



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 7:00 PM, April 6, 2021

Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office, 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, April 6, 2021 involving various members of the community representing Surry County. Ms. Charlotte Reeves, Community Outreach Specialist, and Mr. Jamie Edwards, Data Analyst, led the meeting with seventeen community members present. There were three guest speakers, Mr. Mark Willis, Mrs. Amanda Moncus and Ms. Sonya Cheek. Throughout the meeting, the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office offered training and had their own Community Circle Meeting about Substance Abuse in Surry County.

II. Introduction

The Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office held a community meeting with seventeen community members on April 6, 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 the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office has 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. This meeting was the first meeting at the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office in Dobson, NC. There was a much better group cohesion, due to increased privacy and more community participation. This meeting will be dedicated to the introduction of Mr. Mark Willis, Director of the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office. Also, present, as guest speakers, were Amanda Moncus and Sonya Cheek, both from the Intervention Team. The goal of this meeting is to introduce and discuss the Community Circle Process and have a Circle Meeting to discuss Substance Abuse in our County. The Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office provided dinner for the community members that were present. Thank you to Little Italy for catering this meal.

III. Participant Demographics

Seventeen participants took part in the meeting:

- 13 women
- 4 men

IV. Participant Perspectives

Perspective 1: Mr. Mark Willis introduced himself and spoke for a several minutes explaining what the Surry County Substance Abuse Office’s purpose is. He also explained the way it is set up and what we are trying to accomplish. He conveyed to the All-Stars Prevention Group how important community members are in trying to accomplish our goal of reduced Substance Abuse in Surry County and the full development of the Continuum of Care.

Perspective 2: Next, Amanda Moncus and Sonya Cheek spoke about what the Intervention Team’s job is and how it works. They wanted everyone to know how they work to help any community member at any time. They explained what they are facing any day on their job and how they can work with community members to get people help by getting them access to treatment. They carefully explained the challenges they face in their job and the persistence and patience it takes. Amanda and Sonya explained the difficulties of substance abuse and the process of treatment to reach recovery. They offered their assistance and told the All-Stars that they were there to support them in any way they could. They gave out business cards to everyone.

Perspective 3: Mr. Jamie Edwards spoke about the process of Community Circles. He explained that increased conversation and collaboration between community members is the goal. He also stated that the Community Circle Process can give someone a safe place to discuss their issues on how they feel about certain community problems. Community Circles is a place that someone can get respect, compassion, and honesty. They can exhibit the strength of character to recognize the humanness of self and others. He explained the process that the All-Stars were going to go through during the Circle Process and how they were going to break up into two groups. Each group was given a “talking token.” The token would be passed around to each member and whoever had the talking token would have the floor with no interruptions allowed from anyone else. He strongly expressed to the group how powerful the Circle Process can be.

Prevention 4: Charlotte Reeves briefly spoke to thank everyone for attending the meeting. She also thanked the speakers that were present and Mr. Willis for providing pizza for everyone. Ms. Reeves stated that Community Circles includes community members from all walks of life representing a wide variety of community perspectives and experiences. The goal of a community circle is to develop a safe and respectful forum to discuss issues that are important to local citizens. She dismissed the group to attend to their specific Circle Group Meeting.

Prevention 5: The All-Stars broke off into their specific Circle Meetings. There were to be (5) questions addressed. Each person would have a chance to respond to each question. Each Circle Meeting Group had a facilitator and a note taker to lead the meetings. The (5) questions were:

- **What do you think are the most important mental health and/or substance abuse issues that exist in Surry County?**

- **What are the barriers for citizens to get mental health and/or substance abuse services?**
- **What are some possible solutions to overcome these barriers?**
- **If you were to design mental health and/or substance use services here, specifically geared toward our community and citizens, what would it look like?**
- **If you, one of your friends, community members, or family members have used mental health and/or substance use services, what was the experience like?**

V. Recommendations

The All-Star Prevention Group Members that were present at the meeting were unanimous in participating in the Community Circle Meeting. 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 Community Circle Meeting was a great success, and everyone agreed that they thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it. The meeting was adjourned and will meet again in the month of May. Everyone was informed to check their email for The All-Star Prevention Group correspondence. There will be Zoom links listed below for registration for the first Virtual Community Circles for the Surry County residents at large. There will be two meetings discussing the same issues with the only difference being the time of the meeting. The members were informed that there will also be an email sent out with the April 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.

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

Charlotte Reeves at: reevesc@co.surry.nc.us

Virtual Community Circle Registration Links:

Event Name: Virtual Community Circle on Substance Use, Session 1

April 20, 2021 from 1:30 to 2:45 pm

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83361779342>

Event Name: Virtual Community Circle on Substance Use, Session 2

April 22, 2021 from 6:30 to 7:45 pm

Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88342006700>