

The Herald News

OJORNAL.com



Portuguese drug model to be discussed at R.I. expert conference

By O Jornal

Posted at 11:33 AM

Can Portugal's success decriminalizing drug addiction help improve the Opioid Crisis in Rhode Island?

PROVIDENCE — Can Portugal's success decriminalizing drug addiction help improve the Opioid Crisis in Rhode Island?

That's the question a panel composed of several policymakers, healthcare and legal experts will try to answer on March 12 at a unique conference to be held at the Grupo Amigos da Terceira in Pawtucket.

Presented by the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose (NIH) and the Grupo Amigos da Terceira, the conference will start at 7 p.m.

Speakers are expected to discuss the opioid crisis in Rhode Island from the point of view of medical research and healthcare, ethical and humanitarian issues and policymaking, and ponder how the Portuguese model can help to stimulate thinking about R.I. drug policy.

"This program, held at a R.I. migrant Portuguese community civic and cultural association, will discuss Portugal's successes after 20 years of experimentation with drug policy has made the country a global leader in responses to the addiction and overdose crisis," reads a press release by COBRE on Opioids and Overdose.

During the event, panelists from different fields who work on the front lines of R.I.'s opioid response will discuss their experiences.

Featured Speakers include:

- Mayor Bob DaSilva of East Providence and former Pawtucket Police Department Captain;
- RI Superior Court Justice Judge Luís Matos;
- R.I. Police Chiefs' Association Chaplain and Pastor of Holy Rosary Church Father Joe Escobar;
- Principle Investigator, COBRE on Opioids and Overdose (NIH); Director of the Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, Miriam Hospital; Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Brown University, Dr. Jody Rich;

Director-General, Portuguese Government's Service for Intervention on Addictive Behaviors and Dependencies (SICAD) and a key architect of Portugal's achievements transforming drug policy Dr. João Goulão (video presentation).

Dr. Miguel Moniz, Director for the Migrant Communities Drug Policy Initiative (COBRE) and Senior Researcher at ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa will serve as moderator.

Other panelists include Dr. Traci C. Green, Professor and Director of the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative; Annajane Yolken, Executive Director for the Protect Families First; and Deportation Attorney John Macdonald.

This event is supported by the Grupo Amigos da Terceira and the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) on Opioids and Overdose funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health.

For more information, please contact Dr. Miguel Moniz at miguelmonizphd@gmail.com or Gayle Fraser at gfraser@lifespan.org