

The HARI *Perspective*



This past year has certainly been a very busy year for the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI). In addition to HARI's important role in the restoration of essential Medicaid funds in the FY 2019 State Budget, HARI has been leading an important public health initiative on behalf of the state.

The [Campaign to Change Direction](#) is a coordinated initiative that includes a number of organizations and public figures that is designed to help change the way we understand and value mental health. The Campaign aims to normalize mental health conversations through the use of a common language known as the "Five Signs" – Change in Personality, Agitation, Withdrawal, Decline in Personal Care, and Hopelessness.

In May 2018, HARI partnered with the Office of Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo, Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH), and the Rhode Island Office of Veterans' Affairs to lead the state in its efforts to promote the Campaign.

Over a seven-month period, the Campaign to Change Direction has had a direct reach of more than 10,000 Rhode Islanders. Combined efforts with members of the HARI Change Direction Steering Committee, which is made up of representatives from state agencies, associations, communities, hospitals, insurers, law enforcement, education, and businesses, has provided HARI with the ability to attend and present at more than 50 events and meetings throughout Rhode Island.

We will be kicking-off 2019 with two highly anticipated events in Rhode Island. HARI staff has been invited to present at PrevCon 2019 and to participate as a resource table for the Post-Secondary Mental Health Summit. In addition, HARI will continue presentations with local prevention coalitions, associations, senior centers, public schools, insurers, hospitals, and the Rhode Island National Guard.

The Campaign has been an immense success in our state and I am proud to present "*The Campaign to Change Direction in Rhode Island Mid-Pledge Progress Report*." I would like to thank members of the HARI Board of Trustees as well as the HARI Change Direction Steering Committee for all of your ongoing support of the Campaign.

Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Teresa Paiva Weed". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Teresa Paiva Weed, HARI President