



PARSE Steering Committee Meeting

March 28, 2024

Moderator:

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

Brief Introductions:

Current members:

Chris Assini (Policy Director, FOR-NY)
Scott Curry (Disability Resource Coordinator, Workforce Development Institute)
Justin Jiminez (Works in Recovery to Work at Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County.),
Jennifer Donadio (Project Director - Rural Recovery, FOR-NY)
Kristen Chalmers (OHCN Finger Lakes; Licensed Master Social Worker, University of Rochester Medical Center.),
Dr. Angelia Smith-Wilson (Executive Director, FOR-NY)
Annette Bernhardt (Executive Assistant, Gino Macchio Foundation)
Lyna Mora (SUNY Upstate Master's in Public Health student).

New Member:

Paul Landsbergis (Associate Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at SUNY Downstate School of Public Health - Brooklyn)

Legislative and Communications Update with Chris Assini:

Chris had a meeting with Assemblyman Bronson, a key member who is the Chair of the Labor Committee. Assemblyman Bronson was aware of the pending RRW bills and indicated interest in the legislation. Chris is confident the Assemblyman will sign on as a co-sponsor.

The following have signed on as sponsors of the bill:

Senate: Senators Fernandez, Ramos (Labor Committee Chair), and May
Assembly: Assemblyman Steck, Donald, Gallagher, and Fahey

Chris will continue laying the groundwork in scheduling meetings with meet with other folks to gather up support to get into the budget for next year. Most bills don't go forward in the first year of introduction, so this is to be expected. The response to this initial introduction is promising. Chris also noted that the Senate budget is not as robust as the Assembly budget.

Research Update:

Paul Landsbergis is taking over as lead on the PARSE Research Committee once the transfer from SUNY upstate to SUNY downstate is approved and finalized. Interviews will resume after the transition. Allison shared the list of names for Paul's team to call. Paul asked for volunteers to conduct the interviews. Allison will reach out to prospective survey prospects to participate in the interviews.

Recover Ready Workplace Workshops & Community Outreach: (Jennifer Donadio and Allison Weingarten)

- a. My Independent Living/Monticello NY: April 16 9:00 AM-12:00 PM; Flyer: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zEVCqSI9ce89_k6rDGNCJKSFGi-tqfw/view
- b. Anchor Recovery Center/Watertown NY: June 12 9:30 AM- 12:30 PM
- c. Wayne County (TBD, being arranged by Farnham Family Services)
- d. Montgomery County (TBD, being arranged by Ann Rhodes)

Scott Curry's workforce summit was held in early March, there were 58 unique businesses at the event. Scott will share news of the four workshops listed above with his contacts.

Allison noted that engaging with businesses through listening sessions can offer valuable insights into how they view and approach the Recovery Friendly Workplaces. The feedback would be helpful to guide our approach when speaking with businesses.

Funding Opportunities:

Allison spoke with a staff member in Senator Gillibrand's office. Allison had contacted the Senator's office about sponsoring the next symposium. At the steering committee meeting, Allison shared the document from Senator Gillibrand's office listing who and what they funded and for how much. The grantees tend to be organizations that are not ordinarily funded elsewhere, and these earmarked awards are very generous. Allison feels that this is a good opportunity to get funding for Recovery Ready Workplaces. The application deadline to apply for these earmarked funds is April 5. Chris knows who to contact in Senator Gillibrand's office and will share the contact information with Allison to pursue the opportunity.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Steering Committee meeting is May 1 at 3pm.