**Notes at NYS Coalition to Prevent Addiction and Support Recovery through Employment (PARSE) Call 5.2.22**

58 on call

**Leading Call:** Jonathan Rosen, Ben Riker, Allison Weingarten, Sarah Toledano

**Join Committees** – link to form to join committees use form to sign up: <https://forms.gle/LeADkfNpo5VYtsDb6>

**Objectives:**

1. Join the P A R S E Coalition of NYS employer, labor, treatment, recovery, community, government, academic, and policy leaders to increase prevention, access to treatment, and recovery resources in the workplace.

2. To identify gaps and opportunities for workplace interventions, training, and policy reform at the worksite, local, and state levels

3. To work with this coalition to plan an Employment Opioids and the Workplace, Prevention and Recovery Symposium for Winter 2022

4. Advocate for legislation to expand resources to support the establishment of a standard in NYS for a Recovery Supportive Workplace. Such standards currently exist in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania among other states. The resources would provide staffing and funding to do outreach, training, certification, and other support for employers and labor organizations.

5. Establishment of a Workplace Toolkit for the Recovery Supportive Workplace, a key tool for reaching out to employers, labor organizations, and other workplace stakeholders. Other states have already created toolkits as well as the National Safety Council. Review of Matrix

**Funding:** Grant we are applying for – luminosity: <https://www.unitedwaygcr.org/sites/unitedwaygcr.org/files/LuminosityCollaborative_Guide_2022.pdf>

**Speakers:**

[**Brendan Sullivan**](https://www.linkedin.com/in/brendansullivanpt/) – Chairing opioid alternative committee for physical therapists

Workers Comp Research institute – financial information. How much money is being spent within the system on medications relative to physical and occupational therapy? 4 to 1. Physical therapy was outspent by $27 million. Alternatives to Opioids have been approved but a full look takes time to look at. Physical Therapy can be preventative, reduce surgery. Care delayed is care denied.

[**Alex Dell**](https://www.alexdell.com/?gclid=CjwKCAjwgr6TBhAGEiwA3aVuIb7pzcROeNC2shmBP-uUlAQeEpH6Zu9-mz_6y0LFjU5j5vBTtbWqShoCswMQAvD_BwE) – advocate for injured workers. Workers Compensation Board has transformed over the years. WCB used to be proactive, has gotten away from that. People are out of work, not educated on benefits afforded, Board is not as active, claims are left up to employers and carriers, dealing with costs. People have different perspectives. How to get injured worker better and back to work. Workers’ comp provides wage loss benefits; Medical- most important is workers comp board has drug formulary; pre authorized certain drugs- many of treatments were not pre-authorized, there was a cumbersome process. Drug formulary is pre-authorized. If drug is on formulary it is authorized, if not it is not authorized. 10 days to repeal the claim, this is taking too long. Could be upwards of 30 days before a determination is made. Injured workers do not get copies of decisions. Only providers can rebut the denial.

Red flags that injured workers are dealing with addiction

* Lack of communication
* Conservative treatment modalities
* Failure to identify consequential mental diagnosis
* Failure to identify occupational disease
* Treatment delays and denials
* Abrupt and/or improper weaning
* Costly addiction recovery services
* Reduced wages or no wages while out of work

Solutions

* Educate employers and carriers how to better communicate with people
* Make injured workers aware of and freely authorize conservative treatment modalities on an expedited basis
* Consider medical marijuana
* Personalize employers and carriers for improper medical evaluation/treatment delays and denials
* Allow injured workers and their legal representatives access to WCB Medical Portal
* Injured workers need greater access to mental health providers

Legislation so insurance companies will share data on opioids and overdose.

**Siena** [**NExT students**](https://www.siena.edu/centers-institutes/ace/ace-programs/community-based-internships/) presentations- Collective Impact Model (see powerpoint)

Jillian Risavi, Irelan Fricke, and Emily Atassi – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

**Positive Feedback for Siena Students:**

Dean Hale, NYS OASAS: Thanks Siena NExT, great work!

Ariana Williamson (She, Her): That was fantastic! Wonderful opportunity to engage students.

The **Center for Academic Community Engagement**, if any of your organizations are interested in partnering with Siena, please feel free to reach out: stoledano@siena.edu.

**Peter Harnett-** [**Leidos**](https://www.leidos.com/insights/opioids)**:** Grew up in Long Island

American Industrial Hygiene Association- oldest brother died from overdose, inspires his work.

Leidos- 40,000 employees – 2017 Leidos actively working in community and in workplace against opioid issue so prominent in this country. Substance use and mental health concerns. Mission for the Mind. Workplace initiatives- NIOSH workplace supported recovery. October/November got with head of HR and corporate responsibility person, created coaching jobs, reaching out to recovery community, reached out to Oxford house; covers first several months of people in oxford house. Alumni group- posted to job board. Workplace initiatives- working with express scripts; 2018-2021 reduced first time prescriptions by 7 days or longer. Also working with delta dental – number of dental visits, opioids prescribed, letters to patient, spouse, Narcan kit. Leidos – CEO pledge to end addiction. Leidos has been recognized multiple times for this work.

Answering a Call to Action on American Workplace and Community Opioid Concerns <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8505779/>

<https://www.leidos.com/insights/opioids>

**FOR-DO: Deborah Roberts,** Project Coordinator Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC[) INSPIRE](https://www.facebook.com/forecoverydo/posts/friends-of-recovery-of-delaware-and-otsego-counties-inc-awarded-500000-through-a/4795727667177544/) Addressing the substance use disorder crisis by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce entry or re-entry. The more people hear about it, the more people that will actually approach you.

Appalachian grant- staff of two people, project coordinator, reaches out to businesses, documents, Ivana’s role is the peer. Unusual that someone is being hired with two people who are already there to support them.

<https://www.arc.gov/sud/>

**Tara Vitti- Employer/Hamden Inn-** everyone needs employees, people are in our community, they are our community. Did a video and worked with a chamber, urging the rest of the community to be a part of the project. Excited about what is going on with the team. tara@waltonchamber.com

Question- can we marry expertise in hiring people in recovery and engage in injury prevention?

**Sarah Ravenhall- New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO)** How can we increase public health involvement in the coalition at the state, county, and local levels? Workplace is a space that needs to be addressed. How the public health officials can help- now even more understaffed, have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

**Follow up Items**

Outreach documents- recruiting folks to help plan symposium

Busting down the silos- Labor Movement- in solidarity we are stronger!

Ideas for employer outreach Sodexo, Aramark, and Chartwells - all huge food service companies (with some international pull).

**NEXT MEETING – Monday June 6 at 3pm.**

**Participants:**

**Meeting Leads:**

* Jonathan Rosen
* Allison Weingarten she/her MDB, Inc.: Allison Weingarten, I am now with MDB, Inc. aweingarten@michaeldbaker.com
* Ben Riker, FOR-NY
* Sarah Toledano
* stoledano@siena.edu

**Labor/Worker Health and Safety**

* Linda Donahue, Finger Lakes Occupational Health clinic, advisory board
* Lara Maldjian, NYCOSH
* Kitty Gelberg, PhD, KayG Consulting, LLC - public health consulting
* Katie Shane, kshane@local338.org, Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW
* Carrie Wieder, LMSW cwieder1@ecmc.edu Erie County Medical Center, Buffalo, NY
* Grace Sembajwe, Occupational Medicine, Northwell Health
* Chris Rodman, Opioid Projects Coordinator, CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training. crodman@cpwr.com
* Dan Vaughan-Cherubin, Training and Outreach Assistant, Northeast New York Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (NENYCOSH)

**Public Health**

* Sarah Ravenhall, Executive Director, the New York State Association of County Health Officials, sravenhall@nysacho.org
* Andrea Callahan, acallahan@co.livingston.ny.us, Livingston County Department of Health
* Diane Devlin - Director of PH, Wayne County Public Health
* Cristina Dyer-Drobnack, Public Policy/Program Director, NYS Association of County Health Officials, cdyerdrobnack@nysacho.org
* Aurora Le, aurorale@umich.edu, University of Michigan
* Joseph Syracuse, Director AOTC at UB, jsyracus@buffalo.edu
* Chimzy Ugbala DrPH student - SUNY downstate SPH Chimzyugbala@gmail.com

**Alternative Pain Management**

* Brendan Sullivan, PT, DPT with Empire Health & Wellness Center

**Insurance**

* Kevin Monahan CDPHP
* Jody Williams CRPA @ CDPHP

**Recovery Community**

* Ariana Williamson, awilliamson@wilkesrecoveryrevoltuion.com, Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc./Recovery Friendly NC - North Carolina
* Melissa Fleck, Faces & Voices of Recovery
* Jennifer Donadio, FOR-NY, jdonadio@for-ny.org
* Tracy Lanza- Workforce Development Specialist for Independent Living Inc. TLanza@MyIndependentLiving.org
* Nydia Hill Crpa/Carc New Choices RecoveryCenter nhill@newchoicesrecovery.org
* Deborah Roberts, deborah@friendsofrecoverydo.og, FOR-DP-RDOCS program
* Katelin Arnold, Program Director the Recovery Center at Helio Health karnold@helio.health

**NYS Government**

* Stephanie Campbell, Director NYS Behavioral Health Ombudsman Office- CHAMP
* Dean Hale, NYS OASAS

**Employers**

* Peter Harnett- Leidos and AIHA Opioids Working Group Harnett.Peter@gmail.com
* Tara Vitti (Chef at Hamden Inn) (President, Walton Chamber of Commerce) (Treasurer, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce). tara@waltonchamber.com or tara@hamdeninnandlounge.com

**Siena Student Researchers**

* Irelan Fricke, Siena College Research Intern for FOR-NY, ia08fric@siena.edu
* Emily Atassi, Siena College Research Intern for FOR-NY, es30atas@siena.edu
* Jillian Risavi, Siena College Research Intern for FOR-NY, jc10risa@siena.edu

**University**

* Kimberly K. Asner-Self, EdD, LCPC, Associate Prof Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, Touro University. Kimberly.asner-self@touro.edu

**Workers Compensation**

* Attorney Alex Dell - Law Firm of Alex Dell, PLLC 518-862-5555 www.alexdell.com Workers' Compensation, Social Security Disability,Disability Retirement & Veterans Affairs Claims throughout New York State & Florida.

**Legislative**

* Joelle Foskett, Legislative Director, NYS Senator Harckham

**Input from Chat/Participants**

Rachel Lauria: Gambling problems may also increase during these times, especially when people are concerned about not having enough money to pay bills, etc. Thank you for letting me be a part of this coalition. I look forward to being a part of your efforts. I ask you all to remember to include problem gambling (the “hidden addiction”) in your work. Mobile sports betting has the potential to increase workplace injuries when people are more focused on their bets than their work, also people who have been injured and are facing loss of income, isolation and injury are at greater risk of developing a gambling problems.

Dan, NENYCOSH: Hi all, what a great group/important subject area. NENYCOSH offers comprehensive safety and health training/instruction, happy to discuss coordination if it can be of service, feel free to reach out to us at dvaughancherubin@nenycosh.org and find out more at [www.nenycosh.org](http://www.nenycosh.org) . I am also hoping to join the employee outreach and training committee so I will see y'all there!

Lara Maldjian: To echo what Dan said, NYCOSH is a sister COSH group of NENYCOSH! We can offer similar trainings to folks in NYC, Long Island, and Westchester. My email is Lara@nycosh.org.

Andrea Callahan, I am a New York Public Health Fellow

Sarah Ravenhall:We love the fellows! We want to make sure those fellows remain working at the local health departments in positions that are meaningful and sustained!

**Links:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EAxAWHJIl8qsK_2UzYyNR1-5t3bHuO-E>

Checklist for Workplace Opioid Prevention and Response: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl_get_blob.cfm?ID=12325>