

Rhode Island Arts and Health Concept Paper



Why the network concept currently works for the RI Arts and Health initiative

The network structure is a newer type of organizational structure viewed as less hierarchical, more decentralized, and more flexible than other structures. In a network structure, managers coordinate and facilitate relationships that are both internal and external to the hub agency(ies).

In 2016, the RI Department of Health (RIDOH) and the RI State Council on the Arts (RISCA) partnered to support development of a State Arts and Health Plan (State Plan) – a public health roadmap for advancing the integration of arts and health for our state. As part of this process an interdisciplinary team of arts and health practitioners which includes researchers, artists, and clinicians formed the RI State Arts and Health Advisory Group. The Advisory Group outlined a strategy for fully integrating arts and arts-based therapies into healthcare and community settings through a set of innovative and sustainable policy, practice, and research recommendations.

As the project moves from development to implementation the backbone agencies, RIDOH and RISCA, will act as “Hubs” through which implementation strategies will be managed in partnership with the Advisory Group Implementation Team. Internal and external partnerships, such as those that currently exist with the Brown University School of Public Health and The Warren Alpert School Medical School, will be engaged in the implementation of State Plan Recommendations, forming a formal network of partners to become engaged in developing the field of Arts and Health in RI. It is the intent of the RI Arts and Health Network Steering Committee to continue to build the structure begun during the planning phase that will provide a formal home and centralized ownership of the Network. The RI Center for Arts and Health is but one example of such a home and will be investigated more fully during the initial State Plan implementation phase.

How the RI State Arts and Health Network works

The Network model is led by the RI Arts and Health Advisory Group and its Steering Committee, which will oversee implementation of the State Plan Recommendations. The State Plan recommendations, projects, and initiatives, such as the RIDOH Artist in Residence program, will help guide the decision-making processes around the development of the RI Center for Arts and Health by helping to build strategic public health alliances. Current partnerships include those mentioned above as well as the National Organization for Arts in Health, University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine, Art League of Rhode Island, Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, WaterFire Providence, and Rally for Recovery. A complete list of Advisory Group Participants is provided below.

Partnering with us

Funding is needed to help carry out the existing model and to expand this work by developing the field. To learn more about how you can partner with the RI Arts and Health Advisory Network, invest in and sustain this model, and participate in any of the State Plan projects or initiatives identified through the policy, practice, or research recommendations, email the State Arts and Health Network Co-chairs at Steven.Boudreau@health.ri.gov or Sherilyn.Brown@arts.ri.gov



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