



PARSE FULL COALITION MEETING NOTES

MARCH 5, 2024

Moderators:

Chris Assini, Director of Policy, FOR-NY

Kristin Chalmers, Educational Specialist, LMS at Finger Lakes Occupational Health Services

Introduction of New Members:

Danielle Palleschi, Disability Resource Coordinator at Columbia Green Workforce Office

Elizabeth Bruce, Director of Policy & Special Projects, NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Inc.

Steering Committee Update with Kristen Chalmers:

Legislation and Outreach:

Jonathan Rosen (PARSE co-leader, National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training; Industrial Hygiene Consultant at AJ Rosen & Associates LLC) addressed the question of the ability of not-for-profits being allowed to lobby for legislation. Not-for-profits with government funding can lobby for legislation as long as the lobbying occurs on off duty hours or time spent on lobbying is not billed to the grantor.

Emily D'Angelo (Senior Program Manager, NYSACHO) volunteered to team up with **Sarah Toledano** (Siena College Center for Academic Community Engagement) to reach out to local legislators about the newly introduced RRW State Senate and Assembly bills.

Allison Weingarten (PARSE co-leader, LMSW, MDB Inc., Communication and Outreach Consultant with the National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety & Health Training) reviewed links to the legislative outreach template and scripts stored in the shared drive.

On Jonathan's suggestion, the legislative outreach template was shared with coalition members via e-newsletter to all PARSE Coalition members. It contained sample letters and information on how to contact local legislators.

Julie Dostal (Executive Director, The LEAF Council-Oneonta) had scheduled to meet with her local state senator to oppose the projected budget cut of 13% to OASAS. The new budget plan might supplant the cut with Opioid Settlement funds, though it will require a work around as the settlement funds cannot technically be used in government grant funding.

Jonathan noted that labor unions have mobilized to fight agency budget cuts in the past. We should reach out to the PEF and CSEA, who represent workers at OASAS. He also shared that Senator Fernandez and Assemblyman Steck have requested that funding for Recovery Ready Workplaces be included in the state budget, currently being negotiated.

Labor Outreach:

Allison attended a popular "must go to" Labor Breakfast at the Desmond on March 1 to discuss the legislation. Chris assisted by providing support materials. Mike Blue, a retired PEF and area labor council leader also spoke at the breakfast.

Chris is working with Brian Williams, Executive Director, Capital Region Workforce Development to reach out to the Department of Labor on RRW and is reaching out to the Labor Chair in the Assembly.

Business Outreach:

Scott Curry (Disability Resource Coordinator- Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development) scheduled a summit on March 1 and another on March 12 with about 94 people representing 30 businesses. He created his own RRW flyer to hand out at his business outreach meetings. He is sharing the flyer so PARSE members in other regions can customize it to add their contact info.

Alexander Paar is Co-Founder of RecoveryJobs and serves the Buffalo area. They approach employers and train them to become Recovery Ready Workplaces. Mark Bonta, an employer affiliated with the New Hampshire RFW groundbreaking program is now a member of their team. Their employer group has 149 members and Alexander is looking to gain their support for the bill.

Research Update:

Qualitative research has been conducted through interviews of PARSE members. At this time, research has been put on a mild pause with Research lead Jeanette Zoekler shifting focus in relocating from upstate New York.

Opportunities:

Allison Weingarten noted that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funds rural communities, including FOR-NY. Some of FOR-NY's HRSA funding will be used to support four regional events in targeted communities.

Julie Dostal shared that the LEAF Council has some funding for small business summits. The LEAF Council summits share RRW practices and give out One-Boxes, which are kits that contain a short demo video on how to administer naloxone in addition to the naloxone. Info about the kit can be found at www.wvdii.org/onebox

PARSE Coalition members are invited to join the Steering Committee.

Website Updates and Training Sessions with Jennifer Donadio (Project Director - Rural Recovery Friends of Recovery NY):

Jennifer reviewed the PARSE website updates highlighting the legislative outreach information and updated outreach material. Jennifer also reviewed the scripts and legislative update spreadsheet shared among PARSE Coalition members, noting that Allison recorded a total of 25

people have been contacted. There's a friendly challenge among fellow PARSE members to beat Allison's outreach numbers!

Chris shared that on March 1 he had a meeting with the Assistant Secretary for Human Services and Mental Hygiene in the Executive's office. Chris stressed how urgent it is to reach out to local legislators to move the bill forward.

Jennifer shared that FOR-NY has a grant funded by HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) and some HRSA funding is being provided to PARSE to conduct Regional Training Sessions. Four regional training sessions are being scheduled. Kicking off the series of sessions, Independent Living Inc. will host a session in Monticello on April 16 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. It's a small venue, registration is capped at 36 people, the event is free of charge. Registration link: <https://app.donorview.com/yL3VE>

Other sites will be in Jefferson, Wayne, and Montgomery Counties. The events will run through the end of August, specific locations and dates to be determined. More training sessions may be scheduled after September pending guidance from HRSA on funding availability. The goal is to introduce and expand Recovery Ready Workplace initiatives among employers, unions, communities and the non-profit recovery, treatment, and prevention organizations.

PARSE Member Survey:

During March, Sarah Toledano will do continue reaching out to PARSE members about her RRW survey. The goal of the survey is to identify what coalition members are currently doing regarding the Recovery Ready Workplace Initiative and what they would like to do if more funding were available. An e-newsletter to all coalition members is scheduled to go out in early March.

Final Comments:

Chris discussed most recent legislative advocacy, having brought in Assemblyman Fahey as another bill sponsor, bringing the number of sponsors to four in the Assembly and two in the Senate. Chris feels Allison's attendance at the Labor Breakfast and her conversation with Assemblyman Fahey at that event helped garner his sponsorship. There is a press conference being planned for the end of March. Ideally, we can set up a day of action prior to the press conference to be publicized through a social media push. In addition, the first round of the house budget will be out by mid-March. It will give us a better idea of where we stand fiscally.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next Full Coalition meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4 at 10am.