

MEMBERSHIP MONDAY:

Justice Resource Institute (JRI)

Highlighting Justice Resource Institute's Impact on the Community

This week, for Membership Monday, we are featuring Justice Resource Institute (JRI), a longtime human services provider dedicated to supporting children, youth, adults, families and communities through trauma-informed care, behavioral health services, therapeutic education, residential programs, housing supports, juvenile justice services and community-based programs that promote healing, stability and long-term success.

Who is Justice Resource Institute and What do They do?

Founded in 1973, Justice Resource Institute was created in response to the systemic challenges that emerged during the deinstitutionalization movement in Massachusetts. Since then, JRI has grown into a broad network of more than 100 programs serving children, youth, adults, families and communities across Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. JRI's work is rooted in social justice, trauma-informed care and a commitment to developing innovative responses to complex human service needs.

Today, JRI provides residential, outpatient, educational, community-based and intensive treatment services that support individuals and families facing a wide range of challenges. Their programs include mental health counseling, crisis intervention, therapeutic schools, transitional and group homes for youth, health and housing supports, juvenile justice services, supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and workforce development initiatives. Their official programs page describes this range as spanning mental health counseling, crisis intervention, therapeutic education, housing support and workforce development, all grounded in trauma-informed, evidence-based care.

Program & Services:

- **Mental Health and Counseling Services:** Support for individuals and families navigating trauma, anxiety, depression, behavioral health concerns and other life challenges through therapy, psychiatric care and evidence-based treatment.
- **Crisis and Intensive Treatment Programs:** Structured, high-level care for youth experiencing significant mental health needs, including 24/7 support, stabilization and trauma-informed treatment.



- **Therapeutic Schools and Educational Services:** Specialized learning environments for students who benefit from individualized academic, emotional and behavioral support, along with early childhood consultation and educational advocacy.
- **Transitional and Group Homes for Youth:** Safe and supportive living environments where young people receive guidance, counseling, life skills development and help preparing for greater independence.
- **Health, Housing and Residential Supports:** Programs that promote stability, wellness and community connection through supportive housing and residential options for youth and adults.
- **Community-Based Youth and Family Supports:** Services that strengthen children, caregivers and families through foster care support, permanency planning, early childhood services, mentoring, advocacy and trauma-informed intervention.
- **Juvenile Justice Services:** Programs that support youth involved with the legal system by connecting them with advocacy, rehabilitation-focused services and therapeutic supports.

When did Justice Resource Institute join the Providers' Council and why?

Justice Resource Institute has been a member of the Providers' Council since 1979, reflecting a long-standing connection to the Council and the broader human services community. Most recently, Kelly Olson was recognized and received the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Providers' Council's 50th Annual Convention & Expo.

As a large, mission-driven human services organization, JRI's membership aligns closely with the Council's work to strengthen, advocate for and support community-based providers across the Commonwealth.

Their continued involvement reflects a shared commitment to advancing high-quality human services, supporting the workforce and ensuring that individuals and families have access to the care and resources they need.



A voice from Justice Resource Institute

Each year, Justice Resource Institute (JRI) partners with nearly 15,000 individuals and families facing complex trauma and urgent challenges. Guided by our mission to advance social justice and healing, our dedicated, compassionate staff walk alongside those we serve, helping build safer, healthier, and more hopeful lives through excellence in service and evidence-based care.

– Mia DeMarco, President & CEO



Looking Ahead: Justice Resource Institute's Continued Commitment to Support and Innovation

Looking ahead, JRI continues to build on its decades of service by strengthening its programs, supporting its workforce and contributing to the broader human services field. Recent highlights include:

- **Top Workplace recognition:** JRI recently earned a Top Workplace award from USA Today and received a special citation for being named a Top Workplace award winner for five years in a row.
- **Research and clinical leadership:** Dr. Hilary Hodgdon, PhD, Director of Research at JRI, and Dr. Kerry-Ann Williams, MD, JRI's Chief Medical Officer, recently authored a peer-reviewed article on complex trauma interventions in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America. The article serves as an important resource for clinicians and psychiatrists seeking to better understand and effectively treat complex trauma in pediatric populations.

Together, these milestones reflect JRI's ongoing commitment to advancing trauma-informed care, investing in its workforce and strengthening the human services field through both direct service and research-driven practice.

Interested in learning more or getting involved? Explore the links below to learn more about Justice Resource Institute, their programs and services, and upcoming opportunities to support their work and connect with the Providers' Council.

[Providers' Council](#)

[Justice Resource Institute](#)