



The SCORE Report

“Problems that remain persistently insoluble should always be suspected as questions asked in the wrong way”. Alan Watts

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Surry County Community Opioid Forum



The Greater Mount Airy Missional Network of United Methodist Churches invites all residents of Surry County, as well as anyone seeking knowledge about our county’s substance use issues, to attend the **Community Opioid Forum** on **Tuesday, February 11th, 2020** at the **Earle Theater, 124 North Main Street, Mount Airy** from **7:00-9:30 pm**. (Inclement weather date is Feb 18, 2020) **THE FORUM IS OPEN TO ALL**

MEMBERS OF THE SURRY COUNTY COMMUNITY. There is no cost for attendance. The Forum will include a presentation from the County Opioid Response Director and a panel discussion—guided by Maddie Gardner of WFMY News 2—with representatives from emergency medical services, law enforcement, a treatment facility, the faith community, the court system, healthcare, harm reduction, and the Board of Commissioners.

Access online resources via the following sources:

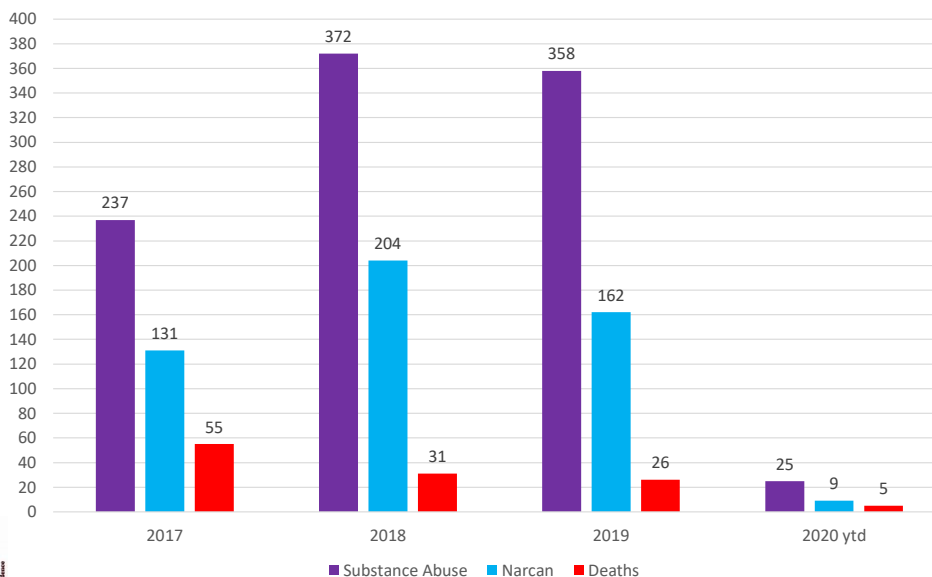
www.surrycountycares.com - New information is posted on our website weekly.

www.facebook.com/surrycountycares - Connect with us on Facebook and share with your friends.

<https://www.nctta.online/surrycounty> - Access online education about substance abuse.



Substance Abuse, Narcan, Deaths Comparison 2017-Present



EMS service calls for overdoses and deaths due to overdose 2017—2020



www.mountairymethodist.com 30182004

The SCORE Letter

Dear Denise:

There has been a lot in the news about lawsuits involving the big pharmaceutical companies who developed and marketed these opioids that ended up creating this local and national opioid epidemic and loss of hundreds of thousands of lives. During some of the interviews with professionals in the field of addiction they talk about how they would like the largest part of the funds used for MAT. Can you please explain what that is?

Jack

Dear Jack:

Thanks for this question. MAT stands for Medication Assisted Treatment.

For the last 20 years, treatment facilities have been based on therapy and the 12-step program developed through Alcoholics Anonymous. It has been determined that although all people are different and some things work for some people and not for others, the opioid crisis needed to offer an additional approach.

A more scientific approach to opioid addiction developed over the last 20 years. The use of brain scans and mapping have given researchers and scientists the opportunity to see what happens to the brain when affected by addiction and to develop drugs to help relieve these symptoms, or at least combat some of the ill effects.

MAT is the use of FDA approved medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole patient” approach in the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD).

There are 3 opioid based medications commonly used to treat opioid addiction: Methadone, Naltrexone, and Buprenorphine. In a future article, I will explain how and why these work and why they are so successful in sustained sobriety.

The goal of MAT is full recovery. This treatment improves a person’s survival, increases the ability to stay in treatment, decreases the potential for relapse and criminal activity, and increases the potential to re-enter society and live a self-directed life.

My mission with the Surry County Opioid Response Team is community outreach. I spend most of my in the community, talking to the general population as well as speaking with civic groups, schools, businesses and churches. One of the comments that I hear everywhere is criticism for using MAT as a solution for those with substance use disorder (SUD), especially for those who abuse opioids.

Although most people don’t understand the term MAT and the model it uses for treatment, they do know that it is treatment with medications, and this does not sit well with many in our county—as well as around the country. They argue that it is just trading one drug for another, it doesn’t make sense, and doesn’t sound cost effective.

Research shows that MAT is the best we have to offer and offers the greatest percentage of success at this time.

My tasking is to educate our community and help people understand what efforts can best make an impact on this crisis in our county. Surry County is at the top of the opioid overdose list in North Carolina, a list we would prefer not to be on at all. Our efforts to date to address substance use and overdoses has not been working. Surry County Opiate Response is working hard to introduce other options. Use of MAT during treatment and an open mind are part of the solutions.

Regards,
Denise Krochta, Surry County Opioid Response