



5 Minute Meeting



Topic:

Peer Volunteer Program

AUDIENCE: Extended Leadership Team to share with direct reports

OUR ASK: Please schedule a 10 minute Peer Volunteer Program talk at one of your upcoming meetings.

Why It Matters To You

Alcohol and drug abuse remains a serious problem in our society. Problem drinking and drug use doesn't just harm people; it harms our business, too. Statistics* from George Washington University show:

- ◆ **It's a safety problem.** People who abuse alcohol or drugs are three and a half times more likely to be involved in a workplace accident—and one in five workers reports being injured or put in danger on the job because of a coworker's drinking.
- ◆ **It's an absenteeism problem.** Workers with a substance use disorder miss 45% more days per year than fellow employees.
- ◆ **It's a health problem.** Alcohol and substance abuse cause serious medical problems including cardiovascular disease, neurological impairments, liver disease, stroke and cancer.
- ◆ **It's a productivity problem.** One in five workers reports having to work harder, redo work, or cover for a coworker because of their drinking.

Here at LADWP, we acknowledge the impact of this problem on our employees, their families and our business. The Peer Volunteer Program was designed as an alternative resource for employees and family members to get information about alcohol and drug abuse and obtain access to treatment.

As leaders in the company, we need to make sure every employee is aware of the resources available at LADWP. Workers with alcohol/drug problems don't always seek help on their own. When we get the word out, we make a difference.

Key Discussion Points

- ◆ In addition to our Employee Assistance Program (EAP), we have a group of Peer Volunteers who are LADWP employees. They have personal experience with recovery and are there to help others who are also interested in becoming clean and sober.
 - ◆ The Peer Volunteer Program assists employees by providing information, support, and access to treatment if needed.
 - ◆ LADWP employees and their family members can call a Peer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at no cost. All contact with a Peer Volunteer is confidential and employees can ask for assistance anonymously.
 - ◆ Employees and family members can also access the Peer Volunteer websites at www.ladwpcares.org or local18cares.org
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