



east bay community action program

Peer Recovery Coach Ines Garcia to Speak Feb. 3 and March 3 in Opioid Overdose Prevention Presentations

East Bay Community Action Program's /East Bay Recovery Center employees are committed to helping people recover from addiction, and they are also active in the statewide recovery community. Ines Garcia, Peer Recovery Coach at East Bay Recovery Center, volunteers as Co-Chair of the Governor's Opioid Overdose Prevention Task Force Recovery Work Group, a role she shares with fellow Co-Chair, Linda Mahoney, Administrator of Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders Programs at the RI Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH). This work group is focused on community outreach to prevent opioid overdoses. Garcia has also been a member of the Governor's Council of Behavioral Health for the past 4 years.

Garcia is passionate about education being the key to prevention. That's why she eagerly agreed to participate as a presenter in *Opioids in Our Community: Perspectives for Parents*, a virtual event being offered in collaboration by Rhode Island PBS, Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS), and the RI Department of BHDDH. Garcia will speak about her lived experience during the one-hour virtual event that will provide families and educators with resources, information, and community connections to address the challenge of substance use. The goal is "to provide parents/guardians with insight from local experts on the issue, as well as to share information about resources like Rhode Island PBS LearningMedia, so parents can effectively engage their children around substance use awareness and prevention. This event is geared towards creating a safe and inclusive space for parents to share their concerns, validate their own experiences, and to learn to spot warning signs in their children." It will be held February 3rd at 6:30 p.m. and it will be offered again in Spanish on March 3rd for the Latino community.

"We hope to initiate open conversations, break myths about addiction, and educate families while sharing important resources," said Garcia.

Tommy Joyce, East Bay Recovery Center Director, values Garcia's insight and advocacy. "Ines has been a leader in the recovery community for many years. She is a fierce advocate for the Latino community and her experience and passion are unmatched. She was a natural choice to be part of this project. Ines is the perfect person to connect with the community to provide education on overdose prevention and give information on resources that are desperately needed," he said.

Other panelists include Christine Bandoni, RISAS Student Assistance Counselor, Mount Hope High School, Kathryn Hamel, RISAS Student Assistance Counselor, Barrington Middle School, and Heidi Peterson, MD, Family Medicine, HealthFirst Family Care Center.

The virtual event will be held on the Zoom Webinar platform, and it is open to the public. Registration is required. To register go to <https://conta.cc/39GuQJ1>