



# THE ALL-STARS PREVENTION GROUP

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

## All-Stars Meeting Report

Held from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, August 10, 2021

Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery, Historic Courthouse, Dobson, 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, August 10, 2021 involving various members of the community representing Surry County. Ms. Charlotte Reeves, Community Outreach Coordinator, led the meeting with 21 community members present. Our presenter for this meeting was Mrs. Morgan Lambert. We also had Mr. Butch Spurlin, from Surry County Jail Ministries, as a guest speaker, Ms. Shante Anderson, Equality in Action, and Miss Full Figure of North Carolina, Mrs. Wallis Atkins. The main topic of this meeting consisted of a presentation on Spirituality in Substance Use Disorder by Mrs. Lambert.

#### **II. Introduction**

The Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office held a community meeting with twenty-one community members on August 10, 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 discussions about the ways that Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office has set up a proposed "Continuum of Care", to explore ways to eliminate many impediments for those residents seeking treatment and recovery. This meeting was held at the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office in Dobson, NC. The goal of this meeting is to promote discussion within our group that can extend to our community about the positive benefits of Spirituality used to combat substance use disorder.

#### **III. Participant Demographics**

Twenty-four participants took part in the meeting:

- 15 women
- 6 men

#### IV. Participant Perspectives

**Perspective 1:** Charlotte Reeves began the meeting by welcoming everyone and letting them know that dinner will be a little late. Ms. Reeves discussed the agenda for the meeting and spoke to the group about the benefits of using Spirituality in the treatment of substance use disorder. She went over a listing of different types of things that people consider their higher power. Then she reviewed bullet points that were positive life protective factors that can result from having Spirituality in your life when you trying to enter Recovery, or when you are living in Recovery. Ms. Reeves thanked Mr. Mark Willis, Director of The Surry County Substance Abuse for providing Papa John's for dinner. Also, thanks to Mr. Jamie Edwards for going to pick the food up, at the last minute, due to the food establishment's driver shortage.

**Perspective 2:** Mrs. Morgan Lambert began her presentation about Spirituality in Substance Use Disorder by using a document authored by Mr. Mark Willis entitled Operation Vital Links. In this document, Mr. Willis provides a listing of the four main categories of substance use disorder which are Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, and Recovery. Mrs. Lambert went through each of these sections and provided ways that citizens and church members could lend a hand to help. She also explained that we would doing a service to others to better their life and the lives of their families. She explained that we would be doing much more than a good deed, we have the possibility to alter the life trajectory of many people by doing a great service to those in desperate need.

**Perspective 3:** Mr. Butch Spurlin then was introduced to speak about his experiences and the benefits and needs of Surry County's Jail Ministries. He began by briefly talking about his lived experiences. Then he told what jail ministries are and how it benefits those who are incarcerated. He mentioned the great benefit of giving people hope that their life can improve and be different. He also talked about those in the jail population that truly want to change and simply need the helping hand of humanity.

**Prevention 4:** Ms. Deborah Giep, Transportation Coordinator for Ride the Road to Recovery, gave a presentation of data sets related to her new program, such as the number of miles driven, number of people that were transported and number of hours drivers have spent with someone who has substance use disorder. She made a relation to what Ms. Lambert stated, which was how much influence one person can have in a short time. She also discussed difficulties the program has and things they are currently dealing with on a daily basis, such as no call backs from clients, no shows, difficulty getting the proper information from clients, etc.

**Prevention 5:** Next, Ms. Shante Anderson spoke about the Summer Jamz that was at Riverside Park July 31. She discussed her own lived experience and how that led her to formally start her non-profit called Equality-In-Action. All-Star Members McKenzie King, Paula Sheets, Jennifer Sinacore, Charlotte Reeves, and Melissa Mundy were all present at this event. The All-Stars Prevention Group Members set up a table and handed out Deterra Drug Deactivation Kits, SAMHSA Tips for Teens Publications on Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Opioids, Underage Drinking, and Tobacco. Information was also presented about "Ride the Road to Recovery" transportation program, the All-Star Prevention Group, and how to access both programs through [surrycountycares.com](http://surrycountycares.com).

**Prevention 6:** While at Riverside Park on July 31, the All-Star Members that were present met Mrs. Wallis Atkins, Miss Full Figure North Carolina. Mrs. Atkins shared how her platform at the pageant was Addiction and Recovery. Mrs. Atkins must dedicate a certain amount of time and effort to bettering our community as part of her crowned responsibilities. Therefore, she was very happy to meet our group since we have some upcoming activities in which she can make an appearance and we can all help each other to further our cause. She shared with us that she is going to be in the Miss Full Figure USA in the upcoming months, but until then she would like to work with us in any way she can.

**Prevention 7:** Ms. Reeves announced that the meeting was concluding and that it had been very fruitful. She announced that the next presenter will be Ms. Asa Yost who is a peer support specialist at The Ark in Elkin. She will give a presentation on “homelessness.” Ms. Reeves announced that we will have a lot of discussion in the month of September about an event we are going to host in October, which will be directed towards teens, essentially “Teen Day.” Please come prepared to the September meeting to share ideas about the complete set up.

## **V. Recommendations**

The All-Star Prevention Group Members that were present all agreed that sharing ideas, monthly, is a great educational opportunity. 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 September. Everyone was informed to check email for The All-Star Prevention Group correspondence. The members were briefed that there will also be an email sent out with the June Meeting Minutes and an announcement of the next scheduled meeting date and location. Thank you to the new participants that attended this meeting. It was a great success.

Charlotte Reeves also requested that everyone check out the Surry County Opioid Response Effort Facebook page and website at [surrycountycares.com](http://surrycountycares.com).

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

Charlotte Reeves at: [reevesc@co.surry.nc.us](mailto:reevesc@co.surry.nc.us)