



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 Meeting Minutes
10.22.2024 via Zoom

The work group discussed OCHD and TSRG's plan to develop and implement a workforce development program for people in recovery from substance use disorders (SUDs). Key goals include identifying partner organizations to deliver programming and participate as recovery friendly employers, understanding what services are needed to complement existing programs, developing a communication strategy for target program participants, and securing physical space where the program can operate. Rick and Terri provided updates on the group's funding vehicles: the HRSA impact grant application was not awarded, and a contingency plan is in place. A harm reduction grant through CDPHE is being considered. The group discussed challenges in recruitment of AmeriCorps positions. The group emphasized the need for a support structure for individuals in recovery, including financial management and readiness assessments for both employers and employees. Potential resources and partnerships were also explored.

Action Items

- Explore how HRSA Implementation funding can be used to support initiatives tied to substance use disorder recovery and homelessness.
- Develop a readiness assessment for both employers and potential employees in recovery.
- Reach out to the Colorado Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative at Anschutz to connect with their resources and contacts. Kristin will connect members of the group to the contacts at the Colorado Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative.
- Explore financial management and budgeting support programs that could be leveraged to assist people in recovery re-entering the workforce.
- Connect the group with a member of the Workforce Center's talent development team to provide expertise on available funding and programs.

Outline

Introductions and Initial Setup

- Maddie Peloff initiates the meeting, waiting for more participants to join and explains her role as the Data Coordinator for the Schreiber Research Group and the TSRG support for the Workforce Development Workgroup.
- Rick Ritter introduces himself from Crowley Otero Public Health, followed by Chris Mangus, the new Substance Use Disorder Program Director for Otero County.



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- Terry Schreiber from the Schreiber Research Group and Maureen Marcoff, co-owner of Our Fake Construction, introduce themselves.
- Jane Wheeler from Otero College and Jeff Richardson from La Junta also introduce themselves, highlighting their roles and interests in the work group.
- Rob Miller from Safe Side Recovery and Tara Castaneda from the Eastern Plains Youth Corps introduce themselves, detailing their work with young adults and land conservation.

Administrative Overview and Meeting Rules

- Maddie Peloff outlines the administrative topics for the work group. Meetings will recur virtually on the third Monday of the month at 12pm, with occasional in-person meetings during the HRSA Quarterly Meetings.
- Maddie Peloff sets ground rules for the meeting, emphasizing one speaker at a time and the use of the raise hand function for discussion.
- The need for a community leader for the work group is discussed, with Maddie Peloff inviting interested participants to reach out after the meeting.
- Maddie Peloff provides an overview of the work group's goals, including identifying organizations to deliver programming services, developing a communication strategy to reach program participants, identifying recovery friendly workplaces, and securing a physical space for a workforce center.

Funding and AmeriCorps Updates

- Terry Schreiber elaborates on the use of braided funding and the challenges in securing AmeriCorps members. The project team has offered one candidate the position, which was unfortunately declined. The team is adapting a strategy to recruit two AmeriCorps members to start in January, and Terri requests the group to share the opportunity among their networks.
- The group discusses potential solutions to recruitment, including promoting the positions more locally and exploring other funding opportunities.
- Rick Ritter provides an update on the HRSA Impact Grant, which was not awarded to OCHD and TSRG, noting its competitive nature and the high score received, but also mentioning the contingency plan for southeast Colorado.

Current Updates and Discussion

- Maddie Peloff provides updates on the hiring process for AmeriCorps members. The timeline requires that two candidates accept the position by December 13th, with a start date of January 13th.



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- The group discusses the possibility of incorporating broader homelessness initiatives into the work plan for AmeriCorps members. Terri Schreiber emphasizes the need for a core group to align on work plan updates for the AmeriCorps member.
- The group considers the importance of a support structure for people in recovery returning to work, with Chris Menges highlighting the role of organizations like Oxford House.
- The need for basic skills training, such as financial management and budgeting, is discussed, with suggestions for potential resources and partners.

Potential Resources and Next Steps

- Sarah Leahy suggests reaching out to the Southeast Area Health Education Center for potential placements and connections with employers.
- Donna Rohde suggests looking for recovery-friendly workplaces in the area and offering mentoring services for businesses.
- The group discusses the importance of a support structure for people in recovery and the need for basic skills training, such as basic financial management. Tara provided some suggestions for potential partners who could help provide this training. Others in the group discussed the possibility of program support in training from Otero College, Tri county Family Care Center, the Colorado Workforce Center, and the Vocational Program at ValleyWide.
- Kristin shares a Recovery Friendly Workplace Toolkit and offers to connect the core project team with contacts at CU Anschutz's Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative.
- The meeting concludes with a summary of the discussed topics and a commitment to follow up on the identified action items and resources.