



## **PARSE FULL COALITION MEETING NOTES**

### **NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

#### **Moderator:**

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

#### **Introductions of New and Returning Members**

**Aurora Le**, Associate Professor of Health Behavior Texas A&M, University School of Public Health Department of Health Behavior. Also with the NIEHS Worker Training program.

**Leah Kortman**, Recovery Friendly Workplace Program Manager at People's Recovery Initiative for Solutions & More (PRISM), working to expand RFW in North Carolina. Also working with part of the ARC Coalition. Leah is working with PRISM to host an in-person RFW Western North Carolina summit on January 17 & 18, 2024.

**Dr. Molly McCann-Pineo**, Director of Clinical Research, Emergency Medicine Service Line and Occupational Medicine at Northwell Health. Molly is working on the employee side of recovery and access to services. She learned about PARSE through Jonathan Rosen and her colleagues.

**Al Perez** (RSS-RCP, Peer Navigator in Southwest Connecticut). Al is working in the RFW effort in Connecticut. They certify employers, and currently have 8-9 designated RFW employers from not-for-profit and for-profit sectors.

#### **Steering Committee Update of meeting held on November 7**

**Kristen Chalmers**, OHCN Finger Lakes; Licensed Master Social Worker, University of Rochester Medical Center

As of November 7, 112 people registered to attend the symposium on December 4 & 5. Strong representation from the Recovery and Prevention community but need more labor and employer presence at the symposium.

The symposium agenda was reviewed, outlining speakers from the five subject areas covered:

- 1) Recovery
- 2) Prevention
- 3) Employers
- 4) Labor Union
- 5) Building Organizational Capacity

Day One does a 2 ½ hour deep dive in the above-mentioned areas. Day Two offers two 1½ hour shortened format of Day One workshops. All attendees will have the opportunity to attend 3 of the 5 workshops.

### Legislative Update

The committee is trying to get a meeting with Kim Bernstein, Policy Director, for State Senator Fernandez.

### Symposium Updates

Allison noted as of November 16, there are 148 people attending the symposium. The goal is to get 20 more people to attend, ideally from business and labor sectors to fully round out representation.

Volunteer recruitment: We have 5 confirmed volunteers, but we need more volunteers. **Christina Dyer-Drobnack** (Public Policy and Program Director, NYSACHO) and Anna Hartwell from DOH offered to volunteer. Kristen recommends we reach out to local colleges for student volunteers. **Sara Toledano** (Associate Director, Center for Academic Community Engagement at Siena College) will reach out to her connections at Siena College.

### Symposium Survey

Allison: Theresa Knorr is handling the evaluations and has come up with good action-oriented questions. Allison invited ideas on what questions need to be included in the symposium evaluation questionnaire to be directed to Theresa at [tknorr@for-ny.org](mailto:tknorr@for-ny.org).

**Eric Persaud**: Occupational Health Specialist, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program, stressed the need for specific questions related to Recovery Ready Workplaces to better evaluate responses from people who attended the symposium.

### Research Update

Eric explained there are two streams of research being done through PARSE: Quantitative and Qualitative. Quantitatively, we are working on getting data from New York State on occupation and industry as it relates to substance misuse to better understand overdose mortality and morbidity. Having the data will help us champion RRW policies. Qualitatively, the research committee is conducting focus groups and interviews of people involved in Recovery Ready Workplace programs now and up to and including the PARSE symposium.

**Jonathan Rosen** (Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training; Industrial Hygiene Consultant at AJ Rosen & Associates LLC) shared that he had a great meeting with Allan Clear (head of the State Health Department's Bureau of Drug User Health), who helped us get funding. Allan Clear's group is studying all overdose fatalities including analysis by occupation and injury. The study is almost complete. In addition, NYC just announced there is a crisis among the construction workers. There were more than 270 documented overdose fatalities this year. This is an industry that is often at risk for SUD.

**Dr T. Thaddeus Brown**, Phoenix House NY/LI – Brooklyn Community Recovery Center. Dr. Brown's organization is aware there is a spike of overdoses in the construction industry. They are looking

to create a bridge between the OSHA trainings and recovery-oriented education and services to enhance those services. Training hours need to be dedicated to more hours focused on safety and substance use. Jonathan shared that PARSE member Brendan Loftus from the Elevator Constructors does the alcohol and drug training program for his membership. They will have a three-hour meeting on RRW sponsored by NYCOSH and the NYC Central Labor Council, the date is not determined yet. Jonathan would like to encourage Dr. Brown's to team up with Brendan in future training initiatives for construction workers. Dr. Brown also said he would reach out to Sandy Vito, Executive Director of the 1199SEIU Training and Employment Fund, about possible training with PARSE.

## **Legislative Update**

Allison had a meeting with Kim Bernstein, Policy Director from State Senator Fernandez's office. Senator Fernandez's office is looking forward to introducing the legislation. They are working on the draft legislation to shorten it to increase the likelihood the bill would move forward in the legislature. This would include removing some details from the proposed bill and streamlining it to only include needed content to bring it to the floor and allow for details to be worked out afterwards.

## **Symposium Outreach**

Allison asked if any PARSE members had much success in enlisting employers to attend the symposium. We would have the most success attracting businesses from the nearby area but let's see if we can reach businesses outside of the area as well.

**Carrie Dun-Herrera** (Assistant Director, Healthy Capital District) just had a recovery ready workplace event with 50 people on a wait list of those they didn't have room for. They shared information about the PARSE symposium with all the attendees. The attendees were representing businesses, public health, insurance industry, recovery, workforce development, as well as independent entities. Audience engagement was high. PARSE was prominently promoted using the QR code on the screen and print materials were all taken home by attendees. She also noted that one of her connections had shared information about the symposium with the heads of warehouses at Target, Walmart, and Beechnut.

**Scott Curry** (DEI Resource Coordinator, Center for Workforce Development) reached out to PepsiCo and Kohl's distribution centers, and they said they will absolutely send someone to the symposium. He also plans to knock on doors at labor union offices to sign people up to attend. The New Hope Community Program Service Director shared contact info with Scott.

Dr. Brown recommended we reach out to the drug store chains, fashion, food service, and hotel industries.

Carrie asked if there will be advertising in local papers, Allison notes it wasn't included in the plan but press releases are being sent out.

## **Comments**

Where to go after the symposium?

**Julie Dostal** (Executive Director, The LEAF Council in Oneonta) recommended more local and regional events going into 2024.

Dr. Brown suggests we film video footage of the symposium and use it afterwards for outreach and promotional material. Jonathan feels high quality, short video clips of people would be helpful.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Full Coalition Meeting is December 12 at 10am.**