



# 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 6:00 PM, January 11, 2022

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, January 11, 2022 involving various members of the community representing Surry County. Ms. Charlotte Reeves, Community Outreach Coordinator, led the meeting with seventeen community members present. The first meeting of 2022 was to discuss more about coalitions and NARCAN distribution training.

### **II. Introduction**

The Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office held a community meeting with seventeen community members on January 11, 2022. 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 Historic Courthouse in Dobson, NC. The goal of this meeting is to promote discussion within our group that can extend to our community about the problem of substance use disorder and mental health issues.

### **III. Participant Demographics**

Sixteen participants took part in the meeting:

- 14 women
- 3 men

#### **IV. Participant Perspectives**

**Perspective 1:** Charlotte Reeves welcomed everyone and announced that tonight will be a short meeting with three important guests along with group discussion. She first introduces a short update on stats provided by the Program Coordinator for Ride the Road to Recovery, Deborah Giep, on the number of hours that drivers have spent in the car with people travelling back and forth to treatment and the number of total miles driven in the transportation program. Charlotte elaborated on the lack of communication and methods to implement to aid in resolving these issues.

**Perspective 2:** Jodi Southern who is a part of the Surry County Schools system elaborates on the future for Surry County school staff to aid in eliminating the use of drugs and enforcing more strict and preventive methods to students within schools. For instance, the increase of parent involvement at home. Parent involvement serving to prematurely alert and prevent children from being at high risk of addictive behaviors and acknowledging the consequences of substance abuse especially at a young age.

**Perspective 3:** Furthermore, Charlotte introduces our main guest, Mrs. Melissa Freeman, RN, the Surry County Employee Wellness Nurse discussed the training of NARCAN nasal spray and the proper way to utilize it when a person is showing symptoms of overdose. In addition, Melissa Freeman presents the proper way to use the nasal spray on an unconscious individual and the steps following such event. Ms. Reeves follows up the training with an in-depth video regarding the purpose of the NARCAN nasal spray and instructions on how identifying the right time to implement the use of the nasal spray and the proper increments of time to therefore administer the second dose in efforts to reverse the effects completely and have a pivotal influence on saving an individual's life. She then asked the group to think about ways that we could have improved the event.

**Perspective 4:** Next, we opened the floor up to general discussion of the All-Stars. The discussion was about volunteering in the area that you have a passion for and where your strengths lie.

**Perspective 5:** Our next guest, Mrs. Wendy Odum from Birches Foundation spoke up and noted the many areas that substance use disorder affects the community. She elaborates on her efforts on harm reduction within the community by offering clean syringe exchanges by not necessarily reducing drug use but in other effective methods of reducing the risk of diseases such as HIV when engaging in unsanitary drug use. Unsanitary drug use has been seen in the reusing of unsharp and excessively reused syringes and Wendy Odum suggests her efforts to lessen the negative effects that come with substance abuse. Furthermore, Wendy elaborates on the importance of administration and distribution of NARCAN and significantly helping our community with the start of acknowledging the importance of NARCAN in businesses and other areas to be prepared for encountering such events like individuals overdosing. Ultimately, Ms. Odum made the connection that we need to make more effort into getting to know each other and learning about the services each of us offer to fully utilize or recommend these services to others.

**Prevention 6:** Our last guest, Kelly Teague from the Community Impact Team, elaborates into further depth on the administration of the nasal spray leading up to the suggested two-minute wait period before administering the second dose. Kelly continues to demonstrate how prevention is important in implementing at a young age because addiction in adolescence years puts children at a much higher risk than in adulthood. In the video, "What Is

Prevention”, it goes into better depth of risk factors varying from environmental factors and trauma events playing a huge part in early age use. Furthermore, Kelly Teague follows up with a presentation “Lunch and Learn” created conjunctively by Ms. Reeves and Kelly herself which discusses the significant impact of enforcing preventive factors within a community and the long-term effects of the group which is initially organized to reduce the abuse of drugs and decrease the premature knowledge of drugs and alcohol within youth. Moreover, the presentation acknowledges the harsh effects on the development of the youths’ brain when abusing substances.

**Prevention 7:** Ms. Reeves mentions the future scheduled meeting times being held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month signifying the next meet being held February 8, 2022.

**Prevention 8:** Additionally, Charlotte Reeves reintroduces Mr. Rich Young and the enormous impact he has had on grandparents raising their grandchildren because of substance abuse and the recent events regarding his health.

**Prevention 9:** Ms. Reeves thanked everyone and ended the meeting and re-mentions meeting again in February to start more work on our coalition efforts.

## **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 February. Everyone was informed to check their email for The All-Star Prevention Group correspondence. The members were briefed that there will also be an email sent out with the January Meeting Minutes and an announcement of the next scheduled meeting date and location. Thank you to the new participants who 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:

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