



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2025

Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR) Seeks Residents for New Director's Council of Lived Experience (COLE)

SURRY COUNTY, NC – The Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery (SCOSAR) is forming a new advisory group called the Director's Council of Lived Experience (COLE) and is seeking 6-10 Surry County residents to join. The purpose of COLE is to ensure that the experiences and insights of people who have navigated recovery, reentry, or other life challenges help guide future work in our communities. The council will serve in an advisory role to the SCOSAR Director and other community agencies, providing recommendations to make local services more effective, relevant, and accessible.

COLE is looking for individuals who have personal experience with recovery from substance use, behavioral health, incarceration, or similar challenges. Members should be willing to share their ideas respectfully, collaborate with others, and work to make a difference in the community.

As a member of COLE, participants will be expected to attend monthly meetings, share their experiences, and help inform programs and policies. The first meeting is scheduled for early September 2025 at the SCOSAR office in Dobson, NC. Members will receive specialized education and training, and support services such as transportation help will be available. Refreshments will also be provided at meetings. This is an unpaid advisory opportunity.

Interested residents can learn more and apply by filling out an interest form online at <https://www.surrycountycare.com/post/scosar-director-s-council-of-lived-experience-cole> or by scanning the below QR code.

For questions, contact C. Jamie Edwards, Director of the Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery, at 336-374-9134 or edwardsj@co.surry.nc.us.

