**First Coalition Meeting to Address the Opioid/Substance Use Crisis and the Workplace in New York State**

**Date**: February 24th, 2022

**Time**: 3:00-5:00PM

**Moderator, Jonathan Rosen- National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety & Health Training: Certified Industrial Hygienist** NIEHS Worker Training Program has developed 3 substance use/opioid in the workplace training programs

* + They can be downloaded from the resource list
  + Can adjust training them to your needs
  + The NIEHS WTP network uses peer worker trainers and interactive training
* Workplace can be a pathway to addiction or a pathway to recovery due to opioid prescriptions or self-medication related to:
  + Injuries on job
  + Workplace Stress
* Punitive workplace drug and alcohol policies and stigmatizing work cultures silence workers who need help.
* Need support and access to treatment model rather than punishment in the workplace
  + NYS has not developed a recovery friendly workplace initiative as of yet. Hope to get legislation on this in the works
* Resources for prevention, training, interventions, treatment, and recovery support in workplace must be widely available
* Goal to have a symposium to educate and advance cause
* Enlist people to join the Steering Committee

**Moderator, Allison Weingarten- Director of Policy FOR-NY**

* Reviewed results from Siena interns FOR-NY Coalition Survey Analysis: [Pre-Initial Meeting Survey Results](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dt7NfEKftQc_BtbFiM0XNmne_9vkqix_JzTjO6ouCCg/edit)

**Angelia Smith-Wilson, FOR- NY Executive Director**

* Gave thanks to Allison, Siena Students, Jonathan Rosen for coalition work
* FOR-NY only statewide recovery advocacy center in NYS
* Objective to have FOR-NY develop work recovery safe spaces
* Work is critical to the recovery journey, helps sustain recovery and a sense of dignity
* Needs to ensure that there are policies in place to ensure recovery friendly workplace initiatives

**John Rork- Assistant Program/Job Specialist, Anchor Recovery Center**

* Employment Specialist at Anchor Recovery
* Developed coalitions to provide wrap around services for those in recovery
* Anchor Recovery does needs assessments helps find employment for people in recovery
* Works with local employers in Watertown, New York
* Works to provide resources to cover needs such as housing, transportation, and daycare so that those in recovery can focus on recovery and work
* Educate the community, legislators and future employees

**Jonathan Rosen**

* Introducing Dr. Casey Chosewood, director of total worker health program for the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health/ CDC
  + NIOSH was established under the OSHA Act of 1970
  + Occupational Medicine Physician

**Casey Chosewood- National Institute for Occupational Safety: Director of Total Health Program**

* Presented power point on impact of SUD/Opioid crisis on workers and the workplace
* As of June 2020, 40% of US adults reported struggling with mental health or substance use
* America’s drug overdoses increased during 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, up 30% from year prior
  + 70% of the overdoses were between ages of 25-34
* Every state has reported increased in substance use related deaths
* Social distancing has caused those with substance use disorder isolated
* Opioid Use, Overdose and Work
  + Risk factor: no job, or a bad job
  + Differences in industries and occupations and highest in construction, mining, and physically demanding jobs
* Substance Use Disorders in Workers
  + 1 in 12 workers have an untreated SUD
  + Construction, mining and service occupations highest rates of alcohol and other drug use disorders
  + Education, healthcare, and professional and protective service jobs have the lowest
* Total Worker Health Strategies to Combat Opioid Harms
  + Have a total comprehensive approach
* Must work to change stigma regarding SUD
* Recovery Supportive Workplace
  + Prevent exposure to workplace factor that may cause of perpetuate a SUD while providing easy access to resources
  + Educate management team regarding SUD and recovery

**Rob Kent -** **White House Office of National Drug Control Policy: General Counsel**

* Discussed NYS Recovery Job Tax Credit
  + Steered toward for-profit agencies
* Expressed need to break down stigma of recovery in the workplace
* Federal government. will administer 2022 Nation’s Drug Control Strategy
* Discussed the need for better workplace insurance coverage for those in recovery

**Stephanie Campbell- OASAS: Director, NYS Ombudsman Office CHAMP**

* Works in collaboration with unions for recovery-oriented solutions in the workplace
* Assists people to get into treatment programs and intervenes when providers or payors discriminate against people who need treatment

**Richard Lanigan-** **Office and Professional Employees International Union, International President**

* Discussed personal connection to substance use disorders
* Rise of prescription drug misuse for pain management
* Highlighted role that labor unions can have on recovery-oriented workplaces and the resource they provide

**Ken Daly- Gino Macchio Foundation : Program Founder**

* Developed a program called Recovery to Work, inspired by a family friend who died in a tragic motorcycle accident
* Environmentally friendly oystering operation in Long Island that employs people in recovery
* Identified the barriers for those in recovery getting to work
* Provides scholarship to person in recovery for work needs and resources
  + Carries on to next job
  + Works to figure out transportation needs

**Richard Wong- NYC District Council of Carpenters: Assistant Director of Training, NYCDCC Training Center**

* Drug screening and drug prevention resources for members and apprentices
  + Random drug screening each week as the work is hazardous/ safety sensitive
  + Carpenters MEND Program helps those who test positive get into treatment and maintain recovery
* 16,000 active union members
  + 1200-1400 apprentices

**Allison**

* Had poll about mission statement: *We are committed to creating a culture of recovery-supportive workplaces within New York State that actively develops resources for preventing further substance use and addiction.*
* Feedback regarding a more prevention oriented and harm reduction focused statement
* Broke out into breakout rooms, 12 minutes

**Dean Hale-** **Training Specialist 2-Addictions, OASAS 3**

* NYS first state to offer a tax incentive to employers that hire those in recovery
  + More information available here: <https://oasas.ny.gov/recovery-friendly-workplace-tax-credit>
  + Developing training and resources for employers

**Senator Pete Harckham**

* Expressed respect for the work and offered help where needed and spoke of his own experience as a person in recovery

**Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner**

* Opioid Settlement Lockbox
  + Workforce recovery one of main concerns
  + Offered assistance as a resource

**Assemblyman Mike Durso**

* Took part in veterans’ group for those with PTSD
* Highlighted need to break down stigma
* Worked in Sanitation Dept, as a Union Rep prior to working in legislature
  + Saw impact of stigma and SUD impact

**Therese Daly**

* Director of Correspondence for Senate Majority Leader, expressed support

**Allison Weingarten**

* Highlighted speakers for next meeting that were unable to present today
* Next Meeting March 29th 3-4:30pm
* Will reach out regarding steering committee meeting

**Jonathan and Allison**

* Thanked attendees for their participation
* Encouraged all to do outreach to bring more people and organizations into the coalition
* Encouraged joining the steering committee
* Explained that information will be sent out so that organizations can sign on to the coalition
* Encouraged participants to take advantage of available training and resources from NIEHS WTP, FOR-NY, and other organizations participating in the coalition. See the resource list.