



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, December 1, 2020

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, December 1, 2020 involving various members of the community representing Surry County. Ms. Charlotte Reeves, Community Outreach Specialist, lead the meeting with ten community members present. Throughout the meeting, the Surry County Substance Abuse Office hoped to gather information and gauge interest in developing a community advocacy group that will address prevention efforts.

II. Introduction

The Surry County Substance Abuse Office held a community meeting with ten community members on December 1, 2020. 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. The discussion was designed to gather information from the community members regarding the following outcomes:

1. Identifying a level of interest in forming a community advocacy group
2. Discussing the current level of interest and impact of substance use on group membership
3. Defining Substance Use Prevention

III. Participant Demographics

Ten participants took part in the meeting:

- Eight women and two men

IV. Participant Perspectives

Perspective 1: Community Member states that as a service employee in a grocery store, they frequently encounter citizens in active use or struggling to find recovery.

Perspective 2: Community Member shared that they have three children all who are in active addiction. The parent indicated that prevention is the only way to help youth, before it is too late, and that stigma against individuals is real and present in the county.

Perspective 3: A faith-based leader shared their personal story of recovery from severe addiction. Celebrate Recovery was identified as a significant driver of substance use recovery. The community member discussed the need of having collective referral systems, temporary housing and other community supports to drive the recovery process. The conversation moved on to how churches can be engaged in prevention processes.

Prevention 4: A second community member shared their lived experience with addictions and recovery journey. The member indicated that prevention was key, but they were unsure of where to start. Stigma was also mentioned as a major barrier in the county. Education, especially substance use prevention in the public-school setting was noted as key. A shocked level of disbelief was voiced that a multi-million-dollar jail expansion project is being planned, when jail does not work, and we lack a drug court in the county.

Prevention 5: A community member indicated she didn't know how to help her friends and her neighborhood although she really wants to develop the skills. The community member shared stories of impacted friends and family members who share that there is little way out of addiction in Surry County; no supports, only court punishment and stigma. The community member expressed concern over incarceration cost and the jail project.

Prevention 6: Another community member shared that addiction is not about being strong, that it goes beyond will power and that our community is in denial. The member indicated that parents needed education about addiction, signs, symptoms and how to support their children.

Prevention 7: An additional member shared the power of faith-based prevention, treatment and recovery efforts. There was a level of interest expressed in scare tactics and the belief that such efforts are needed.

Prevention 8: Charlotte Reeves briefly explained the breakdown of the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office and noted that there are many different areas in which one can volunteer their efforts to help those with substance use disorders in our county.

Prevention 9: Mr. Jamie Edwards, MA, M.Ed, LCAS-A, CPS, who is the Director at the North Carolina Training and Technical Assistance Center introduced himself and will be an integral part in helping The All-Star Prevention Group center their focus around the assessed community needs. Mr. Edwards will assist Charlotte Reeves in determining the community's readiness and helping to organize the prevention efforts.

V. Recommendations

The All-Star Prevention Group was unanimous in the opinion that our county residents need more information about prevention efforts. The group decided that they will meet once per month in person, or virtual, depending on the COVID-19 requirements. There are many other people, who did not attend the meeting, that are members of the All-Star Prevention Group email group. Charlotte Reeves stated that at the next meeting she will bring a publication by the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office that breaks down proposed solutions to help our county's residents that are suffering. Substance Abuse Disorder. Also, there will be regular email correspondence to keep everyone informed about our county's situation regarding substance abuse/recovery. She 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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