

International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers

ANCHORAGE
MAIN OFFICE
1317 E. 75TH AVENUE, SUITE 4
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518
PHONE (907) 277-5313
FAX (907) 277-2457



FAIRBANKS
1260 AURORA DRIVE
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709
PHONE (907) 452-3864
FAX (907) 456-3413

The economic cost of addiction in the U.S is estimated at **\$428 billion** per year. Roughly half of that is health care costs, and the other half is lost production. Aside from the costs, and more importantly, drug and alcohol abuse negatively affects many of our members and their families and is a serious health concern.

Because of this, SMART Local 23 is developing a local SMART MAP Program which will focus on building support around the mental health of our members and their families. We will be training volunteers to be part of a support network that will focus on the problems associated with mental health disorders; such as substance use disorder and suicide prevention. Volunteers will learn about interventions and treatment options as well a local union insurance options. Our focus after treatment, is to have our SMART MAP volunteers support those members throughout the process and assist in the most important part of this program, working towards long term recovery.

Our SMART MAP Volunteers are union members with high credibility within the local, as well as strong interpersonal and attentive listening skills and who also have time and a natural desire to help others. These Volunteers will be capable of supporting our members when returning back to work and assist with coordinating the member's continuing care plan in order to sustain a successful continuation of their recovery from the problem. Once our members complete their initial treatment, their re-integration back into their home and work life can offer some steep obstacles. The therapeutic value of one union member understanding and helping another union member is without parallel.

Our SMART MAP Volunteers direct our members to additional resources and provide them with the positive support and reinforcement every member needs in the early stages of ongoing recovery such as a 12 Step Programs like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) & Narcotics Anonymous (NA) for those with substance abuse and Al-Anon & Nar-Anon for friends and family members of those who are affected by someone else's addiction. If you are interested in learning more about this program and becoming involved, please contact your local union representatives.

Our Vision: To provide our members and their families full access to mental health support and services they need to improve their quality of lives

Fraternally,


Ben Marcinkiewicz, Business Manager