



July 2026

LIVE.LONG.DC. Stakeholder Summit



Opening Remarks

Dr. Bazron



Welcome

Jonathan Spector

Purpose

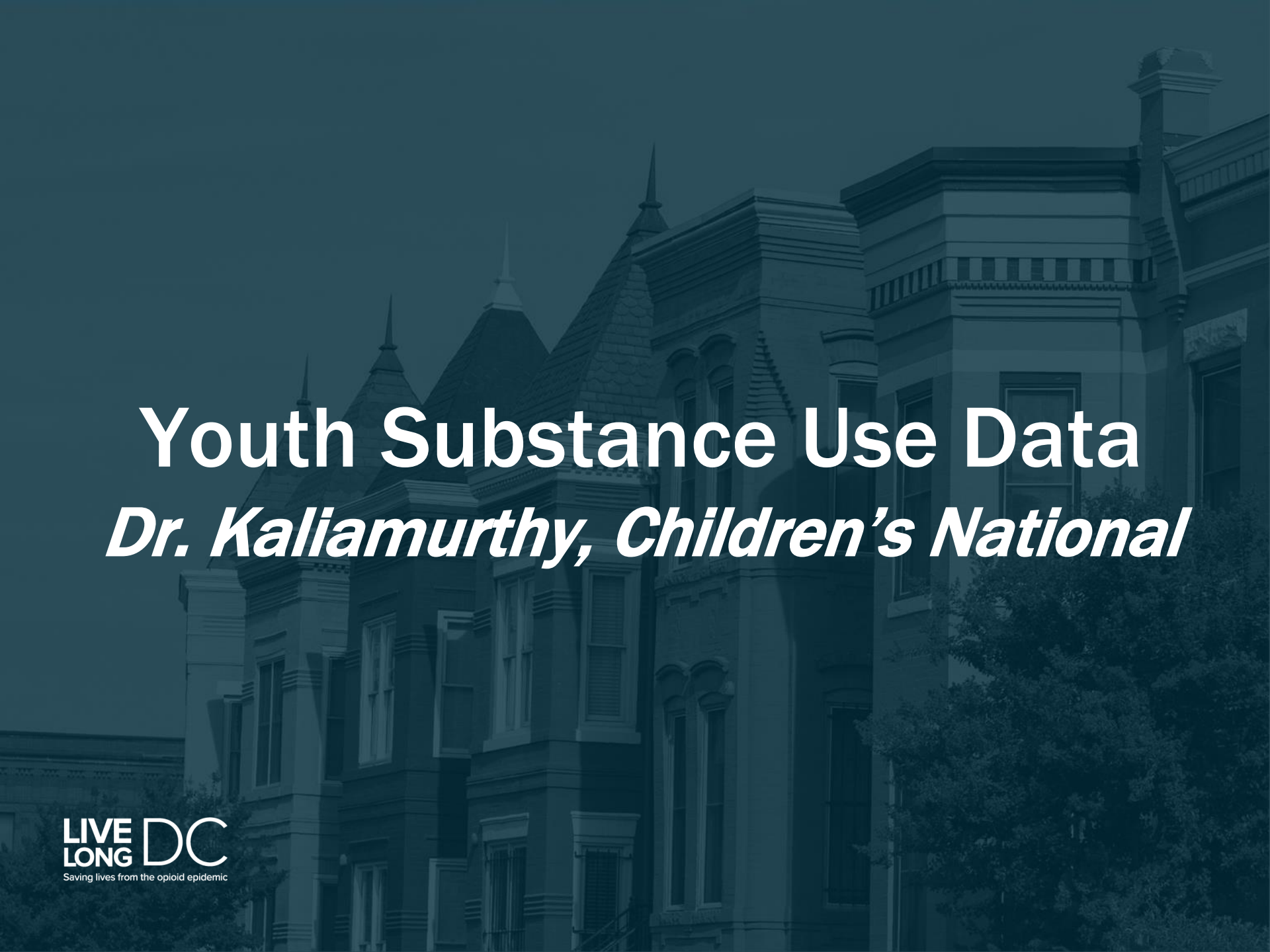
To convene the LIVE. LONG. DC. (LLDC) stakeholder community in a forum of community building, learning and action planning to save lives from opioid overdoses.

Outcomes

- Refresh and build new face-to-face community connections.
- Recognize and appreciate the work of this LLDC community.
- Commit to working together in delivery of the LLDC strategies.

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks
2. Updates
 - Youth Substance Use Data
 - Federal City Recovery Services
3. Learning
 - Anacostia Coordinating Council (ACC) Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE) Program
 - Innovative Approaches: Youth and Community Program Leaders Panel
 - Innovative Approaches: Peer Recovery Specialist Panel
4. Opioid Strategy Group Breakout
5. Debrief and Close



Youth Substance Use Data

Dr. Kalamurthy, Children's National



Emerging Trends in Adolescent Substance Use: Clinical Insights from Children's National Hospital and Howard University

Sivabalaji Kaliyamurthy MD
Child and Adolescent Addiction Psychiatrist
Director, Addiction Clinic, Children's National Hospital
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Howard University

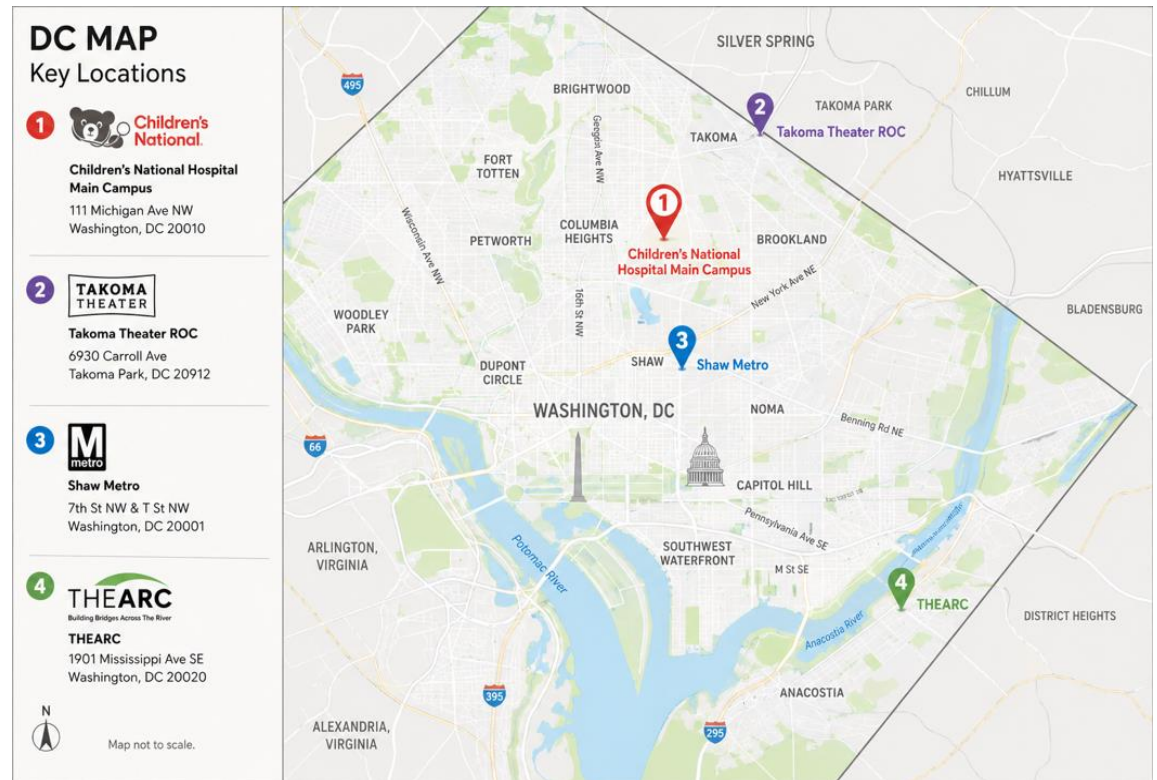
Where these observations come from

Systematically collected

- Emergency Department SBIRT
- Children's National Addiction Clinic

Clinical observations

- Children's National
- Howard University outpatient addiction clinic



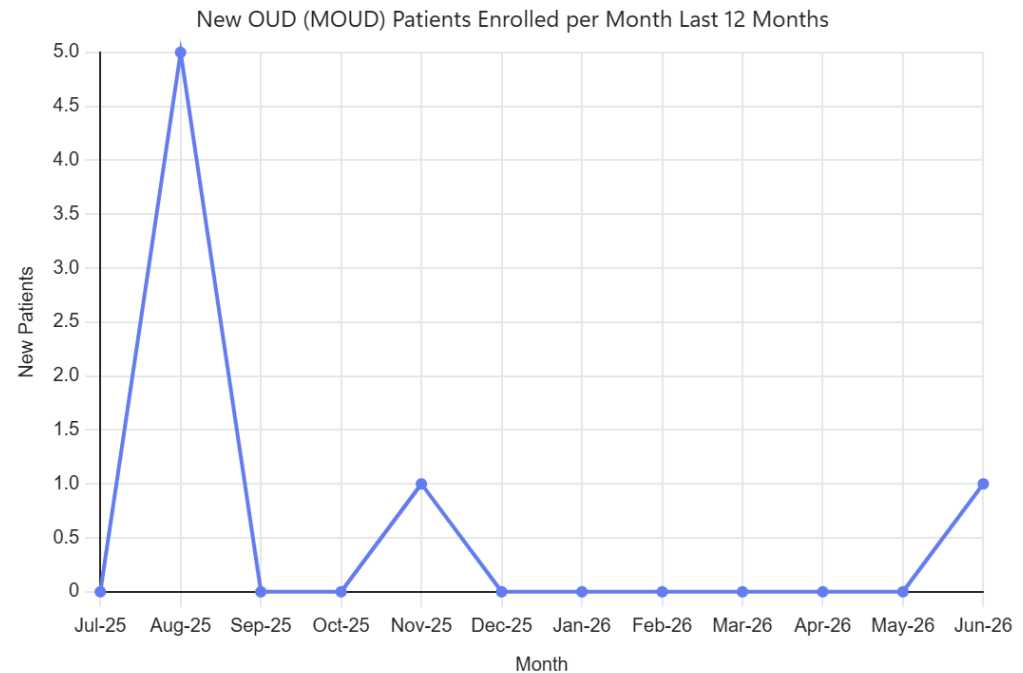
Opioids: The story is changing

Good news

- Fewer adolescents report fentanyl as their primary opioid.
- Youth recognize fentanyl is dangerous.

New concern

- More reports of oxycodone
- Street names: RP10, K57 etc..

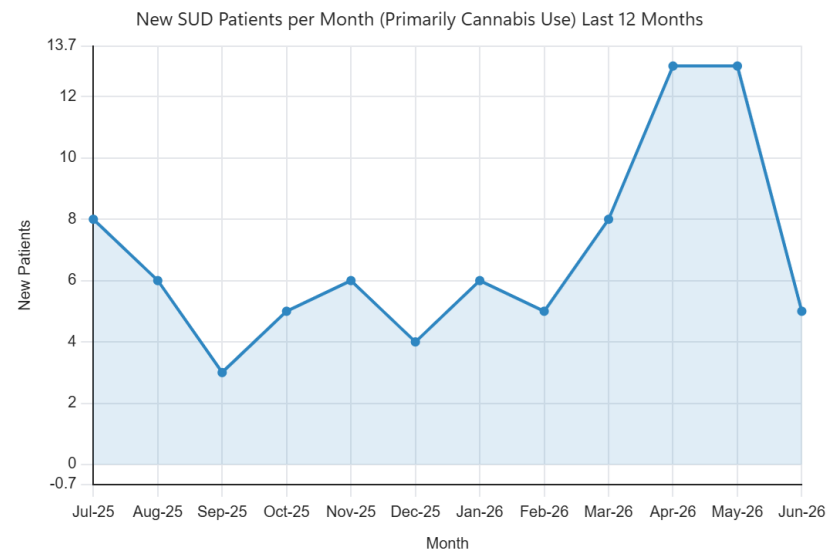
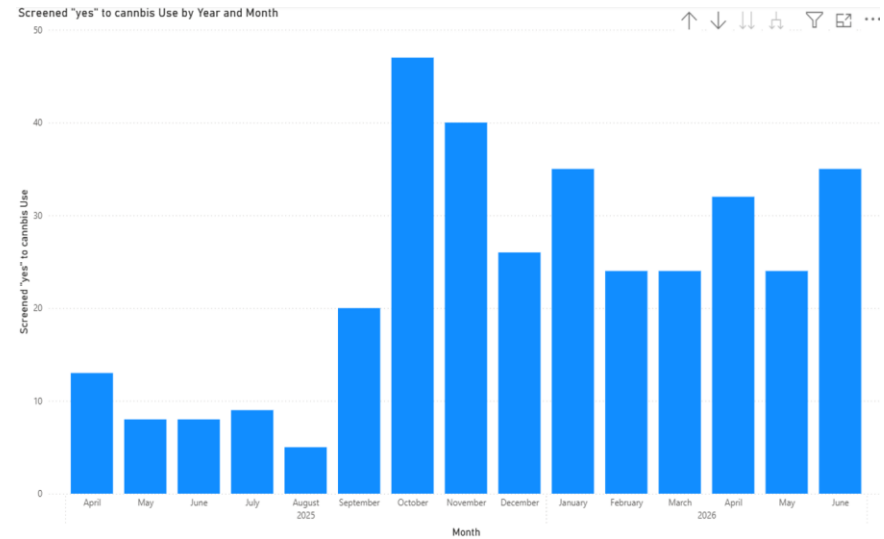


The message "Avoid fentanyl" has not become "Avoid opioids."

Cannabis- what is it these days?

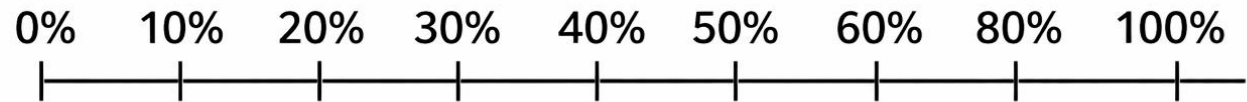
Clinical implications

- More psychosis
- More depression, anxiety and suicidality
- More aggression
- Hyperemesis
- Poorer cognition
- More addiction



Clinical Pearl:

EtOH by Alc%



Cannabis by THC%



Increase THC = Increase Harm

Emerging drugs we are hearing about

Trend	What we're seeing
Psychedelics	Increasing reports
Benzodiazepines	Frequently disclosed
Cocaine	More common than expected
Kratom	Occasional
Novel drugs	Need better surveillance

Established trends are supported by our systematic data or consistent clinical experience. **Emerging trends** are repeatedly observed clinically but are not yet systematically tracked. **Signals to watch** represent areas where surveillance may need to improve.

Addiction Program - STAFF



Dr. Sivabalaji Kaliyamurthy
Psychiatrist
Medical Director, Addiction
Program
Locations: Takoma Theatre ROC



Dr. Aishwarya Thakur
Pediatrician/Addiction Medicine
Associate Medical Director,
Addiction Program
Locations: Takoma Theater ROC,
Shaw Metro & THEARC



NP Jean Fletcher
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
Clinical Operations Lead
Locations: Takoma Theatre ROC
& THEARC



Mr. Leonard Smith
Peer Support Specialist
Locations: Takoma Theater
ROC & THEARC



Ms. Arnetta Collins
Peer Support Specialist
Locations: SZ Campus ED



Ms. Keira Robinson
Peer Support Specialist
Locations: Takoma Theater
ROC & THEARC

Key Messages

1. Fentanyl awareness is improving.
2. Prescription opioid misuse remains a major concern.
3. Cannabis potency continues to increase.
4. Psychedelics, benzodiazepines and cocaine deserve closer monitoring.
5. Clinical programs provide early warning signals for emerging drug trends.

Questions?

Thank You!



Federal City Recovery Services

*Adina Madden, Department of
Behavioral Health*

Anacostia Coordinating Council (ACC) Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE) Program

*Dr. LaVerne Adams, Program
Manager*

ACC TRANSFORMERS



RITE OF PASSAGE EXPERIENCE (R.O.P.E)

OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PERIOD 2024-2026

FREDERICK DOUGLASS



*"It is easier to build strong children
than to repair broken men."*

OUR STORY



Following a meeting with community leaders to address the overwhelming violence in 2019, hosted by Andy Shallal at Busboys & Poets and Co-Chaired by Dr. LaVerne Adams, the Transformers was established as an innovative collaboration designed to deliver vital guidance, resources, and opportunities to youth in Wards 7 and 8.

In late 2023, we formalized our mission through the opportunity of Opioid Abatement Funds, and proudly welcoming the Anacostia Coordinating Council, led by COO Lamont Mitchell, as our fiscal sponsor.

THE PROBLEM



DC's Youth opioid problem is primarily driven by illicit fentanyl, which contaminates the local street drug. Teens are particularly vulnerable due to the lack of awareness of the drug's high potency, social media availability and mental health challenges.

ACC Transformers programmatic approach was designed with an emphasis on Prevention to make our youth more capable of resisting drugs and capable of making wise choices for themselves, while creating a cohesive ecosystem for them to thrive providing the necessary and tools and resources.

OUR SOLUTION



ACC TRANSFORMERS ROPE “THE LIFELINE FOR YOUTH EOTR”

ACC Transformers R.O.P.E. was created to educate EoTR youth about the dangers of opioid use while strategically equipping them with positive alternatives to drug abuse by 1) Utilizing the positive effects of the rite of passage model including the benefits of meaningful relationships 2) with trauma informed adults, 3) coupled with the Project Alert drug prevention curriculum; youth are more informed, empowered, and prepared to resist the pressures of drug and opioid abuse.



OUR SOLUTION



ACC TRANSFORMERS ROPE “THE LIFELINE FOR YOUTH EOTR”

The ACC Transformers ROPE is the first collaboration of its kind that focused primarily on youth in Wards 7 & 8. This non-traditional approach bringing together community organizations that are already experienced at effectively serving youth for this unified effort, helped to maximize resources as well as prevent the duplication of efforts. This Opioid Prevention program is primarily focused on youth development, providing healthy activities and positive alternatives to engaging in drug activity.



OUR SOLUTION



ACC TRANSFORMERS ROPE “THE LIFELINE FOR YOUTH EOTR”

The ACC Transformers ROPE has followed strict quality assurance measures that was tracking closely enforced throughout the contract period and included strategic technical support: Probationary periods, Performance Improvement Programs, Monthly 20 minute check ins, Monthly work plan, Project Alert Drug Prevention curriculum, Registration data and attendance tracking as well as quarterly reports submitted to DBH on the progress of the program.



OUR SOLUTION



ACC TRANSFORMERS ROPE “THE LIFELINE FOR YOUTH EOTR”

To be clear, ensuring that young people have the tools to successfully transition into adulthood is the shared responsibility of parents and the community.

Yet, they cannot do it alone. Equipping youth with an effective rite of passage experience requires dedicated resources and support. This is precisely where government and the business sector can step in to strengthen the youth development ecosystem.



ROPE TRIPS/EVENTS



OUR TRIPS



- **ANDY'S FARM**
 - **OASIS**
 - **HARPERS FERRY**
 - **UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TRAIL**
 - **ZIPLINING**
 - **CANOEING**
 - **CANOPY WALK**
- **AND MANY MORE...**

OUR PARTNERS



- 100 FATHERS - YLA
- ACC BOWLING ON THE BASE
- BIG CHAIR CHESS CLUB
- CAPITAL CITY PEARLS FOUNDATION
- COVENANT OF PEACE
- FFOIP
- JOBS NOT DRUGS
- OSSE
- PEEP THIS INC
- PROJECT PURPOSE
- RICH COACHES ACADEMY
- VERBAL GYMNASTICS
- YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR INSTITUTE

SUCCESS STORIES

1833+

**YOUTH
PARTICIPANTS
SERVED**

R.O.P.E. TRIPS



R.O.P.E. EVENTS



PARTICIPANTS PROJECT ALERT TRAINING



LEADERS TRAUMA INFORMED TRAINING



WE ARE JUST GETTING
STARTED MAKING A
LIFE CHANGING
DIFFERENCE FOR
YOUTH BUT THE
FUNDING HAS ENDED!



**THANK DBH OPIOID ABATEMENT
COMMISSION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY**

QUESTIONS?



**FOR MORE
INFO
TRANSFORME
RSDC.COM**

THANK YOU



**FOR MORE
INFO
TRANSFORME
RSDC.COM**

Innovative Approaches: Youth and Community Program Leaders Panel

Moderated by Flava

Innovative Approaches: Peer Recovery Specialist Panel

Moderated by Dr. Kaliamurthy

A photograph of a row of Victorian-style houses, likely the 'Tenement House' in San Francisco, with the text 'Thank you!' overlaid in white. The houses are multi-story with ornate architectural details, including gables, bay windows, and decorative moldings. The image is in a dark, monochromatic blue-grey tone. The text 'Thank you!' is centered in the upper half of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Thank you!