



PARSE Full Coalition Meeting Notes

October 10, 2023

Moderators:

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

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

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

Jonathan opens the meeting. Asks new coalition members to introduce themselves.

New members:

Colleen Callaghan-Kirkland, Program Administrator - Center for Family Life & Recovery Utica.

Justina Ferrara, Assistant Director of Treatment and Recover - NY Council on Problem Gambling.

Steve Romero, UAW Health & Safety Representative from Detroit area.

Deborah Koivula, Statewide Peer Assistance for Nurses - New York State Nurses Association, not new but haven't been attending for a long while and is reconnecting offering her support to help out any way she can.

Mandy Roome, Northeast Center for Occupational Health & Safety in Cooperstown.

Allison provides background information about the PARSE Coalition to new members. Prior to discussing PARSE, Allison noted that **Carrie Wieder** (LMSW, Social Worker and Outreach Coordinator, Center for Occupational & Environmental Medicine in Buffalo) had just held their Opioid Forum in the Workplace event on October 5. Carrie shares that they had five different presenters, Cheryl Moore (Opiate Taskforce Director) and Nellie Brown (Certified Industrial Hygienist) to discuss OSHA Rules, an attorney for workplaces to provide information on how to support employees, two doctors, Dr. Singh, to discuss alternate pain management, and Dr. Weissman (University of Buffalo) to discuss what he teaches his medical students and residents regarding opiate use disorder on how to support patients and improve workplaces. The event was very successful, with attendees asking for the conference to be held in Southern Tier locations as well.

Kristen Chalmers - September 22, 2023, Special Steering Committee Meeting Update

Shared news about successful conference hosted by FOR-NY, which drew 340 attendees. Next year's FOR-NY conference will include Recovery Friendly Workplaces.

About the PARSE Symposium in December:

- Sponsorship levels were lowered.
- Registration fees have been lowered.
- Website updated to reflect the symposium changes.
- Costs were cut by removing the dinner portion of the symposium and replacing it with a small reception, shortening the duration of day one activities.
- Secured the following VIP speakers: Sam Lewandowski, Steve Romero, Dr. Joel Bennett
- We have five different workshop tracks:
 - o Prevention
 - o Supporting Recovery in the Workplace
 - o Employer Role
 - o Labor Role
 - o Building Organizational Capacity
- Notes Angelia set an October 15 is the deadline to line up sponsorships to better assess financial picture regarding speaker fees and other fees associated with the conference.
- DOH and NIOSH have given us approval to use their logo as a show of support at the symposium.
- Breakfast Sponsorship has been secured.
- Lunch Sponsorship - close to securing a commitment with the Carpenter's Union.
- Regarding outreach, Steering Committee members are sharing PARSE Symposium on email blasts, social media, their colleagues and constituents, and outreach at conferences.

Discussion in response to Kristen's Report:

Jonathan: Notes that we are not cutting off trying to get people to sponsor the symposium. We are being disciplined to limit the symposium budget for out of state speakers.

Allison: we just received more sponsorships, including \$1,000 from Michael Carpenter and active Committee members, \$2,500 from the Velocitybio group, and another \$1,000 from MDB, Inc., so we are inching closer to our goal. Steve Romero asks Allison to send him sponsorship materials so that he can share with his contacts.

Jonathan: Two main things to get into today is getting outreach for people to attend the symposium and procuring sponsors to contribute financially. However, if organizations can't offer financial support then we can ask if they can allow us to use their logos on the PARSE site to show support for the symposium.

Additional new members introduced themselves: Anthony Howard (Communications Director & Website Team at FOR-NY), Erin Zych and Duggie Bisher both from Western New York Independent Living, Inc. in Niagara, serving all of Western NY, John Mayer (works with Carrie Wieder), Donna (FOR-NY), Andrea West (Chief of Operations, FOR-NY).

Regarding permission to use OASAS logo: Robert Wright (OASAS) okays use of the OASAS logo and will have a table at the symposium.

Symposium Outreach:

Targeted Promotional Material:

Jonathan would like to have outreach materials tailored to the construction industry. Kristen will share what she has put together for a construction fair she will be speaking at in mid-October. In addition, we need to target outreach to the following industries as well: restaurant, mining, and

warehousing. We also need to focus on employer outreach. While we have draft promotional material dedicated to employer outreach, we need to make it more concise and simplify the message. Jonathan asks if anyone would like to volunteer to work on finalizing the employer outreach flyer. Angelia also has employer outreach material; Jonathan asks if he and Angelia can work on the flyer using the most recent and relevant data. Once we are at the symposium, we can continue to fine tune outreach materials when we hear input from the employer side.

Eric Persaud works at an Employee Training Program and has three key asks: can a staff member attend, can their logo be added to PARSE materials as a sponsor, and regarding funding support can PARSE provide more details about the process and what funding language has been used in other outreach to state agencies.

Jonathan:

- Coalition members are free to customize promotional materials and add their logos to the materials.
- Next item on agenda is group activity where we will breakout into groups for brainstorming sessions to discuss best methods of outreach to various segments such as Employers, Unions, Recovery Organizations.

Group Breakout Rooms:

Julie Dostal (Executive Director of the Leaf Council on Alcoholism and Addiction in Otsego and Delaware County) – Group Four Recorder

Attend and speak at a breakfast or chamber meeting related to an industry, labor group or chamber of commerce to share information about PARSE. It's an opportunity to be on the agenda to speak at these events. It matters that people can see a face when getting the message.

Alison and Jonathan had the opportunity to speak at a labor conference and were able to speak about PARSE.

Reach out to Chambers of Commerce: What is the hook? While many employers are having difficulty recruiting workers, they need to realize the recovery workforce is an untapped resource to fill that need. It's an opportunity to actively recruit and tap into the recovery workforce.

Julie and Chris Assini had the opportunity to speak at State Association meetings. People at the events said they were enthusiastic about attending the symposium. At the events, Julie also learned that oftentimes in the months of November and December non-profits have extra dollars, and they are looking to spend in smart ways. We can recommend they use those funds in support of the symposium.

Talk to local businesses and find a champion in the business world who would like to move forward with Recovery Friendly Workplaces.

Jonathan spoke with Kayla, of SUNY Stony Brook interning with LIRA to contact the Gino Macchio Foundation to collaborate on outreach in the Long Island area.

Dean from OASAS said to contact Julia Fesco about promoting the symposium.

Allison adds that Jennifer Donadio will end out an email blast very soon.

Dr T. Thaddeus Brown, Pheonix House NY/LI – Brookly Community Recovery Center - Group Recorder

Kristen in his group has been promoting PARSE at health and construction fairs and with LMSW grad students in her classes. She has been promoting this to her contacts in the Teamsters Union and the Electrical Engineers Union United Auto Workers.

Steve Romero will share with his work contacts such as the UAW. He has a lot of connections with regional and national labor unions.

Dr. Brown will reach out to his contacts at NYC Department of Corrections, union delegates, NYC Health and Hospitals Corp., schools, workforce training programs, and local merchants.

David Goodness of the Workforce Development Institute - Group Recorder

David shared that he will be present at the North American Building Trades Union Training conference called Turning Stone next week. Will be attended by community partners and employers. He will be there and share information. David has a long history as a 38-year member in the building trades with the UA.

Allison Weingarten – Group Recorder

Reach out to Chambers of Commerce.

Andrea talked about reaching out to the local Society for Human Resources in Albany.

Armando spoke about making connections among peers and other Recovery Friendly Workplaces. Armando plans to get more involved with the sharing news about the symposium so Allison connected him to Jeanette's email address.

Steve Romero suggests reaching out to unions at the local level. They might be very willing and able to support PARSE.

Addendum: Annette Bernhardt's (Gino Macchio Foundation) group discussed outreach among colleagues, social media, email blasts, and events we will attend.

Research Group Update:

Eric Persaud: The Research Committee is conducting research through PARSE. Two main streams of data that are ongoing right now: quantitative and qualitative.

The quantitative part is eventually gathering data from the city and the state regarding morbidity and mortality statistics as it relates to occupation and industry across substance use. The committee is working with other states who have done this type of research to guide us in our research.

With the qualitative part, under Jeanette Zoeckler as the PI we have approval to study workplaces that have Recovery Friendly Programs and how they are implemented in the workplace, how they are evaluated for health and safety, and successes and failures to help guide us in how to move forward. Held a training session on those who would like to be facilitators and put together a manual on how to conduct those interviews. The committee plans to have a few pilot interviews in the next few months to narrow down questions in the study. At the symposium they plan to hold focus groups and interviews of people in leadership positions and those involved in workplace recovery activities.

Jeanette: On the quantitative side, getting detailed data from the state agencies has always been a challenge. The PARSE research group has been pressing our state agencies such as the Department of Health to incorporate PARSE research objectives into their research studies. We want to know which jobs and which industries are most affected by unintended deaths due to opioids. The group is looking forward to their meeting with the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) Team led by Allan Clear. He and his team are now ready to cooperate with the PARSE Research Team. This is a good development in that they are willing to work with PARSE research objectives. Some of the SUDORS team members will be at the symposium to share what their data plans will be.

To this Jonathan adds that the point of the research is to provide evidence to support our efforts to get employers, unions, and communities mobilizing around these workplace issues: prevention, supporting people in treatment and recovery, rather than punishing them and firing them. This is also necessary to enact proposed legislation.

Legislative Group Update:

The bill is now in legislative format, and we are setting up a meeting with legislators on developing strategy to get the legislation introduced. We want to get it timed to make it part of the Governor's budget, which must be put before the Governor by January.

Allison W shares that Allison Lang asked to get in touch with Jonathan about the bill, as she works for Assemblyman Phil Steck, who heads up the Committee on Substance Use Disorder.

Kayla shares that she is interning with Long Island Recovery Association (LIRA) on Long Island to advance legislative efforts for Recovery Ready Workplaces.

Jonathan adjourns meeting.

Next Full Coalition meeting is November 16, 2023.

