

3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Health Information Line: 401-222-5960

RI Relay 711, www.health.ri.gov