



The Schreiber Research Group (TSRG) is a team of experts whose mission is to improve substance-use-related outcomes through community outreach, consulting services, and research.

The Schreiber Research Group
Workforce Development
11.18.24 via Zoom

Attendees:

Tara Castaneda, Mile High Youth Corps
Kristen Carpenter, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Pam Denahy, La Junta Department of Tourism and Economic Development
Chanden Hand, La Junta Workforce Center
Brandy Kinslow, Rural Recovery Network
Lauren Kerr, TSRG
Sara Leahy, Colorado Rural Health Center
Chris Menges, Otero County Health Department
Maddie Peloff, TSRG
Jeff Richardson, Otero County Health Department
Maureen Rikhof, Carpe Construction
Donna Rohde, Otero County Department of Human Services
Terri Schreiber, TSRG
Lisa Trigilio, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Jane Wheeler, Otero College

Work Group Mission and Norms:

Mission:

Discuss workforce development initiatives for people in recovery. Participants will engage in the planning process for a recovery workforce center, identify recovery friendly workplaces, and share ideas for integrating people in recovery into the workforce.

Norms:

1. One person speaks at a time
2. Utilize raise hand function

Meeting purpose:

This meeting was used to discuss topics associated with several long-term goals and how this group can collaborate and utilize AmeriCorps to create a support system for people in recovery and recovery-friendly employers.

Follow-up items:

1. Community leader
 - a. Tara volunteered to take the role as the new community leader.

Agenda items:

1. Website
 - a. New TSRG website will launch in January 2025
 - b. Minutes, agendas, and roster will be available on the website after launch
 - c. Before the new website is completed, individuals can receive copies of meeting materials by request
2. Long term goals
 - a. Identify what organizations play what roles in this project
 - i. The group discussed adding contact with Southeast Business Retention Expansion Attraction (SEBREA) ran by Danelle Berg and Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development (SECED) ran by Stephanie Gonzales. Referring them both to Tara after initial contact has been made.
 - b. Identify what services or programming is needed
 - i. The goal for AmeriCorps hires is to create a program to counsel people in recovery who are returning to the workforce. Develop a communication strategy
 - ii. The group brainstormed communication strategies.
 - iii. In addition, participants suggested contacting Tri County Family Care Center. The group discussed recovery friendly businesses and housing.
 - c. Identify recovery friendly employers
 - i. To begin the conversation, the definition of recovery friendly and legislation about funding that can affect employers was in question.
 - ii. Kristen Capenter offered to connect the group to her contact from CU Anschutz who could give a quick presentation on recovery friendly workplace initiatives in Colorado.
 - iii. Steps to take to identify recovery friendly employers: Define “recovery friendly,” create a list of criteria that recovery friendly workplaces cover, create a list of workplaces that meet the criteria.
 - iv. Several participants talked about the employer perspectives of this goal including the need for explicit ideas of what accommodations employers need to be aware of.

Action items

1. Tara to reach out to Danelle Berg (Otero County Economic Development Director) and Stephanie Gonzales (Southeast Colorado Economic Development) to discuss their involvement.
2. Create and decide on platform to use to keep shared documents

Next meeting:

Date: 12.16.24 Time: 12:00 PM Location: TSRG Zoom