



**AGENDA**  
**C-FORT Meeting**  
**Tues. June 18, 2024**  
**10am-11:30am**

**Agenda Item 1. Introductions**

**Attendees**

Amanda Klinck, Myrover-Reese
Amber Helton, CCDPH
Andrew Wolters, Heal Holistic Journey
Annie R. Hasom, On Track Wellness & Recovery
Beverly Edwards, Fayetteville State University
Carmen Santiago, Renew CC
Charlton Roberson, NCHRC
Courtney McCollum, Cumberland County Justice Services
Danielle Korbel, New Season
Demetrius West, CCHD/CMHRP
Elijah Bazemore
Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC
Gregory Jackson, Sheriff's Dept.
Heather Skeens, Cumberland County ACM
Heather Sroka, CCDC/CCDPH
Ilana Sheppard, Marius Maximus
J. Russell
Jasmine Harris, SR-AHEC
Jesse Garner, Fayetteville Cumberland Reentry Council
John Russell, On Track Wellness/Butterfly Effects
Kendle Holeman, Insight Human Services
Lisa Blandin, SR-AHEC
Lisa Jayne, Cumberland County
Louis Leake, Carolina Treatment Center
Martina Sconiers-Talbert, CCDPH
Melanie David
Mitzi Averette
Quinton Nichols, Fayetteville State Universtiy
Sanquis Graham, CCDPH
Serena Gunn, Heal Holistic Journey
Shanhong Luo, Fayetteville State University
Sheena Butler, CCDPH
Shelby Perez, CCDPH
Tamra Morris, CCDPH
Tara Tucker, EMS

\*\*\*May 2024 Minutes Adopted\*\*\*

**Agenda Item 2. Opioid Data and Opioid Settlement Updates**

**Louis Leake, Review of Overdose Data, ED Visits Data, Fentanyl Report**



- Information from April, released May 23
- Numbers generally are coming down
- In the month of April, numbers rose for overdoses that went to the ED- 72 opioid overdose ED visits Jan-April this year compared to 90 in Jan-April 2023
- These are just numbers from ED visits
- All substances aside from opioid overdoses also had a decrease, including for fentanyl; 174 overdose ED visits YTD in 2024 compared to 207 for Jan-April 2023
- Overview of state as a whole: numbers are decreasing; 576 opioid overdose ED visits in NC during April 2024 compared to 829 in April 2023. Each month over the last 12 months, the number of opioid overdose ED visits has decreased.
- Top counties affected/those with highest rates of opioid overdose ED visits: Richmond, Scotland, Pamlico, Swain, Rutherford, Jones, Craven, Burke, Caldwell, and Buncombe. The closest one to us is Scotland County.
- Information will go out via email, feel free to reach out with any questions

#### **Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC**

- Positive sign to finally see a decrease and see our efforts having an impact rather than increasing

#### **Charlton Roberson, NCHRC Opioid Settlement**

- No specific numbers up to today's date
- Been in touch with Dr. Nab (Nabarun Dasgupta) and Street Drug Lab at UNC Chapel Hill
- Community participants are reporting being given 2-3 doses of Narcan but that isn't necessary and exacerbates withdrawal; Narcan does work to reverse opioid overdose when there is xylazine in the system, but the xylazine delays the Narcan dose and sedation/difficulty breathing can remain, so rescue breathing is recommended as a backup
- Participants are also reporting complications in treatment where they aren't responding as well to buprenorphine and methadone and it is taking them longer to adjust to treatment modalities.
- Huge problem with syringe litter; will plan to do some cleaning sweeps events later this summer
- Will go on another campaign for drug testing in the community to try to address other drugs being in the local drug supply- will collect samples to send to the UNC Street Drug Lab; very effective strategy to know what is in drug supply and explain to community what is in the drug supply

#### **Louis Leake, CTC Opioid Settlement**

- This month ends a quarter and we need to turn in a report
- Provided transportation to 129+ patients and other individuals with OUD this month through bus passes and Uber Health; got them to treatment, doctor appointments, and mental health appointments
- New housing for 5 individuals by paying first month rent or deposit; don't want to pay both and have them in a situation where they can't pay in the future, so we want them to pay half, then do budget worksheets so they can sustain in the future
- One individual had been evicted and needed temporary storage + new housing
- Provided 5 utility payments especially to help older individuals with losing power since it is getting hot
- Food security: tried a food pantry previously but can't meet everyone's dietary needs; instead purchased Walmart gift cards that you can't buy alcohol or tobacco with for 17 individuals
- Provided education for 2 individuals who went to and graduated from peer support training
- Uber Health: works by us having an Uber Business account that is used all month, then we get the bill at the end of the month. If you have a client who needs it, just call ILuis/CTC and they'll support them

#### **Tara Tucker, Cape Fear Valley**

- EMS data: system wasn't cooperating
- Finally have an EPIC contact to build data for us- let us know if there's anything specific you want included



- Outreach event Thursday 10-2 at Kingdom Impact; Amerihealth will help with kids + video game bus; seeing about sending info out through school system
- Paperwork has gone through for 100k from United Healthcare; Will include bus passes and fresh fruit/vegetable options; They want us to tackle diabetes and hypertension
- David County hosted one of these a few weekends ago, was able to get someone into treatment;
- We've been asked to present work in other states- nice to see other locations and states interested in and actually replicating our work; creativity has been helpful
- Ride for Sept 13 and 14 for SUD month and suicide awareness month; Harley is very on board
- Suicide prevention forum: need to tie suicide prevention to SUD treatment because they are so overlapped

#### **Amanda Klinck, Myrover Reece Opioid Settlement**

- Big report coming up, preparing for more detailed numbers at next meeting
- Myrover-reese is up to 6 month residential abstinence based program for those with SUD and/or alcoholism
- 38 beds, 10 female and 28 male, 18 of which are for the veteran's home
- Veteran's home should be fully operational within the next few days to a week; just waiting on some mattresses
- Board is in process of education regarding MAT; potentially transitioning to allowing MAT but we have been abstinence based for 61 years so we are still learning; will be a board decision but have a UNC addiction specialist coming in
- Opioid grant: fulfilled strategies 3 and 4, which was recovery support, which includes opioids or any other cooccurring substances, as well as housing
- Women's house had 11 clients for May (at capacity)
- Will have complete numbers at the end of the quarter
- We also provide transportation, mental health, and other services on 24/7 basis, any client within 48 hours of intake is enrolled in Carolina Outreach and outpatient, medical needs are attended to, we provide complete case management with food, clothes, housing, etc
- We use a phased approach every 30, 60, and 90 days, employment required by day 90; clients required to save up to 75% of their income to prepare for transition- financial support helps set them up for success when they transition out
- Complete wraparound recovery community for support
- Very easy for someone from C-FORT to get an individual into a bed at Myrover-Reese; call or go to the intake office- they do intakes every day; an application is needed as well as a background check for the communal living situation; we can provide quick turnaround (less than 24 hours) if intake is during the day, but we don't have intakes in the evening- we are looking to do this in the future to become fully functional treatment center; the criteria, application, and contract are all online

#### **Courtney McCollum, CCJS Opioid Settlement**

- Chat: CCJS is in the process of interviewing for the Treatment Court Coordinator, who will hopefully be at next CFORT meeting

### **Agenda Item 3. Youth Resource Guide**

#### **Amber Helton, CCDPH Intern**

- C-FORT youth resource guide: need information about youth specific resources to put into the youth resource guide, will send out email for anyone who has any recommendations

#### **Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC**

- We are in the process of developing educational videos, including one that is mostly done on overdose recognition and reversal. We are also doing one on xylazine, one on resources in the community, and one specifically for at-risk youth.
- Material for resource guides will also be included in these videos; videos will be on YouTube
- Any ideas or suggestions can be sent through Amber



#### **Sanquis Graham, CCDPH**

- We are working on the perinatal resource guide that we also need resources for

#### **Agenda Item 4. Grant Updates**

##### **Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC**

- Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Program, LOS
  - o Fayetteville Police Department, the health department, the NC Harm Reduction Coalition and others are collaborating on to bring resources to improve/enhance/bring together diversion programs and providing resources to those programs; request for letter of support: no objections to letter of support, Greg will draft letter of support and send it to the grant writers
  - o Grant is for 1.3 million dollars for 36 months, currently have it from 2019 with a one year extension and it expires at the end of September. This grants funds Orlando's work so we want to transition to other funding sources

##### **Shanhong Luo, Fayetteville State University**

- Opioid Remediation Research and Evaluation Grant Opportunity, LOS
  - o Fayetteville State University looking to collaborate with C-FORT, Dr. Luo and her two FSU colleagues Dr. Nichols and Dr. Edwards are interested in working on this grant
  - o University wide grant from the UNC system, FSU is supporting one grant
  - o Grant due on July 1<sup>st</sup>, we have made great progress meeting with DPH, Dr. Green, and Greg Berry
  - o We have completed a first draft of the proposal; the focus is on xylazine- because it is so new, there is very little information and data, especially in our local community. We are interested in designing comprehensive, systematic survey to better understand the xylazine situation in our community, including the problems, supply, symptoms, awareness, perception, stigma, and treatment. This will provide a great information base for future intervention and prevention strategies
  - o No objections to writing LOS for this grant- will get one to them this week

#### **Agenda Item 5. Next Steps**

##### **Sanquis Graham, CCDPH**

- CHES Health came last week to give an overview on their virtual recovery service program that provides virtual support to individuals in recovery and provides a bridge after getting treatment.
- Our main goal is looking to use it with the detention center so they can have support in transition from getting treatment at detention center and getting treatment from other resources after.
- We have the program as partnership between the public health department and NCHHS.
- The app provides peer support and recovery specialists, with 24/7 live support. Available in both English and Spanish and for teens and adults. Sanquis will share flyers.
- Encourage individuals on the spot to enroll rather than just giving them the flyer so they can get the support; helps most to enroll on the spot
- We can get specific for Cumberland County and provide specific local resources as well as post our own updates- provide suggestions for resources you want to see provided in the app
- Available for everyone in recovery and families
- It's been purchased for whole state as a partnership with NCHHS so it is paid for; local agencies are encouraged to join
- There is also the NC Cure Warm Line, which can be helpful for individuals as a second connection point- individuals can also call 988 and ask for it

##### **Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC**

- Friends and Family SMART Teens: Looking to set up training dates- possibly July 27, Aug 3, Aug 10 (Saturdays), it will be online interactive virtual training
- Everyone will get emails and we will figure out which date will work for most people



#### **Sanquis Graham, CCDPH**

- Perinatal task force reminder: Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm
- Don't change calendar invites because it sends to everyone. We will send a new invite that will put us on clean slate that won't allow changes
- We are working with IT for virtual component
- Reminder: we are working on resource guide so share resources with us
- Partnership for children board has someone from Family Connections program joining meetings

#### **Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC**

- IOAD event at Methodist University Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 5-7pm
  - o International overdose awareness day, Methodist University doing their 4<sup>th</sup> IOAD event collaborating with Fayetteville Tech and Fayetteville State; let us know if you'd like to participate as a vendor or partner ASAP
  - o Potentially doing a ride like they are planning for recovery month

#### **Charlton Roberson, NCHRC**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Recover Out Loud event on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> 11-3pm at VFW on Chance Street
- Board sending out sponsorship letters (not a vending event)- those in recovery can come celebrate and we will have entertainment and spoken word to celebrate achievements

#### **Serena Gunn, Heal Holistic Journey**

- Working on second annual recovery celebration and walk, will be in September for recovery month
- City is saying they can only get a permit to walk the same pathway as last month, which would conflict with the ride
- Stacking up events to have something going on all throughout the month, so we are somewhat stuck right now but we'll update you and try to prevent competition between events
- Will work on an alternative pathway or backup plan, but the walk will be done

#### **Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC**

- May need to iron out details in Recovery Resource subcommittee
- September recovery month calendar for communication and event planning to prevent competition and keep everyone informed
- There are no updates from the resource recovery center

#### **John Russell, On Track Wellness**

- There is a peer support meeting at Golden Corral on the last day of every month; this month is the third meeting and we will be discussing language (positive versus negative), everyone is invited and we will share flyers, it is family friendly

#### **Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC**

- We recently put together a "Xylazine in your community" impact survey, we haven't been able to analyze all data but we want to feed it over to FSU;
- Initial reviews: overwhelmingly, people have little to no knowledge about xylazine, surprising because we have been aggressive about trying to get information about this out, but around ~40 of about 60 responses didn't have knowledge, so we need to put more info out
- Lots of people don't call it xylazine, may know it as tranq, zombie, etc which we are taking into account when we plan the survey
- People are typing out when they don't know about the drug

#### **Tara Tucker, Cape Fear Valley**

- First collective suicide prevention meeting right after this meeting! It will likely be monthly
- Mobile crisis is usually involved

#### **Mitzi Averette**

- Main problem with Recovery Resource subcommittee was attendance, so it would be great to have a meeting to figure out September events and supporting each other, but we need to plan appropriately; we also need to decide about merging vs not merging



**Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC**

- Need to find right balance for number of meetings and people's availability and bandwidth, we will follow up offline to figure this out

\*Adjourned\*

**Next meeting: Tues July 16, 2024, 10 am-11:30 pm**