



PARSE FULL COALITION MEETING NOTES

DECEMBER 12, 2023

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

Dr. Angelia Smith-Wilson, Executive Director, FOR-NY

Chris Assini, Director of Policy, FOR-NY

Allison opens the meeting.

Introductions:

Allison welcomed new and returning members, thanked coalition members for supporting the symposium and looks forward to hearing some feedback on members' experience at the symposium during the course of this meeting.

Jonathan: As a founding member of the PARSE Coalition, discussed the origins of the coalition that came about as an outgrowth of a meeting with FOR-NY a few years ago. The idea was to impact the larger society by bringing together organizations and individuals, such as employers, unions, and policy makers. Attendance at the symposium drew a good mix of employers and labor unions in addition to recovery organizations as well as a good amount of support from event sponsors. Many people approached Jonathan to say they are looking forward to attending another symposium next year. Coalition members have also asked about hosting regional events throughout the year, which would require funding as well.

Jonathan invites new and returning members to introduce themselves:

Liza Ochsendorf is the Director for Workforce Development from Warren County, part of the Saratoga/Warren/Washington Workforce Development system. Liza and her colleague Denise, who is their coordinator, are excited to join the coalition. Hope and Healing connected them to PARSE. They manage the Warren County Career Center in Glens Falls and help people in recovery overcome barriers to employment. They work closely with Chambers of Commerce to make their members aware of the benefits of recovery supportive work environments. They partner with the Workforce Development Institute on many initiatives. Their organization is federally funded by the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. There are 33 Workforce Boards across NY State and the more news about the coalition's work she can get out to them, the more support the coalition can get statewide.

Felicia Neahr, North Country Regional Director at the Workforce Development Institute reintroduced herself. She covers Jefferson County to Essex County. She has a strong background in the substance use recovery field and was a Certified Peer Recovery Advocate.

Kym Laube, Executive Director of HUGS, Inc. (Human Understanding & Growth Services) from Long Island was at PARSE.

Mary Maher, new to Friends of Recovery NY, her position is Finance Generalist.

Symposium Recap:

Jonathan shared that the symposium received news coverage on Channel 6 and Andrew Wade, Columnist for the Schenectady Daily Gazette covered the event too. The article was published on 2/17/23. https://www.dailygazette.com/opinion/new-1york-addiction-tax-credit/article_08c7449e-9b80-11ee-bfa1-eb7112c4694f.html

Anthony Showard, (Graphic/Web Designer, FOR-NY) shared the links to the press coverage on the PARSE website. Anthony created all the banners and design work at the symposium and highlighted the event on FOR-NY's e-bulletin. Anthony screenshared the photos and photo collage from the symposium that was presented in the e-bulletin. [View link to the symposium program.](#)

Julie Dostal (Executive Director, LEAF-Leatherstocking Education on Alcoholism/Addictions Foundation) shared her positive experience as speaker at the symposium, noting there were so many people from all areas of the recovery community at the event. She wished there was more time in between to network between workshops, as there were so many interesting people and connections to make at the event.

Christina Dyer-Drobnack, (Public Policy and Program Director of NYSACHO (NY State Association of County Health Officials), who volunteered at the symposium affirmed previous positive commentary on the symposium and attended the organizational development sessions as a note taker. Her takeaway from those workshops was it would be great for the coalition to develop and share a toolkit on how people and organizations can take actionable early steps in creating recovery friendly workplaces. She also spoke about working to get the county health departments involved.

Jonathan reported that SAMSHA block grants to the states now fund recovery ready workplace work. OASAS staff has indicated they will inform us of the parameters and timetable for organizations to apply. Link to grant info: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/recovery-support-services-subg-mhbg.pdf>

Dr. Angelia Smith-Wilson thanked everyone for their participation in making the symposium happen and invited more volunteers to participate in PARSE. She plans to hire a full-time FOR-NY staff member to work on PARSE. She is looking for OASAS to fund the position but also needs volunteers in the coalition to pitch in.

Research Update:

Jeanette Zoekler (PARSE Research Committee Member) outlined the two strains of research being conducted. One is quantitative and the other is qualitative. She invited volunteers to join the research committee and welcomes input from diverse aspects of experience in this arena.

The committee has partnered with the NYS Department of Health SUDORS (State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System) to study which occupations and industries are most affected by SUD deaths. Dr. Lucila Zamboni, Director of Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology from the NYS Department of Health presented at the symposium and is working with the research committee on the SUDORS study.

Break Out Group Sessions: Brainstorming on funding and outreach efforts to promote PARSE.

Notes from Group A leader Jeanette Zoeckler: The group recommended planning for another annual symposium in six months since we already have a framework set up. They felt that waiting a full year to come together is too far off considering the urgency of the issue. On fundraising, they recommended holding a meeting dedicated just to fundraising and that we should consider hiring a grant writer to secure funding. We can also tap into the amazing talents of our existing coalition members who are involved in grant writing.

Jonathan noted that we might apply to NIOSH for conference support. Felicia from WDI said she would be open to funding another symposium. As far as a larger contract for PARSE for employer outreach is concerned, that would be difficult because their contracts are made directly with employers. Since the coalition would be actively going out and educating employers, they cannot fund that activity since that would deem PARSE's employer outreach activity as third-party educators.

Notes from Group B leader Scott Curry (Disability Resource Coordinator, Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development): While grant writing coming out of PARSE is good, the group encourages making connections and partnerships with Economic Development Boards across the state and RCO's, leveraging non-profit agencies that may already have grant funds available to support PARSE objectives. ARC may help sponsor the next symposium if the event takes place in the Appalachian region, perhaps in Binghamton. Northern Borders may also become a sponsor for the next symposium. They also recommend that in addition to the annual symposium we should host regional events throughout the year.

Notes from Group C leader Kristin Chalmers: The participants recommend we reach out to untapped resources particularly with the career centers as they already have funding set up for training. Summer youth programs are a resource to get young people involved with RCO's. Recommend we need to take a deep dive into the Opioid Settlement funds for additional grant opportunities. Kristin has talked to unions on conducting recovery friendly workplace trainings. Julie has funding in her budget to train rural businesses in her region on recovery friendly workplace policies. She would be happy to use those funds for a regional summit in her region. She can work with other regional groups to co-host the summit. Jonathan and Kristin will be hosting a webinar on January 24, for the NY Committee for Safety and Health and the NYC Central Labor Council, which expects to draw at least 100 people.

Legislative Update with Chris Assini:

Chris has a meeting set up with Assemblyman McDonald in January as he has been identified as the lead for the NYS Assembly on recovery friendly workplaces. Chris would like to organize a PARSE sub-group to have people reach out to NY State Assembly and Senate leaders. Chris shared a legislative outreach spreadsheet listing key contact people and outreach status. He

would like to coordinate among PARSE members to contact these legislators and use the script and information he has provided. The legislative appeal has been simplified to reach a larger number of legislators. Jonathan encouraged PARSE members to participate in Stand Up Recovery Day on February 13, 2024.

Jonathan invited final comments:

George Korchowksy with NY Department of State grant manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission shared that he was very impressed with the symposium, it was well above expectations. They have \$13.5M in funds for recovery to work programs in the New York State Appalachian Region. He informed attendees they are planning to publish a competitive grant opportunity to be published in about one month.

Jonathan adjourns the meeting.

Next full coalition meeting is January 16, 2024, at 3:00pm.