

Early Intervention and Prevention Services Annual Report 2025



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Introduction: A Year of Resilience and Connection

In 2025, the Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR) remained steadfast in its commitment to addressing the complexities of substance use through a holistic, data-driven, and community-centered approach. Throughout the year, SCOSAR advanced a comprehensive early intervention strategy designed not only to prevent substance use but to actively foster youth well-being and community resiliency. By bridging the gap between evidence-based programming and local partnerships, SCOSAR has built a "Continuum of Care" that serves as a protective shield for the county's most vulnerable populations.

Mission and Strategic Vision

The core mission of SCOSAR is to reduce risk factors and foster protective environments through education, advocacy, and direct support. This mission is guided by a long-term vision, exemplified by the development of the Surry Strategic Framework 2030. In 2025, SCOSAR laid the groundwork for this framework by conducting confidential community interviews with 96 members to identify service gaps and ensure future strategies are rooted in a shared community vision.

Unprecedented Reach and Impact

The scale of SCOSAR's impact in 2025 is reflected in its reach across the county:

- Youth Engagement: SCOSAR served a total of 11,216 youth through its diverse array of early intervention and prevention programs.
- Substance Abuse Prevention: The annual Red Ribbon Week alone reached 9,482 students across elementary, middle, and high schools.
- Professional Training: SCOSAR conducted 60 peer-based training programs, reaching 1,483 unique participants.
- Community Feedback: Participant satisfaction remains high, with 80.9% of early intervention participants reporting satisfaction and 74.2% actively using the skills and knowledge gained.

SCOSAR's success in 2025 was built upon four primary pillars of service:

Evidence-Based Youth Programming

At the heart of SCOSAR's work are curricula like Resist the Influence, which reached 697 ninth graders to address mental health and substance use. Younger students participated in programs like Media Detective, which teaches 4th graders to critically deconstruct substance-related advertising, and Catch My Breath, which we used to focus on medication safety for Pre-K through 5th graders.

Relational Support and Early Intervention

Recognizing the importance of social connections, SCOSAR maintained weekly support groups such as Girl's Circle, which empowers girls ages 9–18 to build resiliency and self-efficacy. Partnerships with local agencies, such as the Children's Center of Northwest North Carolina, provided consistent mentorship and skill-building for local students.

Collaborative Community Partnerships

SCOSAR's work is amplified through robust collaborations with organizations like the All-Stars Prevention Coalition and The Children's Center. Initiatives like PaCEs (Positive Childhood Experience) and events such as Family Fun Day and Seeds of Hope Camp demonstrate the power of collective action in supporting at-risk youth and foster families.

Leadership and Workforce Development

To ensure the sustainability of its efforts, SCOSAR prioritizes internal professional development and leadership training. In 2025, staff and community members were trained in the HOPE Framework, Mental Health First Aid, Nonviolent Crises Intervention and Responding to Addiction. Furthermore, the SCOSAR Internship Program provided five students with hands-on experience in community health, cultivating the next generation of local leaders.

Innovation in Recovery: The Council of Lived Experience (COLE)

A landmark achievement in 2025 was the formation of the Council of Lived Experience (COLE) in September. By elevating the voices of individuals and families who have directly navigated recovery, incarceration, and behavioral health challenges, COLE ensures that SCOSAR's recovery and justice support services remain relevant, accessible, and effective.

Looking Ahead

As SCOSAR transitions into the next phase of its strategic planning, the 2025 report serves as both a reflection on a year of significant growth and a blueprint for the future. By continuing to synthesize qualitative community insights with data-informed care, SCOSAR remains dedicated to curbing the addiction crisis and fostering a healthier, more resilient Surry County for generations to come.

Prevention and Early Intervention Services Summary

In 2025, the Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR) advanced a comprehensive early intervention strategy to prevent substance use and support youth well-being. Through evidence-based programming, community partnerships, and data-driven evaluation, SCOSAR reached a broad cross-section of Surry County's youth, families, and community stakeholders, with a focus on building resiliency, reducing risk factors, and fostering protective environments.

School-Based & Youth Programs

- Resist the Influence: Delivered to 9th graders in all Surry County high schools, this four-day curriculum addressed mental health, alcohol, marijuana, and polysubstance use, reaching 697 students. Participants received certificates and "Safe Sober" T-shirts, with resources on refusal skills and mental health.
- Media Detective: Implemented for 60 fourth-grade students at J.J. Jones Intermediate School, this 10-lesson program taught critical thinking skills about media and substance use advertising.
- Girl's Circle: Weekly evidence-based support groups for girls ages 9-18 at East Surry High, Central Middle, and The Shepherd's House, serving 19 girls and focusing on resiliency, self-efficacy, and positive connections.
- Mount Airy High School "The Claws" Prevention Club: Student-led alcohol awareness campaign during prom season, with 15 students participating in seven meetings.
- Trinity Episcopal Church Youth Group: Weekly afterschool group and dinner for 15–20 youth from local schools, providing mentorship and skill-building.

Community & Family Engagement

- PaCEs Initiative: Partnership with Poplar Springs Baptist Church and community groups to deliver youth engagement strategies, including the "Flapjack Frenzy" event (15 adults served).
- Family Fun Day: Collaborative event with The Children's Center and Mount Airy Rotary, serving 50 individuals with games, food, and family activities.
- Seeds of Hope Camp: Free, faith-based camp for foster, adopted, and at-risk K-8 youth, serving 103 children with mentorship and educational activities.

Prevention Campaigns

- Red Ribbon Week: Countywide campaign in all elementary, middle, and high schools, reaching 9,482 students with evidence-based substance use prevention, in-person presentations, and interactive activities.
- Responsible Decision Making (Catch My Breath): Medication safety and refusal skills taught to 472 Pre-K–5th graders at Elkin Elementary School.

Professional & Peer Training

- Peer-Based Programs: 60 peer-based training programs held, with 1,483 unique participants trained and three trainers involved.
- Staff Certifications: Prevention and Administrative Services Manager achieved certifications in Mental Health First Aid, Teen Mental Health First Aid, HOPE Framework, and more.
- Internship & Leadership Development, SCOSAR Internship Program: Five interns from local high schools and universities gained hands-on experience in prevention, early intervention, and community health.

Outcomes & Impact

- Total Youth Served (Early Intervention/Prevention): 11,216 youth in 2025.
- Peer-Based Training Participants: 1,483
- Participant Satisfaction: 80.9% of early intervention participants reported satisfaction with training; 74.2% reported using skills/knowledge gained.

Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement

- All-Stars Prevention Coalition: Ongoing collaboration for school and community prevention, including the “Talk. They Hear You.” campaign and monthly coalition meetings.
- Council of Lived Experience (COLE): Advisory group formed in September 2025 to guide SCOSAR’s recovery and justice support services.
- Community Interviews for Strategic Plan 2030: 96 community members participated in interviews to inform future strategies.

Positive Childhood Experience (PaCEs)

The PaCEs initiative, an offshoot of Strengthening Systems for North Carolina Children (SYNC), established a partnership with a community citizen group at Poplar Springs Baptist Church to collaboratively develop strategies for supporting local youth. The PaCEs group is comprised of representatives from SCOSAR, Surry Friends of Youth, and the Surry Health and Nutrition Center. PaCEs delivered two training sessions to members of Poplar Springs Baptist Church regarding the implementation of community youth engagement programs.

Furthermore, PaCEs provided organizational support for the church's community events, which included offering programmatic ideas, assisting with flyer design, and supplying necessary parental consent forms. Their inaugural event, "Flapjack Frenzy," successfully took place in May. Total Served = 15 youth, 12 adults



"Flapjack Frenzy" was a community event hosted by Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Elkin, NC with the intent of supporting youth. (May 2025)

“Gogh to Camp” Art Camp

“Gogh to Camp” Art Camp at The Children’s Center -July 2025 – SCOSAR, acting as PaCEs, and The Children’s Center partnered to have 28 youth (elementary, middle, and high school) spend (4) days, from 9 am to 1 pm doing art activities, media literacy, and connecting with their peers and community. Total served = 28 youth, 6 adult volunteers



SCOSAR and The Children’s Center partners for “Gogh to Camp” where students participated in multiple art activities. Here the students are displaying kindness rocks they painted and hid throughout the community. (July 2025)

Reeves Community Center – Summer Adventure Camp

SCOSAR and All-Stars Prevention Coalition partnered with Reeves Summer Adventure Camp to host “Alcohol Awareness Day.” During this event the campers learned about the increased dangers of alcohol use during the summer as well as wore the alcohol goggles while navigating an obstacle course. Total served = 38 youth, 7 adults.



Reeves Community Center Summer Adventure Campers participating in the obstacle course while wearing alcohol goggles with lenses that replicate different blood alcohol contents. (June 2025).

SCOSAR partnered with Reeves Community Center's Summer Adventure Camp and held a "Kindness Rocks Day." We traveled to Mount Airy Middle School and provided materials and art supplies so all camp kids could make kindness rocks and hide them along the Granite City Greenway in Mount Airy. Total served = 38 youth, 7 adults.



SCOSAR partnered with Reeves Summer Adventure Camp to have a Kindness Rocks Day, where the kids can connect with each other while painting rocks and coming up with kind messages to share with others (June 2025).

Seeds of Hope Camp – Community Partnerships Bolster Youth Support Initiatives

In a collaborative effort to support vulnerable youth, SCOSAR and the All-Stars Prevention Coalition partnered with The Shepherd's House, Heroes Helping Heroes, and the Mount Airy Museum to enhance the experience of the annual Seeds of Hope Camp. Held at Pilot Mountain Middle School in June 2025, this free, faith-based program serves foster, adopted, and at-risk children in grades K-8 by providing essential mentorship and enriching activities.

Contributing to the educational component, the Mount Airy Museum provided its mobile museum exhibit, offering campers an interactive opportunity to learn significant historical facts about Surry County. Furthermore, representatives from SCOSAR and All-Stars hosted an engagement table within the school to directly interact with the youth participants.

Total served = 103 youth



North Surry High School – National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week – 2025

North Surry High School participated in this national awareness campaign with 4 days of learning about substance use in partnership with the National Institute of Drug Abuse. North Surry High School was strategically and demographically pinned on a national map with their daily prevention activities noted. We had the highest number of different activities, 18, in the entire country for this program. Total served = 85 students.



National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week at North Surry High School – Polysubstance Use Day (March 2025).

Family Fun Day 2025

A wonderful Family Fun Day was held at the Dobson Town Park, offering an afternoon of community bonding and enjoyment. The event was made possible through the generous support and partnership between The Children's Center, SCOSAR, and the Mount Airy Rotary, whose members not only donated hot dogs and chips but also personally served the food, ensuring all attendees had a great time. The Children's Center donated fun outdoor games for families to play together. This successful day highlighted the strength of local partnerships and community spirit, bringing families together for a memorable experience. Total served = 50 individuals.



SCOSAR (PaCEs) and The Children's Center Family Fun Day (April 2025).



Mount Airy Rotary provided and served hot dogs for family members (April 2025).

Early Intervention Groups

Girl's Circle Early Intervention Programming – Continuous weekly meetings throughout 2025

Girl's Circle is an evidence-based structured support and skill-building group for youth ages 12-18 years, which integrates relational theory, resiliency practices, and skills building. The program is designed to increase positive connections, strengths, and competence in youth. The goals of the program are to increase resiliency, school attachment, educational expectations, confidence, and self-efficacy. We served (3) groups: "Fireflies" at East Surry High School, "The Leading Ladies" at Central Middle School, and "The Blossoming Beauties" at The Shepherd's House. Total served = 19 girls.



Central Middle School Girl's Circle Group "The Leading Ladies" completed the lesson "My Family, My Self" and headed to Pilot Mountain State Park for a celebration picnic. (May 2025)



"The Blossoming Beauties," which is a Girl's Circle group held weekly at The Shepherd's House, completed "All About Me" posters where they described positive things they liked about themselves (December 2025).

Mount Airy High School “The Claws” Prevention Club

This year, we successfully launched a student-led prevention club at Mount Airy High School, dedicated to advancing a healthier campus environment through peer-to-peer engagement. Our flagship initiative was a targeted alcohol awareness communication campaign designed specifically for the 2025 prom season, an era when high school students face increased social pressure. By deploying strategic messaging that emphasized positive decision-making and the long-term impact of alcohol on developing brains, the club empowered students to prioritize safety during major milestones. This campaign not only raised critical awareness about the dangers of underage drinking but also established a sustainable model for youth-led advocacy within the Mount Airy community. The students completed alcohol awareness campaign posters and displayed throughout the high school during prom week. Total served = 15 students. Total meetings = 7 each.



Mount Airy High School “The Paws” Prevention Club Alcohol Awareness Communication Campaign Posters during Prom Week (April 2025)

All-Stars Prevention Coalition

The All-Stars Prevention Coalition is a community-driven Drug Free Committees grant recipient originally founded in December 2020 with the mission of reducing youth substance use in Surry County by promoting awareness, enhancing understanding, and changing perceptions. In a vital partnership with SCOSAR, the coalition works to create a holistic, data-driven approach to primary prevention across the region. This collaboration integrates SCOSAR's technical expertise in recovery and intervention with the coalition's advocacy and educational outreach, such as the SAMHSA "Talk. They Hear You." campaign, to empower families and schools. Together, they strive to build a seamless "Continuum of Care" that protects future generations and promotes a healthier, more resilient Surry County community. The All-Stars has regular coalition meetings each month, community events and school training sessions.



All-Stars Prevention Coalition at the North Surry High School Career Day (November 2025).

Trinity Episcopal Church Youth Group

Trinity Youth group is a partnership in which SCOSAR works to support local youth in the Mount Airy area schools including Meadowview Magnet Middle School, Gentry Middle School, and North Surry High School. We meet at Trinity Episcopal on Tuesday's afterschool to have group and dinner. The church provides the lead facilitator and volunteers to help with preparing meals and transportation. The total number of youths is 15 to 20 girls and boys.



The Trinity Girls joined with the Fireflies Girl's Circle to build Valentine's Day Gingerbread Houses (February 2025).

Media Detective

SCOSAR Early Intervention program successfully implemented the evidence-based Media Detective curriculum for 60 fourth-grade students across three classes at J.J. Jones Intermediate School. This 10-lesson, activity-driven program, which uses a detective theme to engage students with the help of "Snoop and Scoop" mascots, is designed to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol and tobacco use by enhancing critical thinking skills.

Students actively learned to deconstruct complex media messages and advertisements by identifying five key "clues": the product, the target audience, the ad hook, the hidden message, and missing health information. The program culminated in students creating their own "counter-ads" to promote healthy choices, which helps them apply these skills to everyday life and become active, informed consumers of media rather than passive recipients of pro-substance messages.

This initiative is a core part of our strategy to provide early intervention education to students at multiple points during their school journey and equip them with the skills needed to make

healthy, informed decisions about substance use. Total served = 60 students' Total classes = 15 each.

"The Media Detective class has been an incredible addition to my fourth-grade classroom. From the very first lesson, my students were hooked. The program does such a great job of teaching children how advertisements are designed to influence them, especially how companies target kids in order to sell products. What I love most is that the lessons are interactive and thought-provoking, keeping every student actively engaged. They aren't just listening—they're questioning, analyzing, and discussing what they see in the media around them.

I've seen my students become more aware and critical consumers in a short amount of time. They now point out techniques advertisers use, and they are learning that they have the power to think for themselves rather than being persuaded by flashy images or catchy slogans. Their excitement for each session is contagious, and it's clear that the skills they are developing will serve them well beyond the classroom. Media Detective has truly opened their eyes to how media works and given them tools to make smarter, more informed choices."

*-Kayla Wilburn (September 2025)
Fourth Grade Teacher
JJ Jones Intermediate School*



Students display their work on our interactive "Counter Ad" wall, where they used critical thinking skills developed through the Media Detective program.

Red Ribbon Week October 2025

Red Ribbon Week is observed annually from October 23rd to 31st. Red Ribbon is based on scientific principles for substance use prevention. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy as well as federal departments of education, justice, and health and human services supports the following principles that have been tested through rigorous research method:

Evidence-Based Principles for Substance Use Prevention

1. Address appropriate risk and protective factors for substance use in a defined population.
2. Use approaches that have been shown to be effective:
 - a. Reduce the availability of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco for the under-aged through laws and policies
 - b. Strengthen anti-drug-use attitudes and norms through sharing information and engaging in activities.
 - c. Strengthen life skills and drug refusal techniques.
 - d. Reduce risk and enhance protection in families by setting rules and communicating.
 - e. Strengthen social bonding.
 - f. Ensure that interventions are appropriate for the populations being addressed.
3. Intervene early at important stages and transitions.
4. Manage programs effectively by ensuring consistency, training staff and volunteers, and monitoring and evaluating programs.

SCOSAR aims to touch every student in Surry County by:

1. Providing Red Ribbon materials and lessons to all elementary schools for the teachers to use for classes and provided to students
2. Providing Red Ribbon materials and in person presentations for all middle schools, partnering with different agencies such as DEA, law enforcement, EMS, and city, county, state, and federal leaders such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
3. Presenting to high school clubs and providing materials for the students to distribute throughout the week via peer-to-peer teaching models.

Total student reach: 9,482 students

Elementary Schools: 3,984 students

Middle Schools: 2,443 students

Actual in-person reach: 2,598 students.

High Schools: 3,055 students

Actual in-person training classes for Interact/SAVE Clubs = 99 students at East Surry High School, Surry Central High School, Mount Airy High School, North Surry High School and Surry Early College.



Students trying on DEA's bulletproof vest at Central Middle School during Red Ribbon Week (2025) – left. Meadowview Magnet Middle School students answering jeopardy questions about Red Ribbon Week – right.

Responsible Decision Making (Catch My Breath Substance Use Prevention)

During Red Ribbon Week, students in grades Pre-K through 5th at Elkin Elementary School participated in Responsible Decision-Making, a specialized course focused on medication safety. As an integral component of the evidence-based CATCH My Breath substance use prevention curriculum, these lessons empower students with essential life skills to navigate potential risks early on. Students explored the vital differences between helpful medications and harmful substances, learned to identify trusted adults for administering medicine, and practiced refusal skills to resist peer pressure. By fostering these healthy habits in the primary grades, we are equipping our youngest learners with the critical thinking and decision-making tools necessary for a safe and drug-free future. Total served = 472 students. Total classes = 25 ea.



Youth Prevention and Education: Resist the Influence Program 2025

The Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR), in partnership with the All-Stars Prevention Coalition, delivered the "Resist the Influence" program to high school students across the county. This comprehensive, four-day drug education initiative was integrated into 9th grade Health classes with the goal of raising awareness of the harmful effects of substance use and strengthening protective factors among youth.

Program Details and Reach

The program curriculum covered critical topics including Mental Health, Alcohol, Marijuana, and Polysubstance Use. The core objectives are to raise awareness of the harmful effects of substance use, reinforce positive coping skills, teach youth where to access credible information, and strengthen refusal skills.

Resist the Influence was successfully implemented at the following six high schools in Surry County: Mount Airy, Surry Central, North Surry, East Surry, Elkin, and Millennium Charter Academy.

Students who successfully completed the program received a certificate of completion and a "Safe Sober" T-shirt. They were also provided many resource sheets such as "Refusal Skills," "Kiki's Corner THC/Delta 8 Facts for Teens" – published by SCOSAR, and "I'm So Stressed Out" – A mental health resource for teens published by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Impact and Future Directions

Early intervention and prevention services are a key focus for SCOSAR, with 11,216 youth served through various programs in 2024. Research indicates that school-based interventions focused on both social competence and social influence approaches, which include information and skills training, have a positive impact on preventing substance use.

Total number of youth served = 697 students

Total number of classes taught = 128 individual classes

"Resist the Influence" is such an essential program for our youth. Not only does it show our students the dangers and statistics of drugs and drug overdose, but it starts at the root: mental health and coping skills. Our teens, more than any previous generations, are subject to so much information and disinformation online and on social media. With the sudden and exponential increase in teen: depression, anxiety, and suicide; "Resist the Influence" is not only identifying its correlation with drug use but also helping students understand how to get the help they need. This program addresses relevant and tough questions our students have surrounding these subjects. I have been very grateful to

Charlotte and her team this week for the work they've done for our students here at North Surry High School.

*-Mrs. Morgan Tate (March 2025)
Health and PE Teacher
North Surry High School*



SCOSAR Internship Program – Ongoing each school semester

The SCOSAR Internship Program offers a comprehensive, real-world experience designed to cultivate future community leaders from within Surry County. By actively participating, interns gain a profound understanding of the dynamics of a healthy community, while also identifying and addressing the systemic challenges that impede its development.

Key Program Outcomes

- **Community Engagement & Health:** Interns engage in vital community outreach initiatives, learning effective strategies to mitigate substance use disorder rates in Surry County and actively contributing to a healthier community. This hands-on experience broadens their perspective of local needs and the pathways to fulfilling them.
- **Understanding Addiction:** Participants acquire an in-depth understanding of how addiction impacts individuals, families, and the community at large.
- **Professional Development:** The program incorporates essential professional skill-building, including training in business etiquette and effective business communications, providing valuable experience for future careers.
- **Future Planning:** SCOSAR considers intern input essential for shaping youth-oriented programs, leveraging their unique perspectives for future success.

Program Structure & Benefits:

SCOSAR collaborates with all county school systems, inviting qualified students to apply and interview for the program. Interns work directly alongside Charlotte Reeves, completing diverse projects throughout the semester that culminate in a final PowerPoint presentation. The experience and skills gained are a valuable addition to their resumes, college applications, and future job applications. The average time of internship at SCOSAR office = 20 weeks. Total served = 5 ea. (3 – North Surry High School, 1 = Montreat College through Rural Health Initiative, 1 – East Carolina University Master’s Program in Social Work).

“The internship at Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR) has impacted not only my career, but my outlook in general with my community in Surry County. I have learned an immense amount of research, data collecting, and professional development along the way. Enhancing my knowledge in Early Intervention/Prevention has given me opportunities to provide an educational outlook to youth and adolescents such as media detective, resist the influence, responsible decision making, and girl’s circle. The endless number of trainings and group gatherings to further my comprehension and understanding have made an impact as well. From being an intern to now being a colleague with my SCOSAR family is like no other. This internship has

allowed me to blossom even more in my social work career and will allow others to do the same within their career pathway.”

-Shanta Wells

Intern at SCOSAR August – December 2025

East Carolina University Social Work Graduate Student



Emma Grey Dorsett, North Surry High School Internship Program, teaching “Responsible Decision Making” to Kindergarteners at Elkin Elementary during Red Ribbon Week (October 2025).



Narcan Training for Interns (December 2025).

Addiction Awareness Week Surry Central High School

During Surry Central High School's annual Addiction Awareness Week, the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR) program led a targeted alcohol awareness initiative aimed at educating students on the dangers of impaired decision-making.

The event utilized an engaging, interactive format within the school's media center.

Students were guided through a series of hands-on educational stations:

- Youth Alcohol Messaging Centers: Information booths provided students with critical data and resources regarding underage drinking and the associated risks.
- Impairment Simulation Course: Students participated in a dynamic obstacle course while wearing "alcohol goggles," which visually simulate the significant loss of coordination and depth perception caused by intoxication.
- Expert Engagement: SCOSAR staff were on hand throughout the event to discuss the long-term dangers of alcohol abuse, answer student questions, and offer information on available support systems.

SCOSAR's involvement successfully delivered vital, experience-based messaging, reinforcing our commitment to community education and substance abuse prevention among local youth.



Students tried to navigate the obstacle course, kick a soccer ball, and walk a straight line all while wearing the alcohol goggles with lenses that represent differing blood alcohol content levels (April 2025).

Prevention and Administrative Services Manager Gained Facilitator Certifications 2025

- HOPE Framework
- Mental Health First Aid

- Teen Mental Health First Aid
- Addiction Policy Forum Responding to Addiction
- Addiction Policy Forum encompass
- Crises Prevention Institute Nonviolent Crises Intervention
- Too Good for Drugs
- Media Detective (re-certification)
- Catch My Breath (re-certification)
- NC Certified Peer Support Re-Certification



Prevention and Administrative Services Manager teaching Mental Health First Aid to community members and agencies (2025).

Agency and Community Classes completed by SCOSAR

Mental Health First Aid:

Easter Seals, The Shepherd's House, and Goodwill Industries

HOPE Framework:

Surry County School Counselors

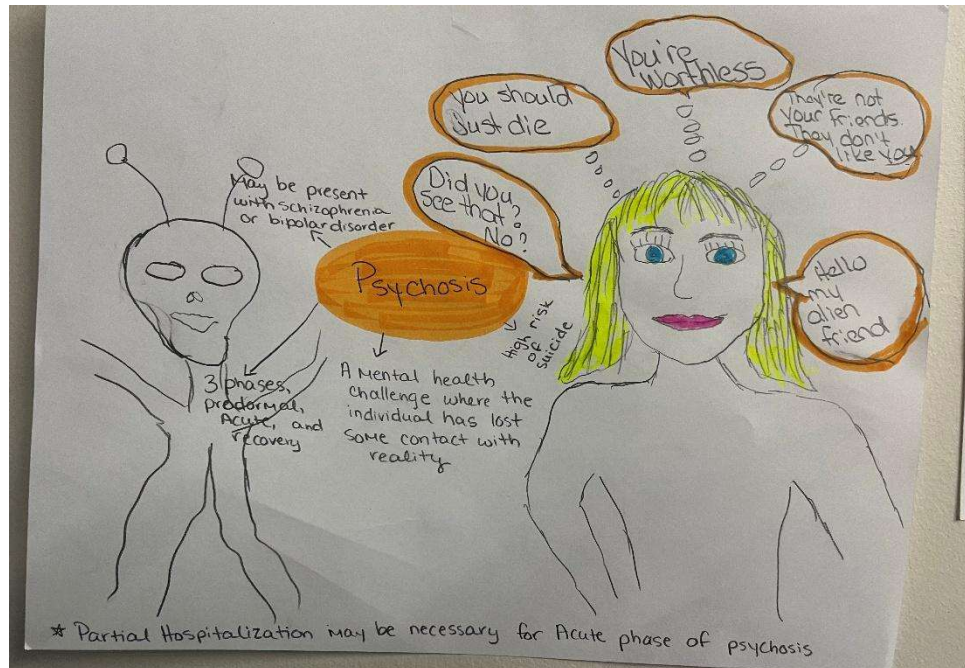
Addiction 101: Crises in Training (CIT) for law enforcement and first responders

The Children's Center Professional Development Day

NC Regional Tobacco Control Regional Community Meeting:

Open to all agencies and community members.

Northwest Regional Libraries Annual Meeting:
SCOSAR provided an update on Early Intervention.



Goodwill Industries Mental Health First Aid Class participated in activity where they had to artistically represent common mental health disorders (November 2025).

SCOSAR Professional Development Classes Completed by Staff

- Mental Health First Aid
- Addiction 101
- Crises Prevention Institute
- CCAR Recovery Coach
- Totally Responsible Person
- Supportive Supervision
- Community Resiliency Model (CRM)
- Key Messages and Mission Statement
- Motivational Interviewing
- Too Good for Drugs
- Addiction Policy Forum Stigma Awareness Campaign
- Peer Support Specialist Recertification Ethics
- Peer Support Specialist Recertification Boundaries

- Center for Forensic Science Trending Reports Quarterly Classes
- CADCA
- Catch My Breath Substance Use Prevention Class
- Teen Mental Health First Aid
- Addiction Policy Forum Responding to Addiction
- Addiction Policy Forum encompass
- Crises Prevention Institute Nonviolent Crises Intervention
- NC Regional Tobacco Control Office/Countertools
- HOPE Framework

SCOSAR Honorable Mention Prevention and Administrative Services Manager Selective State Efforts

North Carolina Trauma and Resiliency Design Group:

- Beginning in early 2023, a group of cross-sector system and community partners from NC Division of Child and Family Well-Being, HopeStar Foundation, and Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute convened for a series of exploratory co-design conversations focused on strengthening trauma-informed systems and community resiliency-building efforts across North Carolina.

SCOSAR is a member of Action Group 1:

- Focus of this action group is to identify plans to update a landscape assessment and document the full spectrum of prevention systems and trauma-informed, resiliency-building work (e.g. groups/coalitions/collaborating entities) that would benefit from and inform the evolving statewide infrastructure (the “infrastructure” is defined as the system needed to fully support the workforce and community partners in the work of creating trauma-informed, resilient communities). This group meets virtually for at least 2 hours every other month.

Strengthening Systems for North Carolina Children (SYNC):

Strengthening Systems for North Carolina Children (SYNC) is a systems thinking approach for cross-system, coordinated, long-term ACEs prevention work. Communities in North Carolina like Surry County that are disproportionately affected by ACEs receive guidance and technical assistance from subject matter experts in using systems thinking to identify ways to 1) strengthen systems that support ACEs-related protective factors and 2) disrupt systems that contribute to ACEs-related risk factors. This initiative is part of the SYNC grant in partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill and is ongoing.

Collaborative Learning Institute (CLI):

The Collaborative Learning Institute (CLI) is a training program for injury and violence prevention practitioners in North Carolina. The primary focus of this training is to demonstrate how a systems thinking approach can be utilized to strengthen collaborative partnerships and/or prevention initiatives through targeting shared risk and protective factors (SRPFs) for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Training activities focus on gaining a deeper understanding of SRPFs and systems thinking, learning how to utilize systems thinking tools to identify opportunities for strategic alignment, and hands on experience applying these tools to real world scenarios. This practice led to the Surry County PaCEs initiative. This initiative is part of the SYNC grant in partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill and is ongoing.



PaCEs Logo developed in partnership between SCOSAR, Surry Health and Nutrition, and Surry Friends of Youth (2024).

Council of Lived Experience (COLE):

The Council of Lived Experience (COLE) is a newly established advisory body housed within the Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR). Formed in September 2025, COLE elevates the voices of individuals with direct experience in recovery from substance use, behavioral health challenges, incarceration, and other significant life hardships. The council provides guidance, insight, and recommendations to SCOSAR leadership to enhance the relevance, accessibility, and effectiveness of local recovery and justice support services. The group meets monthly.

Community Interviews, Strategic Plan 2030:

The Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR) conducted a series of confidential community interviews as a foundational component of the **Surry Strategic Framework 2030**. These interviews, held both in person and online through December 2025, aimed to gather diverse perspectives on addiction knowledge, community perceptions, and the local impact of substance use. By synthesizing these qualitative insights with data from broad community surveys, SCOSAR is identifying critical service gaps to inform evidence-based strategies and advocate for essential resources. This assessment phase ensures that the 2030 strategic plan is rooted in a shared community vision, prioritizing integrated, data-informed care to curb the addiction crisis across Surry County. Total number served = 96 community members.