

Arizona Work Disability Prevention Association (AWDPA)

(A Non-Partisan Multi-Stakeholder Action Group)

MISSION STATEMENT

**To promote stakeholder collaboration and serve
as a resource to prevent needless work disability in Arizona**

PREAMBLE

- Workers who become ill, injured or impaired frequently are unable to adequately manage the effects their health conditions have on their daily home and work routines.
- Supervisors and co-workers of ill, injured, or impaired workers may be unaware of or unsure how to best manage and resolve workplace issues that may develop.
- Poor communication and collaboration among third parties who respond to the needs of workers and supervisors managing those issues often produce excessive work absences, job losses, forfeited economic productivity, and higher benefit costs.
- Physicians, physical and occupational therapists, case managers, vocational counselors, lawyers, HR professionals, workers/labor, etc. need a shared vision and effective tools, methods, agreements and protocols to prevent those absences, losses, and costs and to eliminate operational barriers at the employment, insurance, labor, government, judicial, and legislative interfaces in our economy.
- The American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) recommends a new paradigm—the *Work Disability Prevention Model*—detailed in “Preventing Needless Work Disability by Helping People Stay Employed,” a guideline addressed to all stakeholders.... That guideline describes a vision of how to manage a workers new illness, injury, or impairment to minimize disability. Its recommendations for improving the Stay-At-Work and Return-To-Work (SAW/RTW) processes provide a general blueprint for process improvement.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Arizona Work Disability Prevention Association (AWDPA) intends to:

- Develop an open, vibrant, and effective multi-stakeholder association that develops, advocates and uses collaborative and win-win methods in the Stay-At-Work and Return-To-Work (SAW/RTW) processes.
- Reframes Arizona’s approach toward proactive prevention of excessive work related and non-work related disability.
- Promote the *work disability prevention paradigm* and encourage Arizona stakeholders to embrace and operate within its guidelines.
- Develop individual and group action agendas, and support to members of the association who execute them.
- Improve the timeliness and quality of service and support provided to ill, injured and impaired workers.
- Provide information and resources that help employers and supervisors manage potentially disabling worker illness, injury, and impairment.
- Eliminate unnecessary work disruption and job losses for ill, injured and impaired workers.
- Eliminate business disruption.
- Enhance the health, availability, and productivity of workers, to maximize Arizona’s competitive and economic vitality.
- Educate
- Raise the opinion of occupational health as a practice