



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Recovery Friendly Workplace

Helping employers respond to substance use and mental health conditions in the Rhode Island workforce

Jeff Wolfsberg

Program Director, Recovery Friendly Workplace Rhode Island



INTRODUCTION

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to introduce our distinguished speaker today, a leader and advocate in the realm of mental health and addiction recovery. Serving as the Program Director for Rhode Island's Recovery Friendly Workplace Program, Jeff Wolfsberg plays a pivotal role in enhancing workplace health and safety across the state. The Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative collaborates with businesses, towns, and cities to provide essential consulting, training, and technical support, fostering connection and psychological safety by effectively responding to employees struggling with substance use and mental health conditions.

With a remarkable career spanning 25 years, Jeff has held various leadership roles in the mental health, peer support, addiction recovery, and public health sectors. His extensive experience ranges from health plan administration and acute medical facilities to community-based behavioral health programs, peer support, and psychiatric services.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Jeff's personal journey through mental health and addiction provides him with a profound understanding of these issues. This unique perspective drives his mission to destigmatize mental health and create supportive environments within workplaces and communities. Jeff has a particular passion for raising awareness around men's mental health struggles.

Please join me in welcoming Jeff Wolfsberg.



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BIOGRAPHY

With a rich history spanning 25 years, Jeff Wolfsberg's professional journey as a seasoned healthcare executive has encompassed various leadership roles within the mental health, peer support, substance use recovery, and public health sectors. Jeff's expertise has flourished in diverse settings, including health plan administration, peer and recovery support organizations, acute medical facilities, community-based behavioral health programs, and psychiatric services.

Jeff is widely recognized for his pioneering work in peer support recovery domains, having established one of the first peer-run respite programs in Massachusetts, known as "The Living Room." He also oversaw the initial implementation of peer support workers in the co-response field, where clinical staff collaborate closely with law enforcement officers responding to calls with suspected mental health or substance use components. Nationally, Jeff is an advocate for utilizing peer support to reduce the use of sectioning individuals in mental health crises and the application of restraints.

Jeff possesses an intimate understanding of the profound impact mental health struggles can have on individuals, families, businesses, and communities. Currently, as the Rhode Island State Program Director for the Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative, Jeff's team collaborates with businesses, towns, and cities to provide essential consulting, training, and technical support, enhancing responses to employees facing mental health, substance use, and trauma issues.

Driven by both professional expertise and personal experience, Jeff is dedicated to destigmatizing mental health and substance use, creating supportive environments in businesses, organizations, and communities for individuals both seeking and sustaining recovery. Jeff aspires to transform attitudes towards mental health and substance use, fostering a more compassionate and understanding society.



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