

NJ Harm Reduction Training Institute

Agenda

March 2nd - 5th

@ The Heldrich Hotel
New Brunswick, NJ

Mon 3/2

Foundations for New Managers

10am - 4pm

LLIFT NJ Network Convening

10am - 4pm - Members Only

Tue 3/3

Safer Drug Use Supplies

10am - 4pm

Wound Care for HRCs

10am - 4pm

Wed 3/4

Leadership & Strategy Session

10am - 4pm - hosted by NJHRC

Orientation for New(er) HRCs

10am - 4pm

Thurs 3/5

Harm Reduction Health Services

10am - 4pm

Community Centered Care

9am - 12pm

Legal Strategies for HRCs

2pm - 5pm - hosted by NJHRC

**IN THE
WORKS**

What To Expect

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Overview

The Harm Reduction Training Institute is a week of activities including workshops, strategy sessions, and events to cultivate alignment, learning, and networking for providers working at Harm Reduction Centers (HRCs) in New Jersey. In The Works is collaborating with local partner New Jersey Harm Reduction Coalition and providers across the state and country to curate sessions that are responsive to the diverse needs of NJ Harm Reduction Centers. Sessions are intended to be hands-on, interactive, and action-oriented to bring skills back to your day to day work. **The agenda is designed to consider providers with different levels of expertise and functions at organizations** – we encourage HRCs to share this opportunity with team members with different roles at the organization and send a representative to each session!



Location

All sessions will be held on the 2nd floor of The Heldrich Hotel
10 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ



Food & Drink

A light breakfast is available from 9am-10am before all sessions

A buffet lunch will be available 1-2pm in the onsite restaurant

Snacks, coffee, and beverages available mid-morning and mid-afternoon

All dietary restrictions and preferences will be honored with available alternatives



Parking

Parking is at the “Morris Street Deck” at 70 New Street - the parking garage across from the Heldrich and tickets will be validated following the session at the front desk.



Travel Reimbursement

Travel costs will be reimbursed upon furnishing receipts on the day-of the session or after the session. Attendees will need to provide digital and/or physical receipts for tolls, public transportation, and/or mileage estimates.

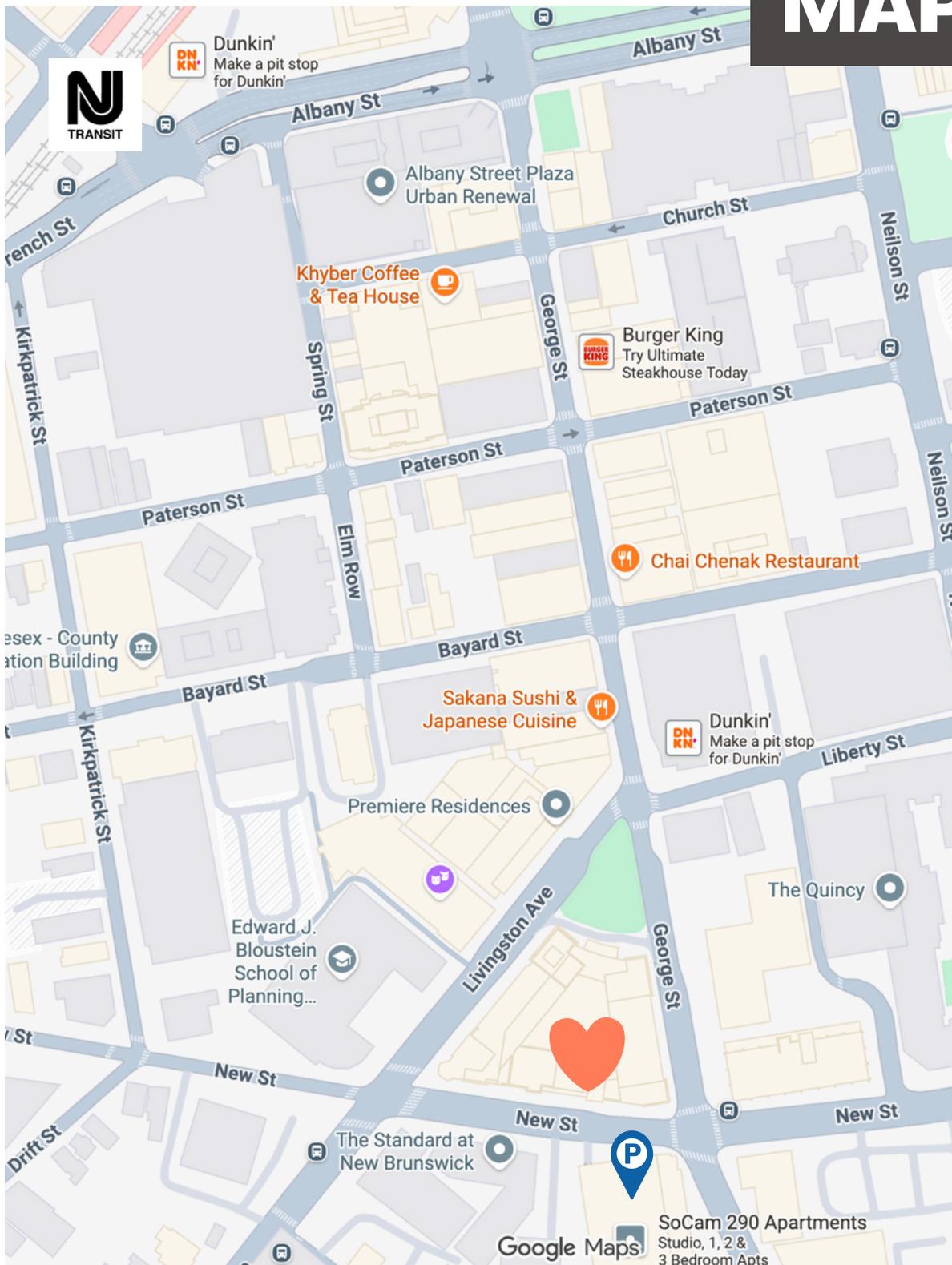


Accommodation

Accommodation at The Heldrich Hotel may be available for attendees traveling the night prior to the session they are attending or the night after the session (max 2 nights per attendee). Accommodation may be limited and priority will be given to providers traveling over 45 miles in each direction.

Accommodations must be confirmed by February 10th.

MAP



The Heldrich Hotel - 10 Livingston Ave .New Brunswick, NJ



Parking at “Morris Street Deck” - 70 New Street, New Brunswick



Public transportation to NJ Transit station “New Brunswick”

Key to Session Overviews

Date & Time of each session

REGISTER NOW



Click to register for each individual session!



Audience

Describes the ideal attendee so that organizations can match team members to sessions that are more relevant to their role and scope of work



Registration

Describes how many people you can register from your organization the maximum attendees per session - *if you have an additional team member you'd like to attend but are at the max, you can email team@partnersintheworks.com to get added to a waitlist*



Facilitators

Names, credentials, and organizations of individuals facilitating the session so you know what to expect and who you'll be learning with!



Session Overview

Offers and overview of what to expect out of the session so you can determine who is the best match for your organization



Objectives

Listed objectives that you can count on learning in the session



Prerequisites & Follow Up

Any pre-requisites for the session to make the experience more applied and any follow up support you can opt-in to after the in-person session to continue your learning

Leading with Care: Foundations for New Managers

Monday 3/2 from 10am - 4pm

 REGISTER NOW



Audience

Ideal for new or seasoned managers (supervise at least one team member) who are looking for support with building supervisory skills using a harm reduction framework



Registration

Up to 2 staff per HRC - registration first come first serve, max 35 attendees



Facilitators

Charles Hawthorne, MPH (In The Works) and Taeko Frost, DrPH, MPH (In The Works)



Session Overview

Join us for a full-day training to support new(er) managers working at Harm Reduction Centers to learn leadership strategies that support diverse teams, including people with living experience with drug use. In this session, we'll review how to operationalize harm reduction principles in management, learn new frameworks that center on trust and accountability, and put these concepts to the test through scenarios and role-play!



Objectives

- Build a network of new(er) managers from across the state to offer peer support
- Learn how to set clear expectations for staff and supervisors and create a culture of accountability and trust on a team using a harm reduction framework
- Practice concepts through observing “good” and “ideal” communication strategies on scenarios, individual role play, group scenarios, and self-reflection on your current management practices



Prerequisites & Follow Up

No prerequisite except being in a role that supervises at least one person

All attendees will have an opt-in opportunity to join a monthly follow up sessions in April, May, and June with session attendees to receive coaching and learn how your peers have put these concepts into practice

LLIFT NJ Network Convening

Monday 3/2 from 10am - 4pm

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Audience

LLIFT NJ members only



Facilitators

Hector Mata, LCSW (In The Works) with guest speakers from Peer Network of New York and NJ Department of Health



Session Overview

In the second in-person LLIFT NJ session, members will reconvene to map out individual and group assets, learn the history and strategies of other peer-led networks, and collaborate with NJ Department of Health staff to identify strategies for involvement of people with living/lived experience in setting priorities for people who use drugs in New Jersey.



Objectives

- Reconnect as a network to learn more about member Harm Reduction Centers across the state and different community trends and priorities
- Learn about the history and strategies of the Peer Network of New York (PNNY), including highlights and potential challenges of leading peer-led networks
- Create a draft charter for LLIFT NJ, including values, agreements, roles, and priorities, such as collaboration with the NJ Department of Health on future programming priorities



Prerequisites & Follow Up

This session is open to LLIFT NJ members only.
Follow up will include continued monthly meetings.

Harm Reduction Supplies for Safer Drug Use

Tuesday 3/3 from 10am - 4pm

 REGISTER NOW



Audience

This is a 101-level workshop ideal for newer harm reduction providers or providers who have had limited training on safer drug use supplies



Registration

Up to 2 staff per HRC - registration first come first serve, max 35 attendees



Facilitators

Shilo Jama (SANE), Cole Zaccaro, MPH (Prevention Resource Network), and guest speakers from In The Works



Session Overview

Whether you're a seasoned harm reduction provider who never received hands-on training on safer drug use supplies or a team member new to harm reduction, join us for a full day of reviewing safer drug use supplies by mode of administration - safer injection, safer smoking, safer snorting, and safer rectal use - and overdose prevention strategies, including overdose response and naloxone administration. In this session you'll learn about strategies to assess what safer drug use supplies are needed and how to engage in meaningful conversations about education, drug preferences, and overdose prevention.



Objectives

- Build a network of providers from across the state to offer peer support
- Identify safer drug use supplies and safer drug use tips for people who use drugs via different routes of administration, including considerations for polysubstance use, chemsex, and overdose prevention
- Practice how to do an intake with someone who is new to the program and identify potential supply needs and safer drug use opportunities, including assessing overdose risk
- Identify opportunities for your program to expand your supply offerings and safer drug use education tips and resources to ensure people who use drugs get what they need



Prerequisites & Follow Up

No prerequisites. All attendees will have an opt-in opportunity to join follow up group discussions to answer questions and continue to learn with their peers.

Hands-On Healing: Wound Care at Harm Reduction Centers

Tuesday 3/3 from 10am - 4pm

➔ REGISTER NOW



Audience

This is a 101-level workshop ideal for newer harm reduction providers or providers who have limited experience with wound care; ideal for roles at organizations who may oversee the implementation or expansion wound care services onsite



Registration

Up to 2 staff per HRC - registration first come first serve, max 35 attendees



Facilitators

Dr. Kelly Ramsey, MD, MPH, FACP (In The Works/Ramsey Consulting) and Charles Hawthorne, MPH (In The Works)



Session Overview

Join us for a full-day training on how to expand wound care education, assessments, and services with an emphasis on xylazine-related wounds. We'll start with a foundation in understanding types of wounds, skin and soft tissue infections, and how to identify what services may be needed based on symptoms. Then, we'll explore xylazine-specific wound care and resources for treatment. Lastly, we'll spend the afternoon working with your peers to identify wound care supplies, basics, and ideal composition of wound care kits, cost-effective alternatives, and policies and procedures for different scopes of practice based on your role and credentials at your organization.



Objectives

- Build a network of providers from across the state to offer peer support
- Learn about the foundations of healing and wound care, common skin and soft tissue infections among people who use drugs, and considerations specific to xylazine-related wounds
- Identify wound care supplies, including how to package them for different types of wounds, cost-effective alternatives, and hands-on practice to match wound care supplies to different wound care scenarios
- Identify opportunities for your program to expand your wound care supply offerings and education tips to ensure people who use drugs get what they need for wound care



Prerequisites & Follow Up

All attendees will have an opt-in opportunity to join follow-up group discussions to answer questions and learn how their peers are implementing lessons learned

Leadership & Strategy Session for NJ Harm Reduction Centers

Wednesday 3/4 from 10am - 4pm

 REGISTER NOW



Audience

This session is for organizational leadership and/or other roles that have decision-making authority related to organizational strategy, involvement or interest in being involved in state-level policy and advocacy, and can represent the organization. If you aren't sure who should attend from your organization, you can e-mail jenna@njharmreduction.org.



Registration

Up to 2 staff per HRC - registration first come first serve, max 35 attendees



Facilitators

Hosted and facilitated by NJHRC's Jenna Mellor, MPA and Alex Staropoli, JD



Session Overview

Join us for a session designed to support harm reduction leadership in preparing for the 2026 policy and funding environment through shared learning and capacity-building. Participants will receive an overview of the current state policy landscape under the new administration and Legislature—including regulatory, administrative, and budget considerations—and discuss how these dynamics may affect harm reduction services. The session will also address emerging barriers such as discrimination and legal challenges, with a focus on best practices for documentation and understanding legal frameworks that can help protect harm reduction as a public health practice, using a mix of presentations, facilitated discussion, and peer exchange.



Objectives

- Build knowledge base of harm reduction leadership on statewide politics, policy, and opportunities for engagement.
- Identify shared priorities and challenges facing harm reduction programs in 2026.
- Strengthen knowledge and understanding of legal strategies to address challenges facing HRC participants and programs.



Prerequisites & Follow Up

Sign up for the NJHRC advocate listserv to attend meetings before and after the in-person session

 SIGN UP

Orientation for New(er) Harm Reduction Centers

Wednesday 3/4 from 10am - 4pm

 REGISTER NOW



Audience

This is a session for staff of HRCs that have been authorized within the past 3 years - for all newly funded/authorized programs in 2026 this is a required session. Ideally all participants will have attended the Safer Drug Use Supplies session the day prior.



Registration

Up to 2 staff per new(er) HRC - registration first come first serve, max 35 attendees



Facilitators

Orientation for New(er) Harm Reduction Centers

Taeko Frost, DrPH, MPH (In The Works), Charles Hawthorne, MPH (In The Works), Shilo Jama (SANE), Jamie Favaro, MSW (In The Works), & guest speakers from NJHRC and NJ Department of Health



Session Overview

Welcome to the community of New Jersey harm reduction providers! As a newer harm reduction center, we'll spend a day reviewing some of the history, legislation policy, and best practices to set your program up for success. We'll review the nuts and bolts of harm reduction programming including program design (drop-in, mobile services, walkabout outreach, hazardous waste management), setup of supplies, intake processes, and troubleshooting common questions and scenarios. Attendees will leave with a bank of resources for follow up education and a new peer group to connect with as programs expand across the state.



Objectives

- Build a network of providers from across the state to offer peer support as they launch and expand new programming of their HRC
- Learn about the history of harm reduction including programming, policies, legislation, and best practices in the U.S. and New Jersey
- Identify best practices for setting up program services including intake processes, supply setup and inventory, and strategies for proactive community relations
- Identify strategies to connect with local businesses, stakeholders, and law enforcement to promote community building
- Identify opportunities for your organization to align with harm reduction principles in practice, align with evidence-based practices, and maintain harm reduction educational resources for continued education



Prerequisites & Follow Up

All attendees will be invited to follow up sessions for new(er) HRCs

Launching Harm Reduction Health Services

Thursday 3/5 from 10am - 4pm

 REGISTER NOW



Audience

This is a session for staff of HRCs that oversee the planning of new or expansion of existing healthcare services - and is a required session for any HRC that received expansion funding for 2026.



Registration

Up to 2 staff per HRC - registration first come first serve, max 35 attendees



Facilitators

Dr. Kelly Ramsey, MD, MPH, FACP (In The Works/Ramsey Consulting), Taeko Frost, DrPH, MPH (In The Works), Charles Hawthorne, MPH (In The Works), Dr. Kim Sue, MPH, PhD (In The Works/KS Strategies), Joanne Simone, MS, RN (FXB Center, Rutgers School of Nursing), and Liz Lazo, MPH, PMP (FXB Center, Rutgers School of Nursing), and guest speakers from NJ Department of Health



Session Overview

Are you in the process of planning the expansion of healthcare services onsite for people who use drugs? This session will review case studies, resources, and technical assistance opportunities to support the successful implementation of health services at HRCs. First, we'll review several case studies of healthcare partnerships between emergency departments, drug treatment services, and HRCs to learn about successful partnerships strategies. We'll review the [Expanding Healthcare Services for People Who Use Drugs in New Jersey Toolkit](#) created by In The Works to walk through the bank of existing resources to support program design, staff training and retention, clarifying scope of practice, and policies and procedures. And learn about TA and training offered by the FXB Center.



Objectives

- Learn about existing partnership strategies to expand healthcare services with emergency departments and drug treatment programs
- Identify healthcare expansion strategies, including financial pros and cons, common health services and requirements, scope of practice, and policies and procedures
- Learn about technical assistance and training for providers through the Harm Reduction Health program



Prerequisites & Follow Up

All attendees will be invited to follow up sessions for HRCs expanding healthcare services for people who use drugs

Community Care & Grief Mutual Aid Support Session

Thursday 3/5 from 9am - 12pm

 REGISTER NOW



Audience

This session is open to any HRC team members who are interested in learning strategies to apply concepts of community centered care to support grief work



Registration

Up to 2 staff per HRC - registration first come first serve, max 25 attendees



Facilitators

Jessica Peñaranda, MS (Reframe Health & Justice)



Session Overview

This half-day Community Care & Grief Mutual Aid Session is a relational, healing-centered harm reduction space for staff navigating grief, loss, and the emotional impacts of sustained community care work. Grounded in compassion and collective care, the session addresses and explores how vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, and unresolved grief shape our well-being and contribute to burnout when care is disconnected from collective support. Through guided conversations, a community circle practice, shared experiences, and reflective practices, participants will explore grief-tending tools, grounding techniques, and pathways to increase compassion satisfaction. The session centers meaningful support for individuals holding grief while doing harm reduction work, honoring personal and collective grief. Together, participants will build connections and sustainable community care practices for caring for themselves and their communities.



Objectives

- Build a network of providers from across the state to offer peer support as they launch and expand new health services programming of their HRC
- Explore the intersections of grief, loss, vicarious trauma, and burnout within harm reduction and community care work
- Engage in decolonial, body-based practices that support nervous system regulation and honor ancestral, cultural, and community-rooted ways of healing
- Strengthen community care approaches grounded in healing-centered harm reduction principles



Prerequisites & Follow Up

All attendees will have an opt-in opportunity to join follow up virtual group sessions for up to 3 months following the in-person session.

Legal Strategies for Harm Reduction Centers (half-day)

Thursday 3/5 from 2pm - 5pm

 REGISTER NOW



Audience

This session is well-suited for organizational leadership and/or other roles that have decision-making authority related to strategy or leadership who are responsible for navigating syringe service laws and regulations when implementing services.



Registration

Up to 2 staff per HRC - registration first come first serve, max 25 attendees



Facilitators

Hosted and facilitated by NJHRC's Jenna Mellor, MPA and Alex Staropoli, JD and guest speakers



Session Overview

The harm reduction legal landscape in New Jersey – especially when it comes to syringe services – has changed rapidly over the last several years, with new laws that haven't yet been tested in courts. This workshop is centered on harm reduction law for non-lawyers, preparing HRCs to navigate New Jersey's state and municipal legal landscape with confidence. Together, we will better understand how to use existing legal frameworks to protect HRCs and share signals of when to "sound the alarm" about potential threats. We will also deepen coordination across HRCs to (1) identify instances discrimination against people living with a substance use disorder and other protected classes and (2) use our collective power to strengthen enforcement of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.



Objectives

- Learn about existing laws and regulations related to syringe service program operation in New Jersey
- Better understand the distinctions between statutory law (both state and municipal), case law, administrative law, and regulations and why this is relevant to HRCs
- Identify indicators of threats against HRCs and when to tap in the HRC network
- Identify signs of discrimination that may violate the NJ Law Against Discrimination
- Strengthen coordination across HRCs to increase enforcement of New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination



Prerequisites & Follow Up

There will be a strongly encouraged pre-webinar offering an overview of how legal strategies have shaped harm reduction as both a movement and a practice. All attendees will have access to follow up technical assistance.

Start learning now!

Join the virtual sessions if you or your team members are taking the e-courses before the in-person training sessions.



Virtual Sessions

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Training Institute

E-Course Debrief Series

Join your peers at Harm Reduction Centers across the state to debrief what you learned in the e-courses through live discussion, Q&A, and practice activities!

Register to get the Zoom invites and agenda

Facilitated by Charles Hawthorne, MPH



Every Tuesday from 12-1pm ET

January 13th to February 24th, 2026

SIGN UP →

Questions?

Reach out to team@partnersintheworks.com with any questions

See you in March!