



CHWARI



In-Person Panel Discussion:

“We Need to Get Paid for Our Value”: Making the Community Health Worker Role and Peer Recovery Specialist Role Sustainable

February 26, 2024, 1-4pm
Alger Hall, Room 110
Rhode Island College

Join CHWARI **in-person** on 2/26, 1-4pm, at Rhode Island College’s Institute for Education in Healthcare for a vibrant discussion with a panel of researchers (two of whom have lived experience of addiction) and CHWs/PRSs.

These panelists were involved with a [recent study](#) of CHW/PRS role definitions and work conditions in Rhode Island, published in *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*. They will discuss their own experiences of working in these roles as well as the changes needed to make them sustainable on the program, institutional, and legislative levels.

Abstract:

After decades of playing a critical role in extending healthcare to the most marginalized, Community Health Workers (and more recently, peer recovery specialists) are becoming widely recognized. However, all is clearly not well. A series of recent publications have described wide-spread burnout, emotional exhaustion, moral injury, economic exploitation, and high workforce turnover. As one harm-reduction worker recently stated: "The new normal is a non-stop crisis."



Panelists (left to right):

- Anthony Thigpen, CCHW/PRS, Program Coordinator, Connect For Health, Lifespan;
- Arryn A. Guy, PhD, Investigator, Brown University School of Public Health;
- Jon Soske, PhD, Researcher at the Lifespan Division of Addiction Medicine;
- Lex Morales, CCMC, Pawtucket Program Manager, Project Weber/Renew;
- Sara Alavi, MA, MD Candidate at University of California, San Francisco;
- Tee Dorsey, CPRS, Court Support Navigator, Project Weber Renew

Spots limited! Register Now!

This is a free **in-person event** at Alger Hall Room 110 on the Rhode Island College campus. Zoom is only being used for registration purposes. Register here: <https://chwari.org/event/panel-discussion-we-need-to-get-paid-for-our-value/>



This FREE event is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Health and delivered by the Community Health Worker Association of RI housed at the Institute for Education in Healthcare at Rhode Island College.