The Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC), comprised of key community leaders, works collaboratively to address the following areas of responsibility:

- Establishing regional priorities to strengthen public health services
- Collecting, analyzing and disseminating data about the public health status of the region
- Developing and monitoring implementation of the region’s Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Substance Misuse Prevention has been a key regional priority since 2007. The Capital Area maintains a Leadership Team to oversee prevention efforts. Key approaches include:

- Mobilizing key community sectors, building readiness and developing capacity to implement evidence-based prevention strategies across the region
- Preventing and reducing substance misuse among youth and young adults through the implementation of evidence-based strategies, including prescription drug take back initiatives, parenting education, youth leadership, policy change, and advocacy

New England College implements Young Adult Strategies for substance misuse prevention on behalf of the Capital Area Public Health Network. Key activities include:

- Providing evidence-informed services for young adults, ages 18-25, to positively impact healthy decisions around the use of substances and increase knowledge of the consequences of substance misuse
- Implementing individual, group and campus-wide strategies, including: AlcoholEdu for freshmen, StrengthsQuest for sophomores, and CHOICES/BASICS for identified students

Riverbend Community Mental Health provides leadership and support for the development of a comprehensive, robust, and accessible Continuum of Care for Substance Use Disorders in the Capital Area. Key activities include:

- Convening subject matter experts and stakeholders to identify regional assets and gaps
- Increasing awareness of and access to behavioral health and primary care services to ensure integration along the continuum
- Building capacity within the region to support seamless transitions across the continuum

The Network provides leadership and coordination to improve the readiness of partners to mount an effective response to public health emergencies and threats. Key efforts include:

- Convening local emergency responders to plan for and respond to public health events, such as infectious disease outbreaks or acts of bioterrorism
- Developing and maintaining a qualified cadre of volunteers through the Citizen Corps
- Partnering with area schools to conduct “no-cost” influenza vaccination clinics for students