



**BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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**MEETING MINUTES**  
of the  
**REGIONAL SUBSTANCE USE COUNCIL (RSAC)**  
**Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**  
**2-5pm, Cape & Islands Association of Realtors, Yarmouth MA**

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**Members Present:** Beth Albert, Jamie Binienda, Vaira Harik, John Julian, Kim Leman, Kate Lena, Patty Mitrokostas, Bruce Murphy, Sean O'Brien, Katie Riconda, Judy Scarafile, Jeffrey Soares, Danielle St. Peter, Joe Trabucco, Regina Yaroch, Corrie Vilsaint.

**Member of the Public:** Numerous, at the invitation of the RIZE Foundation.

The time reserved for RSAC's October meeting was devoted to a request from the RIZE Foundation for a meeting with stakeholders in Barnstable County to explore diverse opinions and experiences around recovery from opioid use disorder (OUD) and to identify common ground and generate ideas for how best to engage, treat, and support those with the disease. The RSAC membership, and other stakeholders in Barnstable County, were invited by RIZE to participate. This is one of several meetings being held around the state by RIZE. The RIZE Massachusetts Foundation initiative entitled *Together in Recovery (TiR)* champions evidence-based approaches, supports multiple pathways to recovery, and puts people in charge of their treatment choices. Stakeholders working on this issue come at OUD from different viewpoints.

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***Creating a Healthy Connected Cape Cod***

*The Mission of the Department of Human Services is to plan, develop, and implement programs which enhance the overall delivery of human services in Barnstable County and promote the health and social well-being of County residents through regional efforts that improve coordination of services.*



**Together in Recovery**  
*Supporting Informed Decisions*

RIZE Massachusetts Foundation (RIZE) is committed to achieving zero stigma and zero deaths related to opioid use disorder by investing in meaningful solutions and engaging broad perspectives that will save lives, reduce harm, and end the opioid epidemic in Massachusetts.

RIZE launched *Together in Recovery (TiR)* to foster an accessible, integrated treatment and recovery network in Massachusetts that champions evidence-based approaches, supports multiple pathways to recovery, and puts people in charge of their treatment choices. This one-year initiative is exploring diverse viewpoints and experiences, and sharing research and data to enrich awareness of the full range of treatment and recovery options.

**Towards a Unified Vision**

TiR is guided by a Change Team of influencers – spanning peer, clinical, policy, family, and community roles – and is convening stakeholders and experts for one-on-one conversations, regional meetings, and a statewide event to deepen understanding of evidence-based approaches and person-centered strategies.

The initiative will culminate in the release of a blueprint for change that embraces a unified vision representing varied perspectives of treatment and recovery. The blueprint will offer specific steps for implementation, and be shared with treatment providers, recovery communities, policymakers, and the public to facilitate widespread support and action.

RIZE is partnering with [C4 Innovations](#) (C4) to plan and guide TiR. RIZE and C4 share a commitment to an accessible treatment network that meets patients where they are in their personal journey toward recovery, supports informed and shared decision-making, and coordinates treatment and services to support long-term recovery from opioid use disorder.

To learn more about *Together in Recovery*, please contact Julie Burns, President & CEO at RIZE Massachusetts Foundation ([julie.burns@rizema.org](mailto:julie.burns@rizema.org)) or Livia Davis, Chief Learning Officer at C4 Innovations ([ldavis@c4innovates.com](mailto:ldavis@c4innovates.com)).

**About RIZE**

[RIZE Massachusetts Foundation](#) is an independent nonprofit foundation working to end the opioid epidemic in Massachusetts, and reduce its devastating impact on people, communities, and our economy. We forge partnerships between the business community, health care sector, research institutions, and community leaders to disrupt the status quo on prevention and treatment of opioid use disorder, raise awareness that this is a chronic disease, and reduce stigma that impedes recovery.

Respectfully submitted by: Vaira Harik, Human Services