



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
12.16.2024 via Zoom

Attendees:

Maddie Peloff, TSRG
Tara Castaneda, Eastern Plains Youth Corps
Maureen Rikhof, Business Owner in La Junta
Jeff Richardson, Otero County Health Department
Christopher Menges, Otero County Health Department
Lauren Kerr, TSRG
Pamela Denahy, City of La Junta
Lisa Trigilio, Fort Lyon
Sara Leahy, Colorado Rural Health Center
Kristin Carpenter, Colorado University
David Shapiro, Colorado School of Public Health
Sara Levine, Colorado School of Public Health

Work Group Mission and Norms:

Mission:

Support people in recovery from substance use disorders who are reentering the workforce, as well as recovery friendly employers in southeastern Colorado

Norms:

- One person speaking at a time
- Raise hand function

Meeting purpose:

During this meeting, David Shapiro, from Colorado School of Public Health, presented on Colorado's recovery-friendly workplace initiative. The group also discussed the need for workplace incentives, with David mentioning potential stipends for participating businesses. Maddie Peloff reported that one AmeriCorps position is filled, with a second position potentially available in spring. The group plans to present at the Southeast Colorado Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction (SEBREA) meeting on February 19.

Agenda items:

- David Shapero's Presentation
 - Davids Presentation discussed several topics, including the qualifications for a “recovery-friendly work environment,” practices and gaps around supporting employees in recovery, the certification process for recovery friendly employers, and funding incentives, rather than tax credits, for these employers.
 - Discussion included Maureen Rikhof’s concern with the size of the community and business in La Junta. David agrees and describes policy initiatives that the center would like passed, which would include greater employer incentives.
- Americorps updates
 - Maddie and Tara discuss the Americorps positions
 - One position is filled, and onboarding will start at the beginning of the new year.
 - Two other candidates were offered the role and declined. AmeriCorps will provide guidance on future placement dates.
- SEBREA Meeting
 - Tara mentions the invitation to present to the SEBREA meeting on February 15 and Maddie and Chris discuss scheduling a follow-up meeting to discuss the presentation.
 - Pamala encourages the group to present and describes the benefit of keeping regional groups up to date on workforce initiations and getting SEBREA on board as a potential partner.

Other discussion items:

- The next meeting
 - Maddie and Tara discuss announce that the HRSA quarterly meeting will take place in January, and the workforce group will meet in-person after the larger group meeting.
 - The January Zoom meeting will most likely be canceled.

Action items

- Maddie, Chris, Tara, and Terri will schedule a meeting before the SEBREA meeting to talk about the presentation that will be given at the SEBREA meeting
- The group will continue to engage and partner with David Shapiro and the Colorado School of Public Health to support regional recovery friendly employers.

Next meeting:

Date: January 17, 2025 Time: 12pm Location: 109 W 5th Street La Junta Colorado

