Surry County

Opioid Response Advisory Council (ORAC) Meeting

Surry County Government Center, 118 Hamby Road, Suite 335, Dobson, NC

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

**Members/Representatives in Attendance:**

Scott Baird, Pharmacist Representative  
District Attorney Ricky Bowman, District Attorney’s Office   
Special Agent Al Cortes, DEA Greensboro Resident Office   
Dr. Myra Cox, Elkin City Schools  
Michelle Creed, Surry County District Court   
Director Jeffery Eads, Partners Behavioral Health  
Captain Robbie Jackson, Pilot Mountain Police Department   
County Manager Chris Knopf, County Government   
Emergency Department Director Lynn Kennedy, Hugh Chatham Hospital   
Director Kristy Preston, Department of Social Services   
Commissioner Larry Phillips, County Board of Commissioners   
Dr. Kim Morrison, Mount Airy City Schools   
Dr. Travis Reeves, Surry County Schools   
Task Force Officer Robert Reavis, DEA Greensboro Resident Office  
Director John Shelton, Emergency Services  
Assistant County Manager Sandy Snow, County Government   
Chief Monroe Wagoner, Elkin Police Department  
Director Mark Willis, Opioid Response  
Andrew Wright, Surry County Economic Development

**Members Not in Attendance:**

Director Samantha Ange, Health and Nutrition Center   
Pastor Dennis Barnette, Faith Based Representative  
Sheriff Jimmy Combs, Sheriff’s Office  
Chief Shawn Myers, Dobson Police Department   
Dr. Jason Stopyra, Medical Director   
Chief Dale Watson, Mount Airy Police Department

**1) Minutes:** Director Willis called the meeting to order. Minutes from the ORAC meeting of July 10, 2108 were adopted and voted in to record.

**2) ODMAP:** Director Willis provided an update on the ODMAP statistics for EMS responses to overdose for Surry County:

Overdoses in 2017: 245  
Overdose deaths in 2017: 47

Naloxone distributions in 2017: 43

Overdoses since January 1, 2018: 234

Overdose deaths since January 1, 2018: 21

Naloxone distributions since January 1, 2018: 100

Notes:

1. Statistics do not include overdose “walk ins” at Northern or Hugh Chatham Hospitals
2. At the present rate Surry County will double the number of overdoses in 2018 when  
    compared to 2017
3. Statistics collected by EMS indicates that approximately 54% of overdoses are attributed to opioids, 11% are attributed to methamphetamine and 21% involved multiple substances.
4. Yadkin County, NC and Patrick County, VA will soon start utilizing ODMAP to track overdoses.

-District Attorney Bowman asked if we knew how and where drug users were obtaining these drugs. No one in attendance at the meeting could provide information about the status of investigations that might identify the source of the opioids used in overdoses. Director Willis was aware that Elkin PD Chief Wagoner was working closely with DEA to identify doctors and pharmacies in Elkin who were illegally diverting opioids.

-Director Kennedy, Hugh Chatham Emergency Department, requested clarification on what constituted a death resulting from a drug overdose. She noted that the Hugh Chatham Emergency Room experiences deaths that are due to complications due to drug use. She noted the example of sepsis due to extended use of unsanitary needles by intravenous drug users. Director Willis’ guidance was to include a death caused by long term drug use as a statistic on ODMAP entries.

**3) Care Package:** The Health and Nutrition Center is working with Director Willis to create a “Care Package” that could be distributed by EMS, Emergency Departments and law enforcement to citizens involved in overdoses. The care package would contain information on treatment opportunities, CPR, HIV and hepatitis.

**4) Treatment Services:** Daymark Recovery Services, the largest addiction treatment provider in Surry County, is expanding its services in anticipation of increased intervention activities through the county’s opioid response activities.

**5) LEAD**: Director Willis recently met with the District Attorney Office to discuss the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program and a Drug Court program. The DA’s Office is not in favor of a pre-arrest program such as LEAD but is interested in the initiation of a Drug Court program.

**6) Recovery Program:** Director Willis has met on several occasions with the Yadkin Valley Rotary and will meet in September with the Ministerial Association to establish recovery program in Surry County.

**7) Reorganization of Opioid Response Advisory Council:** The ORAC agreed to reorganize of the Council to more effectively and efficiently utilize its advisory mission. Specifically, the Council will be reorganized into three advisory groups as follows:

**PREVENTION Advisory Group**

Director Samantha Ange\*   
Scott Baird   
Dr. Myra Cox   
Jeff Eads \*  
Dr. Kim Morrison   
Director Kristy Preston \*  
Dr. Travis Reeves

**INTERVENTION Advisory Group**

Director Samantha Ange\* Supervisory Special Agent Dirk Ballou Chief Daryl Bottoms District Attorney Ricky BowmanSheriff Jimmy Combs Jeff Eads \*Chief Shawn Myers Director Kristy Preston \*Director John Shelton Judge William SouthernDr. Jason Stopyra Chief Dale Watson Chief Monroe Wagoner

**RECOVERY Advisory Group**

Pastor Dennis Barnette  
Sheriff Jimmy Combs\*  
Jeff Eads \*  
CEO Paul Hammes   
CEO Chris Lumsden   
Commissioner Larry Phillips   
Director Kristy Preston \*  
President Todd Tucker

-Director Willis distributed to attendees a list of the strategies on which each advisory group should focus as well as action options that can be utilized to accomplish these strategies.

**8) Adult Drug Treatment Court:** Director Willis provided an update on efforts to establish an Adult Drug Treatment Court in Surry County. Director Willis met independently with Forsyth County’s Adult Treatment Court Coordinator, Piedmont Triad Regional Council Criminal Justice Programs Director, Insight Human Services, Daymark Recovery Services, District Attorney’s Office and Partners Behavioral Health to discuss funding and structure options.

-District Attorney Bowman noted that the District Attorney’s Office already utilizes a process like drug court known as “differed prosecution”. District Attorney Bowman was in the process of querying the judges for their approval to proceed on planning for a drug court.

**9) Involuntary Commitment of Substance Abusers**: Director Shelton noted that EMS has identified multiple subjects to whom EMS units have responded for overdoses and administered Narcan repeatedly. Director Shelton questioned as to whether North Carolina General Statutes could be changed to allow for involuntary commitment to treatment centers those subjects who have been identified as chronic substance abusers. Commission Phillips seconded the request and questioned the point at which the needs of community override the freedom of the individual when chronic substance abusers are taxing the emergency response and law enforcement systems.

**10) Funding for Addiction Treatment Services:** Director Willis noted discussions with Partners Behavioral Health and Daymark Recovery Services revealed a large difference between Medicaid funding for substance abuse treatment and that for the indigent. Director Eads noted that State funding for indigent care was cut by $11.5 million dollars. Other shortfalls exist for transportation services and housing.

**11) Communications Group:** Dr. Reeves suggested the formation of a Communications Group whose mission would be advocacy for the needs of the whole community through a communications campaign or utilization of a communications arm from Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Phillips agreed with the suggestion but unfortunately neither the County Commissioners nor the County Government employed someone to handle public relations.

**12) Student Advisory Group:** Director Willis queried the School Superintendents as to their opinions on the formation of a Student Advisory Group that would provide feedback on the efficacy of substance abuse prevention programs. Dr. Morrison and Dr. Reeves noted that the schools had already formed an advisory group to provide assessments of school educational programs. This student advisory group could also be utilized to evaluate prevention programs.

**13) Changes to NCGS 122C – Voluntary and Involuntary Commitment Orders:** Director Shelton noted that EMS is frequently required to respond to drug overdoses necessitating naloxone distributions to subjects who have overdosed on multiple occasions in the past. Director Shelton noted the potential for legislative support to change NCGS 122C to facilitate involuntary commitment of frequent drug abusers who are a harm to themselves and the community to treatment facilities. Director Willis agreed to research the NC general statute concerning involuntary commitment of substance abusers.

**14) Adjournment:** As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

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Mark J. Willis, Opioid Response Director