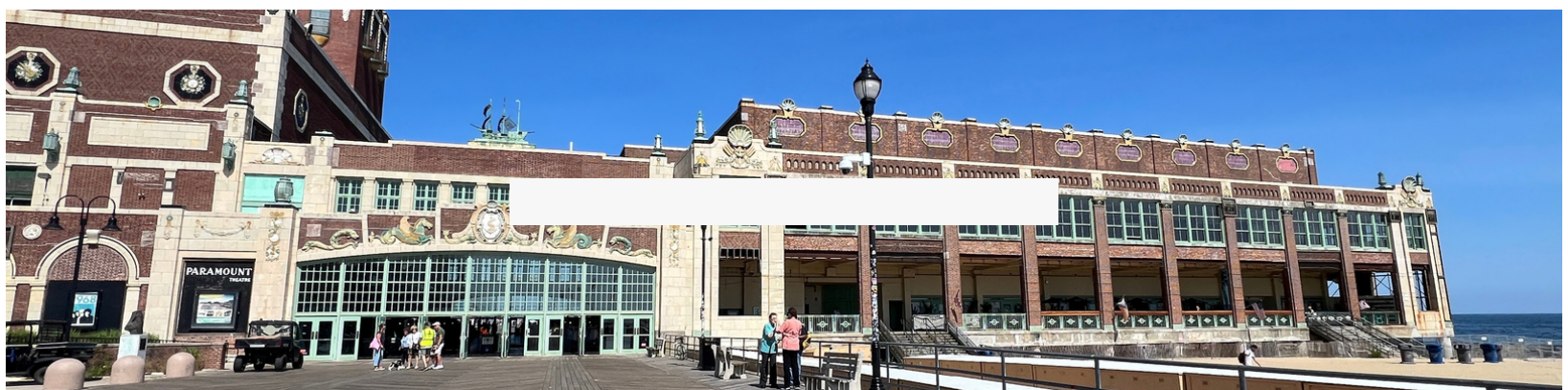


NJ HARM REDUCTION TRAINING INSTITUTE

OCTOBER 19–21, 2026

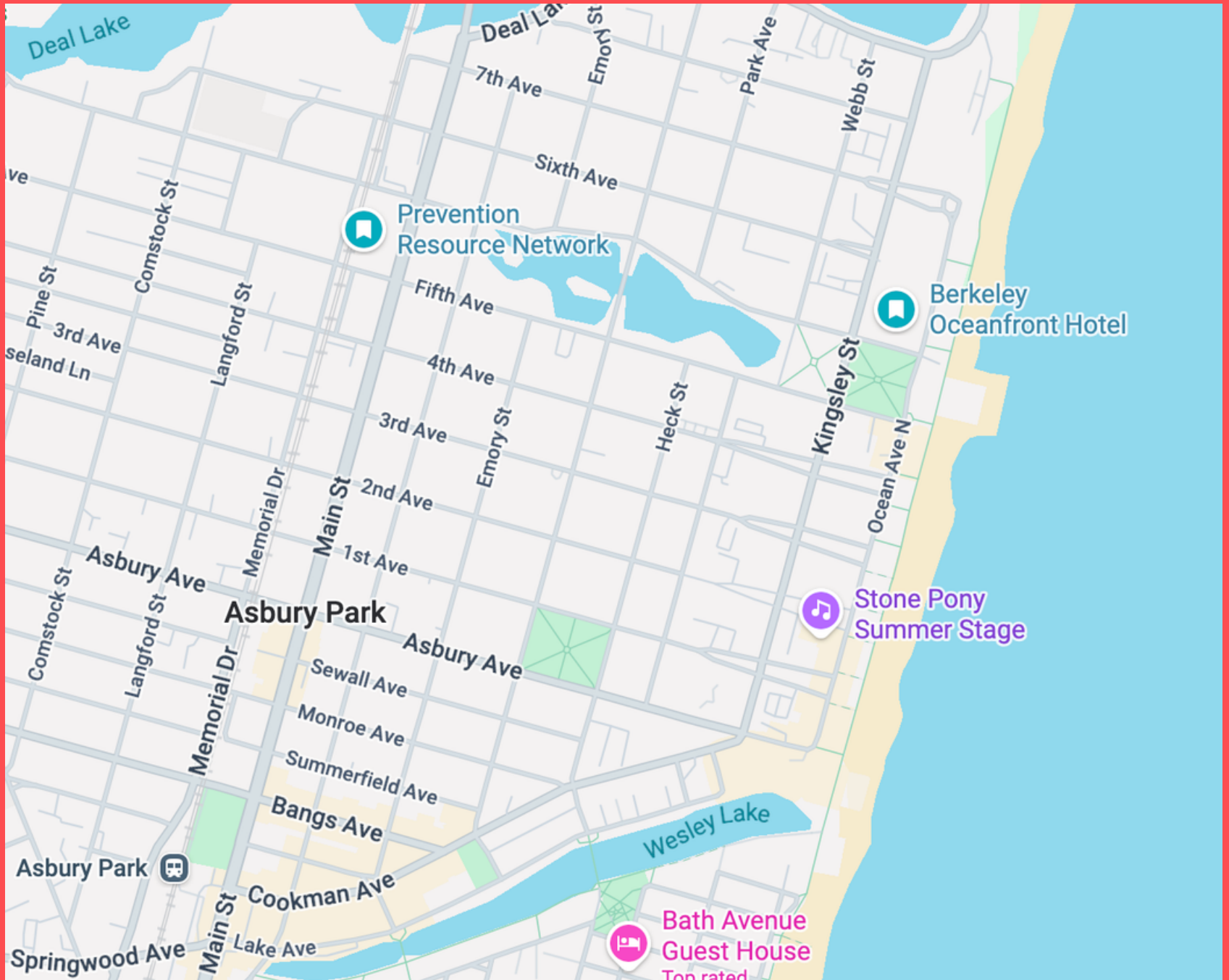
ASBURY PARK, NJ



FOR TEAM MEMBERS OF HARM REDUCTION CENTERS IN NJ

NJ HARM REDUCTION TRAINING INSTITUTE

LOCATIONS



Prevention Resource Network

816 Sunset Avenue
Asbury Park, NJ, 07712



Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel

1401 Ocean Ave N
Asbury Park, NJ, 07712





NJ HARM REDUCTION TRAINING INSTITUTE



OCTOBER 19–21, 2026



ASBURY PARK, NJ

EVENT OVERVIEW

Three days of learning, connection, and collaboration to advance harm reduction in New Jersey.

**MONDAY
10/19**

- SITE TOUR OF PREVENTION RESOURCE NETWORK**
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- WELCOME & OPENING SESSION**
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
- NJ HARM REDUCTION MIXER**
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**TUES 10/20
&
WED 10/21**

- BREAKFAST & WELLNESS ACTIVITY**
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
- AM WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS
& DEMONSTRATIONS**
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- LUNCH ONSITE**
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
- PM WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS,
& DEMONSTRATIONS**
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

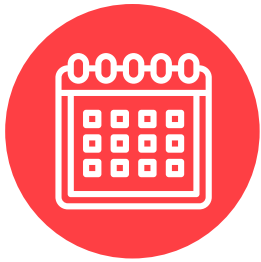


BONUS!

NJ HARM REDUCTION DANCE PARTY!
TUESDAY 10/20 @ 8:00 PM (LOCATION TBA)



Learn more at partnersintheworks.com/nj



MONDAY,
OCTOBER 19, 2026

DAY AT A GLANCE

TIME	ACTIVITIES
9:00 – 11:00 AM	TRAVEL TO ASBURY PARK <i>Listen to a Harm Reduction Podcast!</i>
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	SITE TOUR OF PREVENTION RESOURCE NETWORK 816 Sunset Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712 
2:00 – 4:30 PM	WELCOME & OPENING SESSION <i>The Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel</i> 1401 Ocean Ave N, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
4:30 – 5:30 PM	REGISTRATION & CHECK IN FOR OVERNIGHT GUESTS
5:30 – 7:30 PM	NJ HARM REDUCTION PROVIDER MIXER EVENT <i>Onsite “Berkeley Backyard”</i>

Click the banner to jump to the descriptions

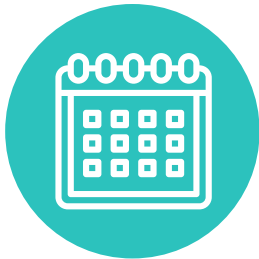


PLEASE NOTE

Schedule, times, and activities are subject to change.
The most up to date titles and description of activities will be hosted on our website.



Learn more at partnersintheworks.com/nj



TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 20, 2026

DAY AT A GLANCE

TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:00 - 9:30 AM	MORNING WELLNESS ACTIVITY & BREAKFAST ONSITE
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	 WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS - LLIFT member meeting - Trauma Informed & Healing Centered Practice Workshop 
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM	 DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND A - Safer Injection Practice - Wound Care Basics - Sex Work, Health & Harm Reduction 101
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM	 DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND B - Safer Smoking Supply Practice - Vein, Arteries, & Injection Anatomy - Preventing Burnout
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK ONSITE
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	 WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS - Keys to Building a Strong Direct Service Program - De-Escalation Skills Workshop
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	 DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND A (REPEATED)
3:45 PM - 5:00 PM	 DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND B (REPEATED)

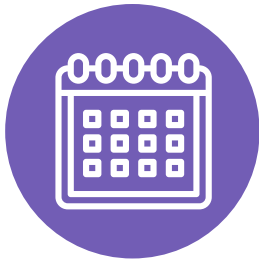
Click the banner to jump to the descriptions



PLEASE NOTE

Schedule, times, and activities are subject to change.
The most up to date titles and description of activities will be hosted on our website.





WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

DAY AT A GLANCE

TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:00 - 9:30 AM	 MORNING WELLNESS ACTIVITY & BREAKFAST ONSITE
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	 WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS • Leadership & Strategy Meeting with NJHRC • De-Escalation Practice Workshop
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM	 DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND C • Communication to Build Teams • Chem Sex Basics
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM	 DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND D • Harm Reduction Counseling Practice • Gender Affirming Care 101
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	 LUNCH BREAK ONSITE
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	 WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS • Know Your Rights Training for NJ HRCs • Group Generated Topic(s) – Open Space
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	 DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND C (REPEATED)
3:45 PM - 5:00 PM	 DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND D (REPEATED)

Click the banner to jump to the descriptions



PLEASE NOTE

Schedule, times, and activities are subject to change.
The most up to date titles and description of activities will be hosted on our website.



Learn more at partnersintheworks.com/nj



**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 19, 2026**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM



SITE TOUR OF PREVENTION RESOURCE NETWORK

816 Sunset Ave,
Asbury Park, NJ 07712



To kick off the events in Asbury Park, start with a site tour of Prevention Resource Network's drop-in center, mobile unit, and support services. You'll have the opportunity to meet the team, learn about the services onsite, and get ideas for your programming. Not only is Prevention Resource Network our host city HRC, but they have centered LGBTQ+ community needs in their programming. Stop by to get some inspiration!



The site services will be modified to ensure participant privacy and safety - we encourage all attendees to start with this site tour. Street parking is available nearby and can be reimbursed.

2:00 – 4:30 PM



WELCOME & OPENING SESSION

The Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel

1401 Ocean Ave N,
Asbury Park, NJ 07712

After your site tour, make your way over to the Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel where the NJ Harm Reduction Training Institute activities will take place. When you arrive, you'll be directed to our session space and be directed to register and store your luggage with our team. The main session will be the only time during the week where all attendees will be in the same room. We'll start with some grounding activities, learn about the history of harm reduction in Asbury Park, hear from the LLIFT NJ members to discuss best practices for peer programming, and have an opportunity to meet HRC providers from across the state.



MONDAY,
OCTOBER 19, 2026

4:30 – 5:30 PM



REGISTRATION & CHECK IN
FOR OVERNIGHT GUESTS

If you are staying at the hotel, this is the time for you to check into your room. Please make sure to have your photo ID and credit card available for incidentals.

Note that checkout is at 11am – we have built in breaks on Tuesday & Wednesday from 10:45am-11:15am to ensure that you have a chance to collect your belongings before checkout. If you are staying for the rest of the day, you can store your luggage with the hotel reception until you depart.

5:30 – 7:30 PM



NJ HARM REDUCTION
PROVIDER MIXER EVENT
Onsite “Berkeley Backyard”

Let’s kick off the event with a social mixer!

Join us in the “Berkeley Backyard” on the first floor for some drinks and snacks.





TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM



WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

- LLIFT member meeting
- Trauma Informed & Healing Centered Practice Workshop

LLIFT Member Meeting

Description: This is a closed meeting to LLIFT members.

LLIFT (Lived Experience Leadership Informing Frontline Transformation) is a group of individuals who identify as having living/recent lived experience who are committed to ensuring that harm reduction centers in New Jersey include the voices of people who use drugs in program design, policy, and advocacy. This group was established in August 2025 and will be presenting the newly formed charter that offers guidance for participation and stewardship of best practices for peer support at HRCs.

Facilitators: Hector Mata, LCSW (he/him)

Look out for individuals with the “LLIFT NJ” on their name badge if you are interested in learning more!



LLIFT members at the October 2025 NJ Harm Reduction Training Institute



TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM



WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

- LLIFT member meeting
- Trauma Informed & Healing Centered Practice Workshop

Trauma Informed & Healing-Centered Practice

Description: Many of the participants at harm reduction programs have navigated a range of traumatic experiences that impact their ability to receive and use services. In this session, we will focus on how to use the principles of trauma-informed & healing-centered practice in order to more meaningfully support and serve participants with the dignity and care they deserve.

- **Audience:** Direct service staff and peer navigators
- **Facilitators:** Jessica Peñaranda, MS (she/her)
- **You can expect to...**
 - To collectively define trauma, sources of harm, common reactions, and the capacity for resilience with the community we serve
 - Apply the principles of harm reduction to trauma-informed practice
 - Explore the principles of healing-centered practice and how it shows up in harm reduction work
 - Create a strategy for applying trauma-informed & healing-centered practice to direct service work
 - Reflect on the impact of your own experiences as a provider exposed to others' trauma and your own relationship to trauma



TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM



DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND A

- Safer Injection Practice
- Wound Care Basics
- Sex Work, Health & Harm Reduction 101

Safer Injection Practice (Demo)

Description: Are you curious about how people can inject drugs as safely as possible? Well this is your opportunity to really learn the fine points of the process. Featuring hands-on materials, live demonstrations, and plenty of space to ask questions, this is a great way to learn more about this core harm reduction skill.

- **Audience:** Newer harm reductionists and people looking to improve their participant education skills
- **Facilitators:** June Mota (he/him) - staff at OnPoint NYC
- **You can expect to...**
 - Learn how to explain the steps a safer injection practice
 - List and describe key safer injection materials

Wound Care Basics (Demo)

Description: Looking to support your participants with healing their wounds? Join Dr. Kelly Ramsey as we walk through core principles of wound care. This hands-on practice will include practicing the steps of wound care with real-life materials.

- **Audience:** Harm reduction direct service staff and healthcare workers
- **Facilitators:** Kelly Ramsey, MD (she/her)
- **You can expect to...**
 - Understand the basics of healing, infection prevention, wound care
 - Describe the process of basic wound care, including how to keep wounds clean, moist, and covered to promote healing



TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM



DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND A

- Safer Injection Practice
- Wound Care Basics
- Sex Work, Health & Harm Reduction 101

Sex Work Health & Harm Reduction (Demo)

Description: Sex worker support and harm reduction services have always been connected. In this session, we'll walk through the unique (and sometimes common) forms of risk that sex workers consider and adjust for in the course of a date with a new client. At every step, we'll talk through how sex workers navigate these risks, and talk about how programs can support risk management and harm reduction interventions.

- **Audience:** Outreach Workers and Harm Reduction Specialists
- **Facilitators:** Kate D'Adamo (she/her) - Reframe Health & Justice
- **You can expect to...**
 - Explain 3 key forms of risk that sex workers consider in their work
 - List and describe 3 supplies or services your program offers that support sex workers





TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM



- Safer Smoking Supply Practice
- Vein, Arteries, & Injection Anatomy
- Preventing Burnout

Safer Smoking Supply Practice (Demo)

Description: Want to learn more about various types of pipes and smoking tools? This is your chance to get a hands-on explanation of different smoking tools and why people might prefer one or another. Featuring hands-on materials, live demonstrations, and plenty of space to ask questions, this is a great way to learn more about this important aspect of harm reduction!

- **Audience:** Newer harm reductionists and people looking to improve their participant education skills
- **Facilitators:** June Mota (he/him) - staff at OnPoint NYC
- **You can expect to...**
 - List and describe key safer injection materials
 - Explain the utility of different safer smoking supplies

Veins, Arteries, & Injection Anatomy (Demo)

Description: Looking to build your safer injection knowledge? Dive into a deeper understanding of vein health with Dr. Kelly Ramsey. This session will focus on how veins work, strategies for protecting veins and arteries, and understanding the purpose and practice of safer injection.

- **Audience:** Harm reduction direct service staff and healthcare workers
- **Facilitators:** Kelly Ramsey, MD (she/her)
- **You can expect to...**
 - Explore the basics of vein and artery structure
 - Describe safer injection practice through a basic anatomical lens
 - Understand the hierarchy of risk by injection location



TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM



- Safer Smoking Supply Practice
- Vein, Arteries, & Injection Anatomy
- Preventing Burnout

Preventing Burnout (Demo)

Description: When we bring our whole hearts to challenging work, fatigue and burnout may feel inevitable. Join us as we explore the different contributors to burnout and explore ways that we can fight it at our organizations and within ourselves. The workshop will center the experiences of people who bring their personal experience and community connection to their work.

- **Audience:** Direct service workers and managers of direct service workers
- **Facilitators:** Kate D'Adamo (she/her) - Reframe Health & Justice
- **You can expect to...**
 - Learn the difference between vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue, and how organizations may be contributing to both
 - Explore 1-2 strategies for preventing burnout



12:30 PM - 2:00 PM



LUNCH BREAK ONSITE



TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM



WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

- Keys to Building a Strong Direct Service Program
- De-Escalation Skills Workshop

Keys to Building a Strong Direct Service Program

Description: Want to walk through some common harm reduction programming scenarios that HRC team members face and problem solve with your peers? Building on our work of supporting newer and expanding harm reduction programs in New Jersey, we have designed this session to support a range of programs. During this workshop, we will explore a few key pillars of a successful and strong harm reduction programs. We will review tools to assess programs based on being in a stage of *Building*, *Sustaining*, or *Innovating* in order to create space for programs in any place along their journey to learn and grow.

- **Audience:** Direct service program management and organizational leadership
- **Facilitators:** Jamie Favaro (she/her) & Charles Hawthorne (they/them)
- **You can expect to...**
 - Explore 3 key pillars of a strong direct service program
 - Assess your own direct service program as being in a building, sustaining, or innovating space for each pillar
 - Describe 1 strategy to advance your work in each pillar area



TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM



WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

- Keys to Building a Strong Direct Service Program
- De-Escalation Skills Workshop

De-Escalation Skills Workshop

Description: Want to learn more about how to navigate escalated situations in harm reduction spaces? This workshop is your opportunity to learn about what escalation and de-escalation look like, strategies for preventing escalation, and tools for managing conflict situations.

- **Audience:** Direct service workers and any other team members who may support policies and practices related to de-escalation
- **Facilitators:** Jessica Peñaranda (she/her) – Reframe Health & Justice
- **You can expect to...**
 - Describe key signs of escalation
 - Generate strategies for minimizing or preventing conflict situations
 - Explore key tools for managing an escalated situation in a harm reduction space.



2:00 PM - 3:15 PM



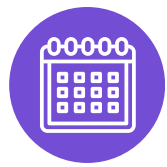
DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND A (REPEATED)

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM



DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND B (REPEATED)

The topics from the AM sessions on pages 11-13 will be repeated in case you missed them in the morning.



**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2026**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:00 - 9:30 AM



**MORNING WELLNESS ACTIVITY
& BREAKFAST ONSITE**

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM



WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

- Leadership & Strategy Meeting with NJHRC
- De-Escalation Practice Workshop

Leadership & Strategy Session

Description: Join us for a facilitated leadership and strategy session focused on identifying and addressing the most pressing policy, funding, and systems challenges facing New Jersey Harm Reduction Centers. Together, we will explore the biggest needs and threats facing HRCs, including barriers to delivering services, funding and sustainability challenges, and policies or systems that undermine harm reduction and the health and well-being of the people we serve. Through shared learning, facilitated discussion, and peer exchange, participants will identify common challenges, surface opportunities for collective action, and begin developing shared policy and advocacy priorities. The session will create space for HRC leaders to share what they are experiencing on the ground, identify where greater coordination and support are needed, and consider how HRC's can collectively advance solutions that strengthen harm reduction services and address systemic barriers.

- **Audience:** Invitation Only – leadership of New Jersey HRCs
- **Facilitators:** Jenna Mellor (NJHRC) and Alex Staropoli (NJHRC)
- **You can expect to...**

- Identify the most pressing policy, funding, and systems-level needs and threats facing HRCs
- Surface shared challenges and opportunities for collective action across harm reduction programs
- Develop a clearer understanding of the policy and advocacy priorities that NJHRC and HRCs should work on together
- Identify opportunities to strengthen coordination, support HRC leadership, and advance solutions to shared challenges





**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2026**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM



WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

- Leadership & Strategy Meeting with NJHRC
- De-Escalation Practice Workshop

De-Escalation Practice Workshop

Description: Addressing escalated situations is a common practice in harm reduction spaces. This workshop is your opportunity to learn about managing escalation through live practice! Featuring scenarios and role plays, participants will learn concrete strategies that will help manage escalating situations and help build better spaces.

Audience: All team members of HRCs, especially frontline workers

Facilitators: Kate D'Adamo (she/her) - Reframe Health & Justice



You can expect to...

- Describe the values and principles of de-escalation
- Explore core de-escalation skills, including managing body language, verbal communication, and offering choice and options.
- Practice de-escalation skills through role plays and scenarios



WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM



DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND C

- Communication to Build Teams
- Chem Sex Basics

Communication to Build Teams (Demo)

Description: Clear communication is a core piece of team building, but what does that actually look like? Join us as we walk through the In The Works Trust and Accountability Framework as a tool to explore communication skills. We will apply this framework to real life scenarios to explore how we can adjust our communication styles to best support our teams.

- **Audience:** Managers, team leaders, and harm reduction workers
- **Facilitators:** Charles Hawthorne (they/them)
- **You can expect to...**
 - Describe the Trust and Accountability Framework as a team building strategy
 - Discuss communication approaches through scenarios and role plays

Chem Sex Basics (Demo)

Description: This session introduces chem sex, including describing who practices it most often, why, and how to support participants in combining substance use with sexual intimacy more safely and without judgment.

- **Audience:** This is a co-learning space for anyone looking to build knowledge and skills surrounding chem sex, regardless of whether this topic is completely new or a longstanding practice.
- **Facilitators:** Cole Zaccaro (they/them) - Prevention Resource Network
- **You can expect to...**
 - Understand the appeal, risks, and cultural relevance of combining substance use and sexual intimacy
 - Learn sex positive, non-judgmental strategies to support participants in practicing safer chem sex



WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM



DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND D

- Harm Reduction Counseling Practice
- Gender Affirming Care 101

Harm Reduction Counseling Basics (Demo)

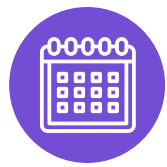
Description: Providing harm reduction education and counseling is an important aspect of supporting participants who use drugs. This space will focus on how to apply motivational interviewing techniques to build rapport, connect with clients, and provide harm reduction education

- **Audience:** Direct service workers
- **Facilitators:** Charles Hawthorne (they/them)
- **You can expect to...**
 - Explore motivational interviewing techniques for harm reduction education
 - Practice engaging participants with open-ended questions through role plays and scenarios

Gender Affirming Care (Demo)

Description: Transgender and gender expansive Harm Reductionists have co-led this movement from its onset. This session explores basic strategies to uplift and affirm gender expansive participants. It also includes hands-on demonstration and practice to support syringe access for Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy.

- **Audience:** This session is ideal for anyone looking to build or strengthen basic skills to understand, affirm, and support transgender and gender-expansive participants. Trans and gender-expansive comrades and accomplices are also welcome to join to share their own experiences and insights!
- **Facilitators:** Cole Zaccaro (they/them) - Prevention Resource Network
- **You can expect to...**
 - Create an affirming, culturally competent environment for transgender and gender expansive participants
 - Hands-on demonstration of syringe access and shot preparation for Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy



**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2026**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM



WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

- Know Your Rights Training for NJ HRCs
- Group Generated Topic(s) – Open Space

Know Your Rights Training for NJ HRCs

Description: Join us for a practical know-your-rights training designed to help harm reduction staff feel prepared to support participants who encounter law enforcement. The session will cover what participants should know and do when stopped, questioned, searched, or otherwise approached by police, with a focus on understanding legal rights, making informed decisions, and protecting personal safety. Through presentation, discussion, and scenario-based learning, participants will explore common interactions with law enforcement and practice how to communicate rights-based information to participants in a clear, supportive, and nonjudgmental way. The training will also address how HRC staff can respond when participants report concerning interactions with law enforcement, including identifying when additional legal support or referrals may be appropriate.

- **Audience:** Any HRC staff
- **Facilitators:** Steve Salinger, (Volunteer UP Legal Clinic), Jenna Mellor (NJHRC) and Alex Staropoli (NJHRC)
- **You can expect to...**
 - Build staff knowledge of the rights and protections available to participants during interactions with law enforcement.
 - Prepare HRC staff to provide practical, accurate, and trauma-informed guidance when participants are stopped, questioned, searched, or detained.
 - Strengthen staff understanding of how to support participant safety while avoiding actions that could unintentionally increase risk.
 - Practice responding to common scenarios and identifying when to connect participants with legal assistance or other support.



Group Generated Topic(s) - Open Space

Topics will be posted by Wednesday 10/21 lunch break if you choose to attend a session on an emergent topic identified by other attendees.



WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21, 2026

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM



DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND C (REPEATED)

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM



DEMONSTRATIONS - ROUND D (REPEATED)

The topics from the AM sessions on pages 19-20 will be repeated in case you missed them in the morning.

