



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, January 12, 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, January 12, 2021 involving various members of the community representing Surry County. Ms. Charlotte Reeves, Community Outreach Specialist, lead the meeting with eight community members present. Throughout the meeting, the Surry County Substance Abuse Office hoped to begin to gather information from those present in order to begin the progress of implementing a prevention program.

II. Introduction

The Surry County Substance Abuse Office held a community meeting with eight community members on January 12, 2021. The meeting was conducted as part of the Substance Abuse Office's involvement in reducing the number of opiate and other drug related deaths in Surry County. This meeting was designed to discuss ways the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office has currently 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. The Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office has a need to find out just how our community feels about this issue. The following are ways in which we discussed to begin to educate our county about this issue and ways in which we intend to gather data about the County resident's current knowledge and opinions:

1. Spreading the message by word of mouth.
2. Utilization of our Facebook page for important information, County events, and statistics related to substance abuse.
3. Discussing ways in which The All-Star Prevention Group can be involved by taking community surveys and doing interviews with County residents.
4. Ways in which our community can reach out to others who need help.

III. Participant Demographics

Eight participants took part in the meeting:

- Six women and two men

IV. Participant Perspectives

Perspective 1: Community Member states that she has become frustrated because it is so hard to reach people who are in active addiction.

Perspective 2: Community Member shared that she feels it is necessary to get more training and to learn to communicate more effectively with those in active addiction.

Perspective 3: Community Member shared his story of how good it felt to help someone else, just by giving a little to receive a lot. His thoughts were that sometimes we must give to others as a negotiation tool, to get the ball rolling, for someone to start to change their life.

Perspective 4: Charlotte Reeves discussed the different aspects of the Continuum of Care that the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office is trying to build. Of the four divisions in the Continuum of Care, the focus was on the first one, which is Prevention. She explained the items that are currently on the list. She also noted that some of the items were currently in place and working, some items were being created, while other items have not been implemented due to lack of interest by involved parties.

Perspective 5: A Community Member made a reference to the latest article in the Mount Airy News which discusses the ongoing problem our County is having with overdose rates and overdose deaths.

Perspective 6: Another Community Member mentioned that prescribers and hospital staff need more prevention education about this problem. This was also mentioned as another way to get to people that are in need.

Perspective 7: An additional member suggested more efforts should be placed in getting someone who is more knowledgeable to connect with the faith-based establishments in our County. People who are suffering and want help often go to their pastor for guidance and assistance. A comment was made that we should work to connect with these groups in a more personal manner.

Perspective 8: Mr. Jamie Edwards explained a process, which we will start very soon, that involves surveying our County residents about their thoughts and knowledge of the substance abuse problem in our County. This process will also involve interviewing residents on a one to one basis. Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office will provide instruction to The All-Star Prevention Group members who would be interested in taking part in the surveys/interviews.

Perspective 9: A Community Member stated that she would feel more confident if she had something

written to have available to give people she speaks with, especially when they ask for resources. She stated that having to look that information up at every request is somewhat cumbersome and inefficient. Ms. Reeves stated that she will work on getting that information in a convenient readily available format.

Prevention 10: Charlotte Reeves brought everyone's attention to the newest Episode 3: Surry, The Road to Recovery, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). She suggested that everyone watch this video and learn more about this treatment opportunity. During this part of the discussion, Harm Reduction was defined and discussed briefly.

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 February. Everyone was informed to check their email for The All-Star Prevention Group correspondence and scheduling of the next meeting. 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:

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