



# PARSE Full Coalition Meeting Notes

## September 14, 2023

### Moderators:

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

**Chris Assini**, Director of Policy, FOR-NY

### Introductions:

**Justin Jiminez**, Works in Recovery to Work at Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County.

**MaryBeth Schneider**, Community Outreach Director, Our Ability, helps all people with disabilities or need get a job. Works in Albany, Our Ability is nationwide.

**Eric Persaud**, Occupational Health Specialist, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program. Helps coordinate research at NIEHS on the federal level.

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

**Carrie Dunn-Herrera**, Assistant Director, Healthy Capital District, advocating for peers in professional development capacity.

**Ruth Riddick**, Community Outreach & Communications, ASAP-NYCB Trainer Registry Program Manager. Ruth's organization specializes in training and certification in peer recovery.

**Kayla Beretta**, SUNY Stony Brook University intern with LI Recovery Association

**Patrick McGee**, with an RCO in Greene County.

**Scott Curry**, Disability Resource Coordinator, Center for Workforce Development

**Jeff Strauss**, OASAS

**Jeanette Zoekler**, Director, Occupational Health Clinical Center at Syracuse University  
Kayla

### **Kristen Chalmers: September 7, 2023, Steering Committee update:**

#### Legislation:

- Draft legislation is in bill format and will be introduced in the 2024 Legislative session. NY State Senators Fernandez, Ramos, and Assemblyperson Steck are in the communication loop to sponsor as well as having labor union support.
- We need more ground support and offer training to advance RRW policies. From an occupational health point of view, we need to address organizational health hazards that can trigger substance use disorder in the workplace.

#### Outreach and Networking:

- There is a Labor Breakfast on the first Friday of the month held at the Desmond Hotel. Chris Jonathan will attend and network at the October breakfast.

- Creation of a targeted letter to particular industries, e.g., Construction, and tailor materials as needed.
- Steering Committee members are sharing or plan to share information about the PARSE Coalition and the December Symposium with their students, colleagues, outside organizations in their networks through word of mouth, distributing flyers at conferences they are participating in, social media, and e-newsletters.
- Scott created a QR code linking to the PARSE website to add to outreach materials.



#### Recommended Website Updates:

- Add RRW success stories as video testimonials or blurbs with visuals.
- Instead of Ticketing Page, call it the Registration page.
- Loose agenda showing topics (not necessarily speakers)
- Add a definition of a RRW to the site.
- Add "Why" to the Who, What, When, Where section on the website
- Another QR code for the PARSE page

#### **Jonathan Open up Full Coalition to Discussion:**

##### **Coalition Dialog on Outreach Efforts**

Scott recently spoke with an HR Manager at Kohl's in Wurtsboro about becoming a Recovery Friendly Workplace. They refer to themselves as a Drug Free Workplace. By the conclusion of the meeting the HR Manager became interested in learning more about the PARSE Coalition.

Eric asks that SUNY Downstate Professors encourage students to attend the symposium.

Jonathan recommends we also target messaging to the following constituencies:

1. Potential Speakers who will attend for free.
2. Students who would be eligible for a student discount/scholarship opportunity.

Carrie suggests a RRW Workshop to be held in November as a teaser before the Symposium.

Scott will be hosting a free employer conference in November "Empowering Towards Independence" dealing with employer issues and how to help employees in recovery. It will be livestreamed on the Sullivan County Facebook page.

Carrie is hosting a meeting on the topic of Certified Recovery Peer Advocates (CRPA) and could use the input from the employer perspective at the meeting.

Jonathan reports that on a recent trip in NYC UA Local 1 (Construction) is taking a proactive stance for supporting employees in recovery.

## **On Symposium Agenda**

Jonathan identifies task leaders of the following components of the agenda:

Employment: Scott

Prevention: Kristen

Labor: Jonathan

Recovery: Jennifer Donadio, Project Director - Rural Recovery Friends of Recovery NY

Jonathan adds that Congressman Tonko is supplying us with a video to show at the symposium. In addition, the workshops must be interactive, and we need to present perspectives from employers and people with lived experience.

Introduction of new Coalition member MaryBeth Schneider. MaryBeth describes her organization's activities: Our Ability has a free online jobs portal and jobs board of 57,000 jobs across the world for job seekers with disabilities (includes people in recovery), connecting them to employers who express interest in hiring people with disabilities. They have a business development component to their organization and would be happy to demonstrate it to the Coalition.

### **Break-out Groups to address outreach in the agenda components**

Group 1 summary:

Dozens if not hundreds of people can be reached up until the time of the symposium.

Reach out to people at the ski resorts.

Tap into the Harm Reduction listserv outreach.

Reach out to people on disability services.

Group 2 summary:

Start small and work our way out, starting in our local areas and spreading out from there.

Contact independent living centers.

Reach out to opioid settlement people.

Focus on local manufacturing plants.

Local unions, construction areas.

Mass emails to businesses.

Contact Local Workforce Development Boards.

Group 3 summary:

Eric at NIEHS: Recruit student volunteers for PARSE Symposium and the Coalition.

Kayla will share with her professors at SUNY Stony Brook and fellow students working towards their CASAC-T certification.

Jeff will share through OASAS social media, email blasts and various channels.

Eric notes after October there is funding in the budget so after then we can increase outreach outside of New York.

Jonathan adjourns the meeting.

**Next Coalition Meeting: Tuesday, October 10 at 3pm.**