



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Stakeholders,

In 2024, RIZE Massachusetts Foundation launched Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership (Mosaic)—a groundbreaking public-private initiative to direct opioid settlement funds to the communities hardest hit by the overdose crisis. Guided by individuals with lived and living experience, Mosaic brings forward innovative, community-led solutions to save lives, combat stigma, and improve quality of life for people living with substance use disorders.

In its first eight months, Mosaic awarded \$3.75 million in grants through a collaborative, community-driven process involving dozens of stakeholders. At the same time, we expanded our existing program portfolio, committing over \$3 million to initiatives aligned with our mission and community priorities.

Key milestones this year included:

- ☀ Launching Linkages to Care, a two-year program connecting community organizations with healthcare systems.
- ☀ Advancing the second year of Taking Action to Improve Access and Equity, focused on the BIPOC community.
- ☀ Funding the fourth year of the HaRT Scholars program, supporting harm reduction training for social workers.

We continuously evaluate our programs to enhance our strategies and impact, using shared measures to

monitor success and accountability in our goal to end the overdose crisis.

All of this has laid the groundwork for us to navigate uncertain times ahead and address the challenges of responding to the overdose crisis. We will continue to support individuals who use drugs, those in recovery, and the people who care for them. We are committed to dismantling stigma and ensuring equitable access to quality care for everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances.

We also remember and celebrate the life of Jack Connors, a founding board member and philanthropic leader. Jack's wisdom, generosity, and humor left an indelible mark on RIZE. His legacy reminds us of the profound impact one person can have on a community.

As we honor his memory, we invite you to explore our 2024 accomplishments and the partnerships that made them possible.

With gratitude,



Julie Burns
JULIE BURNS
President & CEO



Steve Pollock
STEVE POLLOCK
Board Chair

OUR APPROACH

Our approach has evolved over the last several years to further emphasize the importance of collaboration and inclusivity. We believe that addressing big challenges like the overdose crisis requires thinking beyond traditional boundaries and incorporating diverse perspectives. By engaging individuals with lived and living experience in our decision-making processes, we ensure the voices of those most affected are central to our work.

We strive to build trusting partnerships, sharing power whenever possible and demonstrating humility and collaboration in all aspects of our work. We make every effort to be objective in our approach and data-driven in our evaluation. We actively seek and respond to feedback, viewing ourselves as humble learners who recognize we do not have all the answers.

Additionally, we offer support beyond merely financial assistance, understanding that lasting relationships are developed over time while acknowledging the urgency of the issues we face. Our goal is to be responsive, approachable, and accessible in all of our initiatives.

For more information on our work, visit: rizema.org/impact-areas





INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

RIZE’s multifaceted strategy to address the complexity and enormity of the overdose crisis is effective because it is based on evolving realities on the ground. We monitor the success of our initiatives, listen to and learn from each other, and hold each other accountable toward a shared vision of “zero stigma. zero deaths.” Our key focus areas are enhancing the addiction treatment workforce, fostering a culture of harm reduction, and increasing access to equitable addiction treatment. Our approach is iterative, aimed at both supporting and building upon these areas in a way that maximizes our effectiveness and impact.



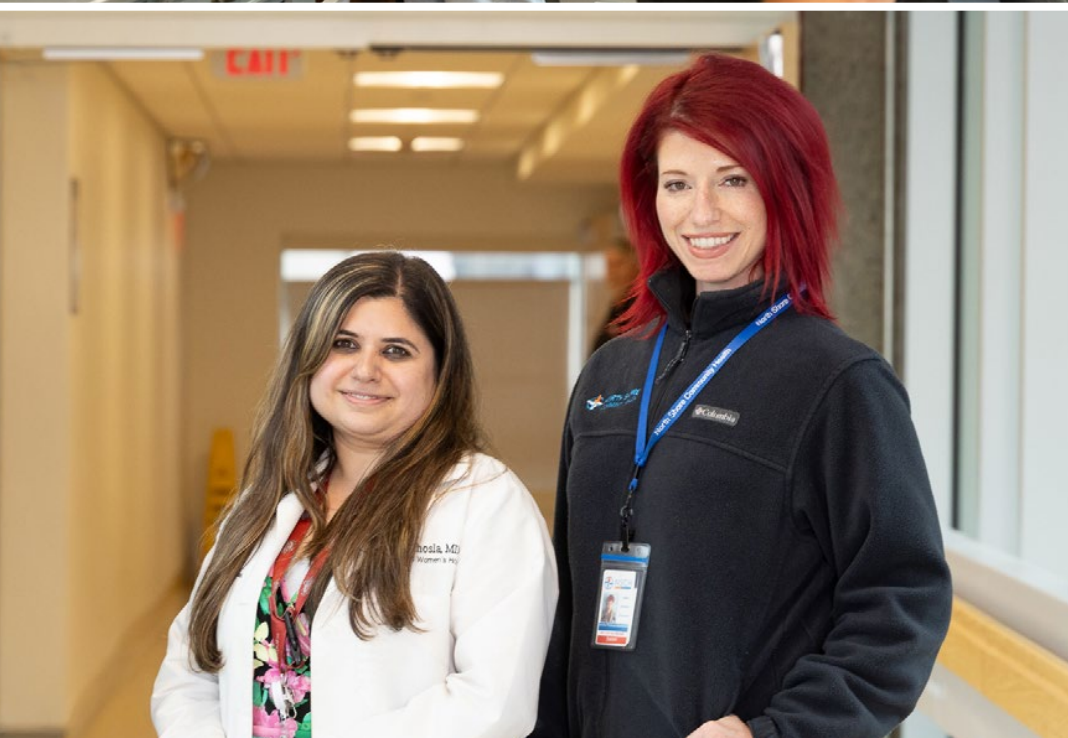
\$6.7M
invested in grants
and programs

82 
community partners
received funding

75 
subject matter experts and
individuals with lived and
living experience served on
our grant review and advisory
committees



Maria Carpenter, a navigator with Fishing Partnership Support Services, facilitates a naloxone training for fishermen in Newburyport



Top: AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod staff Eliza Morrison and Zak Bernier stocking harm reduction supplies in their Hyannis office; Bottom: Shuchi Khosla, MD, medical director in the Department of Psychiatry, Outpatient Mental Health at Salem Hospital and Jenilee Feldman-Gombkoto, RN, director of recovery services at North Shore Community Health

LINKAGES TO CARE

RIZE awarded nearly \$2 million to eight organizations on the frontlines of the overdose crisis to eliminate treatment barriers and foster networks among hospitals, treatment providers, community organizations, clients, and families, while enhancing connections to social and recovery supports:

- AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod is partnering with Duffy Health Center and Gosnold Behavioral Health** to support its Post Inpatient Linkages Program and the hiring of a navigator to enhance outreach, collaborations, and partnerships.
- Community Health Connections is expanding its services by partnering with local emergency departments at UMass Memorial HealthAlliance and Heywood Hospital** to refer patients to addiction services based on their needs, assessing them for medication for opioid use disorder or Office-Based Addiction Treatment services, and offering support through hospital-based recovery coaches.
- Metro Boston Alive, in partnership with Mass General Hospital,** is enhancing its support for individuals of color requiring extensive care coordination post-discharge by hiring a part-time community health intake coordinator to guide patients through treatment plans and address challenges related to social determinants of health.

- North Shore Community Health is improving access to care for substance use disorder patients with Mass General Brigham – Salem Hospital** by embedding treatment navigators in local hospitals to guide patients to treatment options, address transportation barriers, and provide naloxone at all health center locations.
- The Pettengill House is linking with Anna Jaques Hospital, Link House, Inc., and Essex County Outreach** to create Behavioral Event and Substance Support Taskforce, a collaborative community task force to improve quality and continuity of care, increase equitable access, share information and resources, increase accountability, and streamline delivery of services.
- Riverbend is collaborating with Lowell General Hospital** to provide resources for individuals after inpatient stays and emergency department visits, including evening and weekend recovery coaching, naloxone and safe use kits, and transportation assistance.
- The Somerville Homeless Coalition, in partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance’s Healthcare for the Homeless program,** is expanding in-patient care for SUDs, mental health, and chronic illness with outpatient follow-up and referrals.
- Whose Corner Is It Anyway is improving healthcare responses to overdose through several initiatives with Baystate Health,** including developing a peer-written safety plan form for overdose survivors, co-designing a training program and forming a street outreach team with SafeSpot, and offering CPR and opioid overdose reversal training.

MOSAIC OPIOID RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

In April 2024, the Healey-Driscoll Administration selected RIZE to create and manage Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership (Mosaic). Funded by the MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, and powered by RIZE, Mosaic is a unique public-private collaboration designed to support initiatives that are addressing the opioid overdose crisis in communities and populations that have historically been underserved and have experienced a high rate of opioid-related overdose deaths.

The funding for Mosaic comes from the Massachusetts Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund, which resulted from the historic legal effort to demand justice from several private companies for the harms caused by the opioid epidemic. Through Mosaic, RIZE will distribute approximately \$5 million annually to initiatives focused on prevention, harm reduction, access to care, recovery, trauma, and family support programs.



2024 COMMUNITY-BASED OPIOID RESPONSE EFFORTS (CORE) GRANT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

96

applications received

\$3.75M

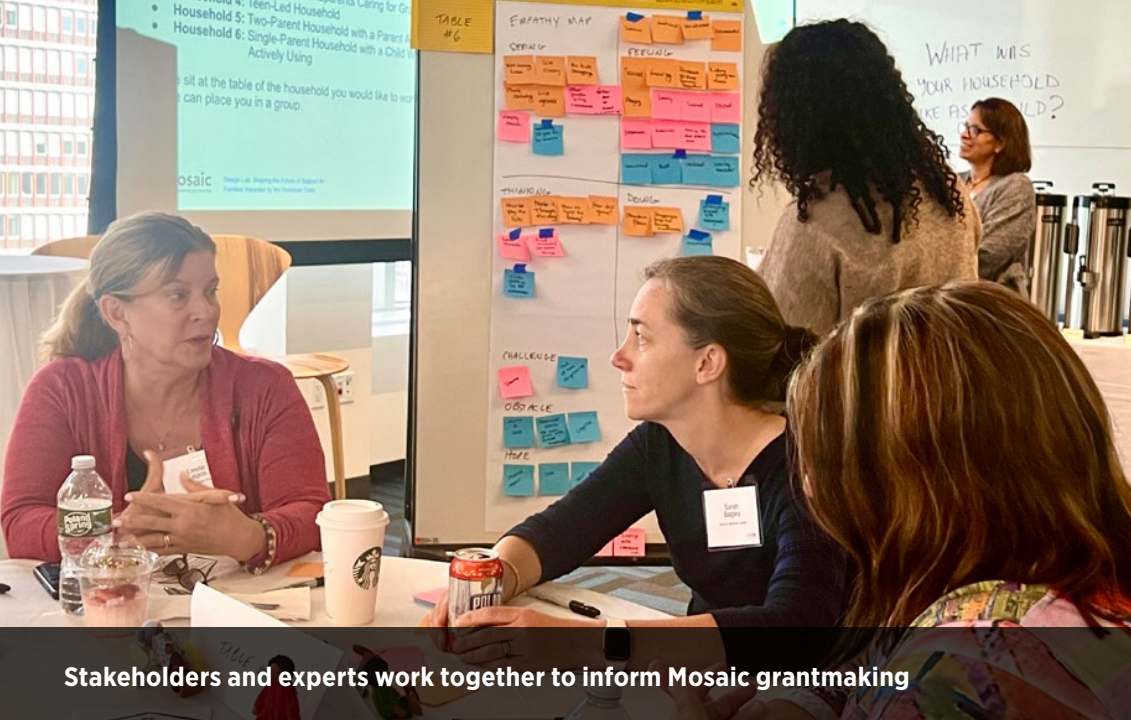
awarded to 18 organizations

12

counties represented across the awardees

72%

of the awardees have budgets under \$1M



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Mosaic is grounded in hope, optimism, and opportunity. It is also grounded in the recognition that settlement funding results from the loss of life. In every action we take and every decision we make, we carry the memories of those affected, ensuring their stories guide our work.

RIZE uses its unique ability to unite key partners through trusted relationships and credibility among practitioners, researchers, community leaders, and people with lived and living experience. We actively involve them in our decision-making process, giving them a voice in how we allocate funds. As a result, the funds are invested in the communities most deeply impacted while also fueling transformative change through grassroots efforts.

To learn more about Mosaic visit: mosaic.rizema.org

QUOTES FROM MOSAIC COMMUNITY MEMBERS

“Community-based organizations all across the Commonwealth work tirelessly each day to address the harms caused by the opioid epidemic, and Mosaic is an opportunity for us to invest in the amazing work they’re doing and help them bring that work to scale.”

DR. KIAME MAHANIAH

Undersecretary, MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services

“This is the first time, as a ‘small’ 501(c)(3) community-based organization, that I feel confident that we can apply for a grant on a level playing field to help build our capacity to further reduce the harm of opioid use disorders! All the presenters were very thorough, well-prepared, genuinely committed, and approachable! Keep up the great work! You have given us hope to be able to do more!”

MOSAIC WEBINAR PARTICIPANT

“I am honored to have been a part of the CORE grant review committee, and hope that dispersing this funding to a variety of small organizations will provide that extra bit of breathing space to grow, expand or start up. Funding like this is needed to safeguard people in our communities and develop new opportunities to combat the opioid crisis as we continue to evolve. By working with RIZE many people on the frontlines of the crisis will be looking forward to a positive outlook.”

SARAH DEJESUS

Program Manager, Berkshire Harm Reduction; Community grant reviewer

“Funding like this [means] the state believes in me...They believe in the work I’m doing. They’re advocating more for people who use drugs. They believe that I’m worth it, my team is worth it and we’re worth it.”

KIM POWERS Access HOPE



GENERATING KNOWLEDGE

RIZE is committed to generating and sharing knowledge to enhance visibility, broaden the evidence base, and inform policies aimed at addressing the overdose crisis. We focus on not just identifying gaps, but also on uncovering opportunities and offering effective solutions. In 2024, RIZE's programs and funded research were showcased at numerous conferences and through prominent media channels.



34 press mentions in 2024



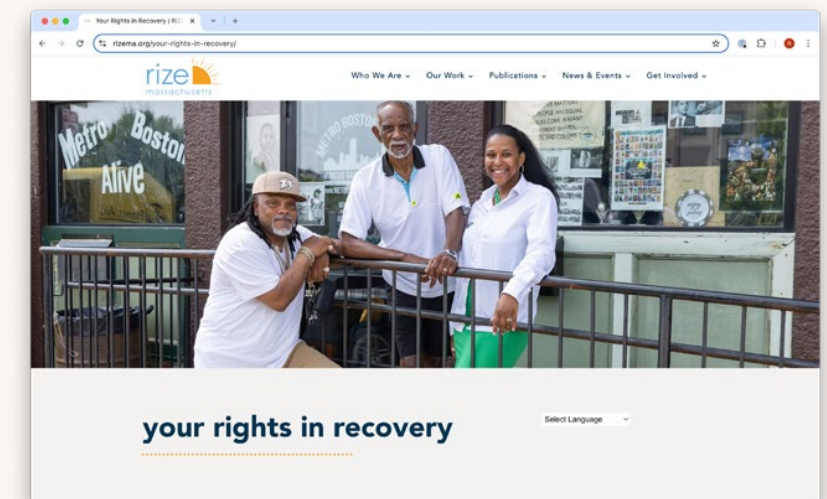
RIZE's work was featured in **16 presentations** at **14 conferences:**

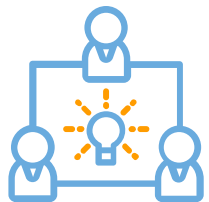
- ☀ AMERSA
- ☀ American Medical Association State Advocacy Summit
- ☀ Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine
- ☀ College on Problems and Drug Dependence
- ☀ Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference
- ☀ Massachusetts Health Policy Forum Statewide Briefing - Harm Reduction in the Commonwealth: Analysis of Opportunities to Save Lives
- ☀ MA Hospital Association - Substance Use Disorder & Harm Reduction: Moving from Principles to Practice
- ☀ National Institute on Standards and Technology
- ☀ National Academy of State Health Policy
- ☀ Network One
- ☀ RISE: Research Innovation Scholarship Entrepreneurship
- ☀ Rx and Illicit Drug Summit
- ☀ Together for Hope: Boston Addiction Conference
- ☀ Women's Lunch Place Spaghetti Dinner - 2024 Honoree

PUBLICATIONS



- ☀ RIZE revamped our **Your Rights in Recovery Toolkit**, which offers the support and resources people need as they navigate complex systems like housing, employment, harm reduction, and treatment.
- ☀ RIZE co-created **Shelter Settings and Substance Use: A Harm Reduction Toolkit** in partnership with the Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center. This toolkit offers recommendations from a study at four Massachusetts emergency shelters, focusing on integrating services to better support people who use drugs.
- ☀ RIZE partnered with the Institute for Community Health on a **report examining inpatient addiction consult services (ACS) across six model programs in Massachusetts**. This report provides recommendations for hospitals and their partners on how to further develop and expand inpatient ACS programs to increase access to treatment and harm reduction services.





BUILDING INCLUSIVE NETWORKS

RIZE is committed to promoting an ecosystem approach to ending the overdose crisis that enhances communication and collaboration among stakeholders, lifting up the voices of those with lived and living experience, and co-creating opportunities for change. In 2024, we engaged with over 1,400 people in health care, social services, government, business, and advocacy at convenings hosted or sponsored by RIZE.



1,460
people engaged
at events



22
RIZE events

TRAININGS

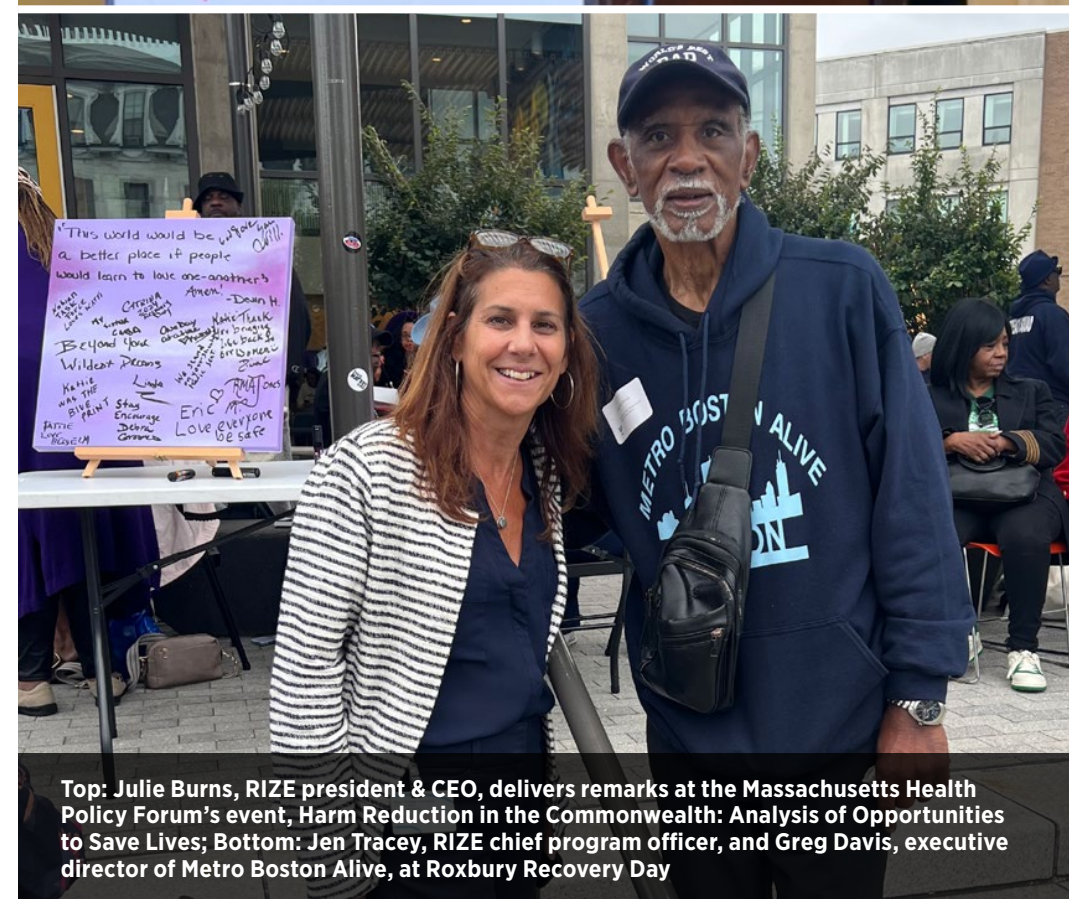
- Emerging Issues in Harm Reduction: Family and Community Work – HaRT CE 3-part Webinar with NASW Massachusetts Chapter and National Harm Reduction Coalition
- Transforming Care: Harm Reduction, Overdose Prevention and Management of Opioid Use Disorder in partnership with The Health Foundation of Central Mass., Reliant Foundation, UMass Memorial Health, and UMass Chan Medical School

TOPICAL EVENTS

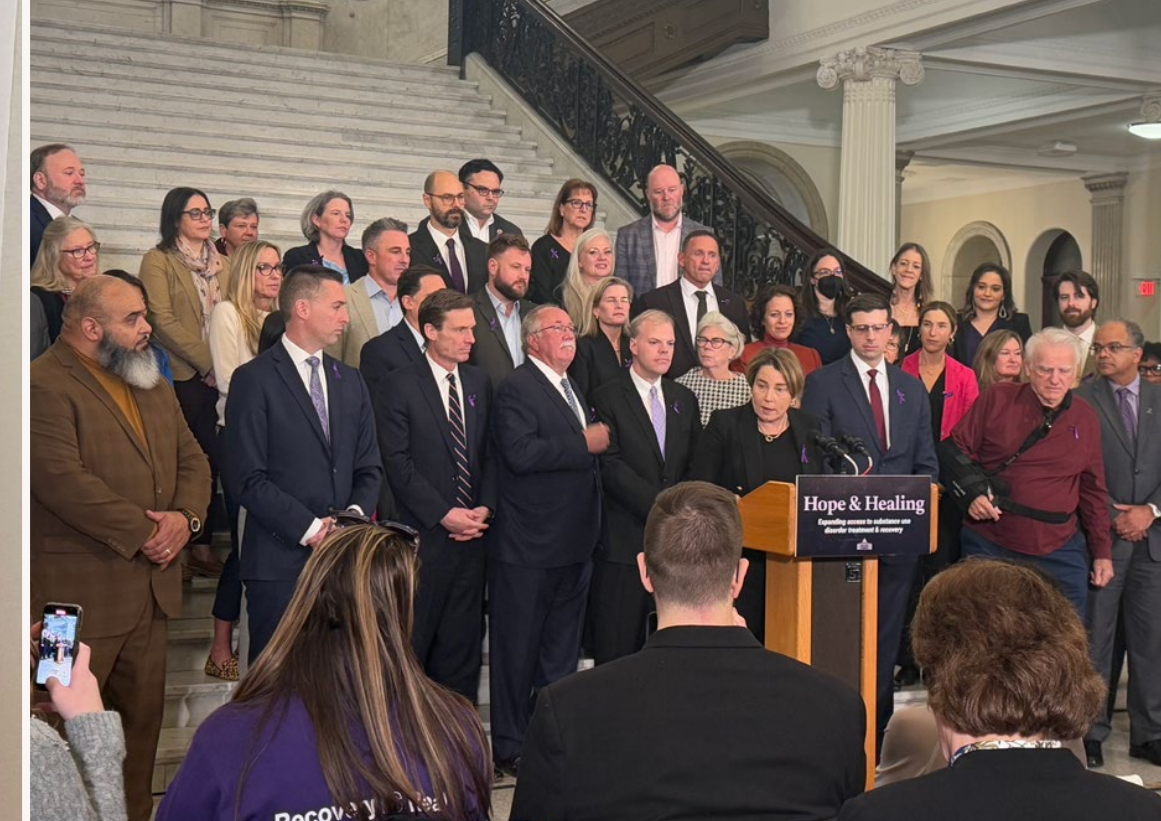
- Community Care in Reach: Mobile Addiction Services Conference with the Kraft Center for Community Health at Mass General Brigham
- Harm Reduction in Shelter Settings: Current Practices and Future Opportunities Webinar in partnership with the Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center
- Design Lab: Families Affected by Substance Use Disorder
- Massachusetts Health Policy Forum: Harm Reduction in the Commonwealth – Analysis of Opportunities to Save Lives in partnership with Brandeis University

NETWORKING

- Reflecting on the State of the Harm Reduction Movement
- Together for Hope: Boston Addiction Conference 2024



Top: Julie Burns, RIZE president & CEO, delivers remarks at the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum's event, Harm Reduction in the Commonwealth: Analysis of Opportunities to Save Lives; Bottom: Jen Tracey, RIZE chief program officer, and Greg Davis, executive director of Metro Boston Alive, at Roxbury Recovery Day





Wall of youth artwork, Positive Alternatives for Student Support program at Behavioral Health Innovators in Barnstable

Remembering Jack Connors
Founding RIZE Board Member
1942 - 2024



Five Years of
Coming Together
MAY BREAKFAST





THANK YOU

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Cover photos, clockwise from top-left: Sheril Smith, student support staff member with Behavioral Health Innovators; Shannon Eldredge, staff member with Fishing Partnership Support Services, facilitating a safety and survival training in Newburyport; Melvin Vazquez, treatment navigator with North Shore Community Health; AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod staff outside their mobile outreach van