



PARSE FULL COALITION MEETING NOTES

JANUARY 16, 2024

Moderators:

Allison Weingarten, LMSW, MDB Inc., Communication and Outreach Consultant with the National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety & Health Training

Jonathan Rosen, National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training; Industrial Hygiene Consultant at AJ Rosen & Associates LLC

Chris Assini, Director of Policy, FOR-NY

Allison opens the meeting.

Introductions:

Joanna Green - NYS Dept of Health, AIDS Institute, Office of Drug User Health

Felicia Neahr, North Country Regional Director for Workforce Development Institute

Sarah Toledano, Siena College Center for Academic Community Engagement

Emily D'Angelo, NYS Association of County Health Officials

Kristen Chalmers, LMSW, FLOHS

Andrea Mott, Livingston County DOH

Erin Zych, Recovery Coordinator, Western New York Independent Living, Inc.

Leisa Abraham with the Public Employees Federation (PEF)

Cristina Dyer-Drobnack, NYSACHO

Hermanuella Hyppolite, PMHNP, Statewide Peer Assistance for Nurses/SPAN/NYSNA

Theresa M. Knorr, Senior Director of Recovery Education and Training, Friends of Recovery - NY.

Patrick Magee, Mountain Top Cares Coalition

George Korchowsky, NYS Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC Program), Albany, NY

Marisa Planck, NYC Dept. of Health, Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Use Prevention

Justin Jimenez Mental Health Association Employment Manager

Robyn Fellrath, Long Island Regional Director, Workforce Development Institute (WDI)

Scott Curry, Disability Resource Coordinator- Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development

Nicholas Durkin- Western New York Independent living -MHPC-A2A

T. Thaddaeus Brown, Ph.D., MSOL, Brooklyn Community Recovery Center Phoenix House NY LI

Kim Laube, from HUGS on Long Island

Jonathan introduced Michelle Gerber, originally from Schenectady, now in Washington State. She worked as a researcher at a Department of Energy weapons clean-up plant. Her son died as a result of prolonged addiction in 2014. Since her retirement she established a not-for-profit and

built a coalition that raised \$23 million to open a recovery center, expected to be completed 2025. This is the only recovery center in the Pacific Northwest that was generated by citizen action and they are hoping to become a model for other coalitions. She published a book in Fall 2023 about her son's experience and its impact on her family titled "Witness to Addiction: My Son's Journey and How Each Person Can Fight America's Opioid Epidemic" is available at <http://www.westbowpress.com>

Robin Fellrath from Workforce Development Institute on Long Island: Statewide organization with the mission of creating equal opportunity for New Yorkers to gain access to quality jobs with sustaining wages. She has two brothers in active recovery, so is keenly interested in hearing learning about the coalition.

Allison:

A shout out to FOR-NY for their efforts involved in leading the PARSE Coalition. The webpage highlighting the December 4 & 5 symposium is hosted at <https://for-ny.org/parse-symposium-2023/> and the home page describing the mission of the coalition.

February will mark the third year since the coalition was formed, bringing recovery and prevention organizations, business, labor union, and government officials perspectives together.

Steering Committee Update with Kristin Chalmers:

Andrew Waite from Schenectady's The Daily Gazette featured the symposium in his article at https://www.dailygazette.com/opinion/new-york-addiction-tax-credit/article_08c7449e-9b80-11ee-bfa1-eb7112c4694f.html

FOR-NY also published the article in their weekly e-bulletin at https://issuu.com/friendsofrecovery/docs/e-bulletin_1_4_24v2?fr=sNmY0NTY5MzY5NDI

When Jonathan asked the committee if they were aware of what a Recovery Friendly Advisor means, it opened a dialog about the need to fully identify the role, skill sets and possible desired requirements that a Recovery Friendly Workplace Advisor needs to have to be effective.

Funding options were discussed at the meeting. Kristin shared Jonathan's conversation with The Gino Macchio Foundation's role in the Recovery Friendly Workplace whereby they provide scholarships up to \$15,000 to support working people in recovery by offsetting wages for a period, transportation costs, housing costs, and other expenses.

Question raised at the committee meeting about the PARSE Coalition role going forward: Should the coalition remain as is under the umbrella of FOR-NY or become a stand-alone not-for-profit?

PARSE Member Survey with Sarah Toledano

The first survey was done early in 2022 identifying who are the PARSE members, where they were from, what sort of services they offered. Sarah is conducting another member survey identifying the recovery ready workplace activities that coalition members are currently engaged in and activities they would initiate if resources were made available to them. The survey will be ready before the next Steering Committee meeting on February 1.

Legislative Update with Chris Assini:

- Outreach involved meeting with key state legislators, working with Senator Fernandez's office, working on edits to the proposed Recovery Friendly legislation. Chris spoke with Assemblyman McDonald's office and feels he would be a good champion for Recovery Ready Workplaces. Committee Chair Steck is a key person on drug and alcohol misuse committees and is very supportive.
- Stand Up for Recovery Day is February 13 from 8:30 Am to 3 PM. Average attendance for this event is about 1,000 people. Coalition members are encouraged to attend and use the event as an opportunity to advocate for the RRW legislation. To register: <https://for-ny.org/surd-registration/FOR-NY> FOR-NY needs volunteer to help on Recovery Day. To volunteer <https://app.donorview.com/ZQjOW>

Allison invited commentary from coalition members:

Emily D'Angelo, Senior Program Manager at NYSACHO reviewed a Harm Reduction contract with the Department of Health Office of Drug User Health. NYSACHO's Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium for Local Health Departments will be on June 4 & 5 at the Desmond Hotel. They have a call for abstracts and invites coalition members to submit an abstract at <https://auth.oxfordabstracts.com/?redirect=/stages/12202/submitter>

Theresa Knorr shared the following FOR-NY Training Sessions:

Our Stories Have Power – 3 CE & CARC Elective credits and OASAS credits

HYBRID – Onondaga Co. – Hosted by CUSE Center (In Person and Virtual Options)

Date: Tuesday 1/23/2024 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Register: <https://app.donorview.com/yL474>

Our Stories Have Power - Diversity Equity and Inclusion – 9 CE & CARC Elective

In Person – Dutchess Co. - Hosted by MHA of Dutchess Co.

Date: Wednesday 2/21/2024 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM and Thursday 2/22/24, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Register: <https://app.donorview.com/VKwqN>

Trauma Informed Care 101 – 6 CRPA/CARC CE and OASAS credits

In Person – Warren Co. – Hosted by Hope and Healing Recovery Center

Date: Tuesday 5/14/2023 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM & Wednesday 5/15/23, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Register: <https://app.donorview.com/qrGDY>

What is a Recovery Friendly Advisor and what is their role in the recovery community:

Featured speaker: Eliza Zarka, Director of State Engagement at the newly formed National Recovery Friendly Workplace Institute. The NRFWI is an offshoot inspired by the New Hampshire RFW Initiative and is funded by the Global Housing Initiative. Eliza had until recently worked with the New Hampshire Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative as Addiction & Behavioral Health Coordinator on behalf of the Governor’s Office.

What is a Recovery Friendly Advisor?

It is someone who:

- Is an employee of a recovery friendly program or a subcontractor
- Is a resource to businesses/organizations that wish to become Recovery Friendly Workplaces
- Works with partners and employers to educate business, guiding them in creating workplaces that support workers seeking to find or maintain recovery for themselves or their loved ones
- Acts as a “concierge” to the community, helping businesses get connected to the tools and resources they need to support employee recovery and implement an RFW culture

What do RFA’s do?

- Connect with employers through outreach and engagement
- Provides an orientation to the program
- Assessing, through conversation, where a business is along a continuum of recovery-friendly culture
 - o ex., level of stigma, readiness to change, needs and motivations
- Walks the business through a process to become a certified RFW after agreeing to become a RFW
- Connects the employer to local, state, and other resources
- Provides education, training, and resources to help managers and individuals implement workplace practices and support for employees
- Assists with policy development

- Communicate community-based events and/or works with business on hosting their own events
- While many RFA' conduct business outreach, training, and connecting with recovery resources, some organizations employing RFW Advisors split the role among two people. A "Business Advisor" reaches out to the businesses, explaining the program and then a "Recovery Advisor" trains, certifies, and connects businesses to resources.

How are RFA's trained?

- Instruction on the program and its core materials
- Participate in mock orientations
- Shadows "veteran" RFA's
- Familiarized with backend processes (such as tracking "customer service" data collection and reporting) recovery friendly activities such as how many businesses are being trained in SUD, and surveying RFW businesses with questions such as noting decreases in absenteeism, employee satisfaction, and the like.
- Watch trainings offered, whether through in-person instruction from, or recorded videos
- Complete Recovery Coach Academy (RCA) or equivalent
- Attend professional development opportunities
 - o ex., becoming Certified Recovery Support Workers (CRSWs)

Funding Opportunity:

George Korchowsky shared the link to the Inspire grant opportunity funded through ARC at <https://www.arc.gov/grants-and-opportunities/sud/inspire-initiative-application-information/>

Jonathan adjourned the meeting.

The next coalition meeting is February 8 at 10am.