



THE ALL-STARS PREVENTION GROUP

(An extension of Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office focused on Substance Abuse Prevention)

All Stars Meeting Report

Held from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, February 9, 2021

Cracker Barrell, Mount Airy NC

Meeting Report

- I. Summary of Meeting
- II. Introduction with list of outcomes
- III. Participant demographics
- IV. Summary of findings with each outcome, including representative quotes, results of yes or no questions, and quantitative data
- V. Recommendations

I. Summary of Meeting:

The Surry County Substance Abuse Office held a community meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 involving various members of the community representing Surry County. Ms. Charlotte Reeves, Community Outreach Specialist, and Mr. Jamie Edwards, Data Analyst, led the meeting with ten community members present. Throughout the meeting, the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office hoped to educate those present in order to begin the progress of collecting Community Interviews and encouraging other community members to participate in the V.O.I.C.E.S Survey.

II. Introduction

The Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office held a community meeting with ten community members on February 9, 2021. The meeting was conducted as part of the Substance Abuse Recovery Office's involvement in reducing the number of opiate and other drug related deaths and abuse in Surry County. The All-Stars have had previous discussion about the ways that the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office has set up a proposed "Continuum of Care", to explore ways of capturing data about our County's knowledge of the substance abuse problem, and resources we currently have. Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office intends to announce the release of the V.O.I.C.E.S. Survey, the Community Interviews, DisposeRX packets, and training packets regarding these subjects. Mr. Jamie Edwards brought a bundle of packets to hand out in the meeting that are attached to this correspondence.

III. Participant Demographics

Ten participants took part in the meeting:

- Ten women

IV. Participant Perspectives

Perspective 1: Community Member states that she is excited to be a part of our efforts and they are much needed in Surry County.

Perspective 2: Mr. Edwards handed out the packets to each member that was present. He also requested water from Cracker Barrell to do a demonstration of how DisposeRX works, using vitamins that he provided as an example. DisposeRX is a blend of solidifying materials that provide a safe solution for the disposal of unused or expired medications. When the DisposeRX powder packet and medications are added together in the prescription bottle and shaken, the drugs become physically and chemically bound together and turned into a viscous gel. This mixture provides for an environmentally safe disposal of medications that one can perform from their own home. It also ensures that others cannot tamper with medications after they have been combined with the packet and disposed of in household garbage. Mr. Edwards recommended that the All-Stars provide these packets to community members that had medications to dispose of.

Mr. Edwards reviewed the announcement of the V.O.I.C.E.S. Survey. This announcement flyer provides our community members with general information about the survey, why it is important, where to access it, and who to contact with the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office if they have any questions.

Mr. Edwards then explained the difference in the V.O.I.C.E.S. survey and the The Community Interview. They can both be anonymous if the participant chooses for them to be. The intent is to find out the true understanding of our community resident's feelings and opinions about substance abuse, so that we can focus our efforts to better serve the needs we have. The V.O.I.C.E.S. survey is available on our website at surrycountycares.com, but the Community Interview will be something that the All-Star members will conduct personally by phone, virtual platform or in person with their friends, family, and neighbors.

Mr. Edwards stated that it is important to review a training guide that was provided so that the All-Stars will feel more comfortable in conducting the interviews. The interviews should last no more than 60 minutes per participant. He stated that it is okay to skip questions if the participant has nothing to add or does not feel comfortable answering that question. The All-Star member is responsible for scheduling the interviews and recording the responses. Our office requests that each All-Star conduct a minimum of (5) Community Interviews.

Perspective 3: A community member asked who they should interview?

Prevention 4: Mr. Edwards stated that anyone who lives in Surry County and is over the age of 18.

Prevention 5: A community member asked where to they turn the interviews in to the County.

- Prevention 6:** Mr. Edwards stated that Charlotte Reeves will be the contact person who will collect the interviews whenever community members have them ready to turn in. She will also be the person who distributes more paper copies to the All-Stars at their request. Charlotte's contact is by email at reevesc@co.surry.nc.us.
- Prevention 7:** A community member expressed concern about having to have a participant give their name and contact information or asking too much information from them. Their concern was that people may become suspicious about the intentions.
- Prevention 8:** Mr. Edwards went over how to handle this situation and again stated that if a participant does not feel comfortable giving out specific information, move on to the next question. He stated that we are not looking for exact details, only general statements.
- Prevention 9:** A community member stated they may feel nervous about how to start the conversation and how to explain why this information is needed.
- Prevention 10:** Mr. Edwards and Charlotte Reeves decided to provide the All-Stars with a Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office Community Survey Helpful Interview Tips Sheet that can be used to help get the process going from the moment they sit down with the participant.
- Prevention 11:** Mr. Edwards stated that the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office wants the All-Stars to know that we support them. We will announce office hours to be held for All-Stars to ask questions, make comments, or to receive more guidance on conducting Community Interviews.

V. Recommendations

The All-Star Prevention Group Members that were present at the meeting were unanimous in pledging their efforts and support of helping to get the data that the County needs in the form of surveys/interviews. Once again, everyone agrees that the substance abuse problems continue to be a major issue for those who are suffering with the problem, their families, and our County. The meeting was adjourned and will meet again in the month of March. Everyone was informed to check their email for The All-Star Prevention Group correspondence. There will be Zoom links sent out for the office hours held by Mr. Edwards and Charlotte Reeves to support All-Star Members conducting the Community Interviews. There will also be an email sent out with the February Meeting Minutes and Announcement of the next scheduled meeting date and location.

Charlotte Reeves also requested that everyone check out the Surry County Opioid Response Effort Facebook page and website at surrycountycares.com.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact:

Charlotte Reeves @ reevesc@co.surry.nc.us