



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2025

Contact: Dwight Robson
dwight_robson@rocainc.com
617-875-9452

WA DCYF Partners With Roca Impact Institute To Strengthen Behavioral Support and Leadership Development At Harbor Heights

CHELSEA, MA – The Roca Impact Institute (RII) today announced a new partnership with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) to support DCYF’s initiative to strengthen behavioral support and leadership development at Harbor Heights, the new Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) facility.

RII—the coaching arm of Roca, an internationally recognized violence prevention and behavioral health program for young people at the center of urban violence—will train 50 facility staff in Roca’s Rewire CBT. In addition, RII will provide ongoing coaching and support for implementation over time so that Rewire CBT can become a fully operational intervention within Harbor Heights.

“We applaud DCYF’s strong commitment to equipping the staff of the new Harbor Heights facility for emerging adults with tools and training to help them support the development and skill building so that the program graduates are better prepared to live safe and healthy lives when released,” **said Jennifer Clammer, Executive Vice President of RII.** “We know that equipping staff with training and tools can make a big difference in facilities, and we look forward to partnering with DCYF as they invest in a thoughtful approach to opening Harbor Heights.”

Rooted in brain science and cognitive behavioral therapy, and developed in conjunction with Massachusetts General Hospital, Rewire CBT is a non-clinical, skills-based intervention designed to help young people at the highest risk of engagement with the criminal justice system heal from trauma and learn the critical skills of emotional regulation. Roca has used Rewire CBT as the centerpiece of its intervention model to save and change the trajectory of the lives of thousands of the highest-risk young men and women.

The Roca Impact Institute is driving broader systems change by coaching community violence intervention staff, police officers and law enforcement, and criminal justice agencies across the country. In fiscal year 2024, RII trained nearly 5,000 individuals across 22 cities and counties in nine states and the District of Columbia.

“After conducting a national search for evidence-based modalities responsive to an older population, we discovered this approach which also serves as an exceptional complementary therapeutic modality for our Juvenile Rehabilitation program. By investing in staff training for this therapeutic model, we ensure young people in our JR facilities have immediate, daily access to support for addressing trauma-related triggers. This represents both our next step in rehabilitation innovation and a valuable professional development opportunity for our dedicated staff,” **said Felice Upton, Assistant Secretary of Juvenile Rehabilitation.**

“We know from our experience and outcomes data that Rewire CBT is highly effective in helping young people with a history of violence learn the skills they need to achieve lasting behavior change,” **said Betsy Fox-Tolentino, Managing Director of RII’s Juvenile and Young Adult Justice Initiatives.** “We are grateful for the opportunity to bring Rewire CBT to the staff and, more importantly, young people at Harbor Heights.”

In fiscal 2024, Roca provided direct service to nearly 2,000 of the highest-risk young people. Of those engaged with the program for 18+ months, nearly every participant demonstrated improved behavioral health and 89% improved their emotional regulation. Among young people in the program 24+ months, 89% had no new arrests and 96% no new incarcerations.

Founded in 1988, Roca’s mission is to relentlessly disrupt violence by engaging young people, police, and systems to heal trauma, find hope, and drive change. Headquartered in Chelsea, MA, the organization also has Massachusetts-based sites in Boston, Holyoke, Lynn, and Springfield. Outside of Massachusetts, Roca has sites in Hartford, Connecticut and Baltimore, Maryland.

You can learn more about Roca by reading our [2024 Annual Report - Roca](#) or watching this [Roca Participant Video](#) to hear from Mike, a young man who has transformed his life after engaging with our program in Boston, MA and learning and practicing Rewire CBT.

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