



The SCORE Report

Surry County Opioid Response Effort

“Thinking is difficult, that is why most people judge”
Carl Jung

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“Surry, The Road to Recovery”

Episode 2 of the four episode series, “Surry, The Road to Recovery”, was released in November. This episode explains treatment and provides recommendations from local professionals on how to access treatment in Surry County. Access Episode 2 through the following links:

<https://vimeopro.com/nctta/surry-the-road-to-recovery>

Opioid Response website: www.surrycountycares.com

Opioid Response Facebook page: www.facebook.com/surrycountycares

Please use the videos for instruction and group discussion. An “Instructor’s Guide” is available at www.surrycountycares.com.

RECOVERY COACH GROUP

Training for membership in the exclusive Recovery Coach Group was offered in the October 2020 SCORE Report. Eleven dedicated members of the community volunteered to participate in the week long training in December to earn the state certification. The special members of the Recovery Coach Group of Surry County will support recovery by removing barriers to recovery and serve as a personal guide to and coach for people interested or already in recovery.

SURRY COUNTY HIRING FOR TRANSPORTATION UNIT

Surry County was awarded a federal grant in November that will fund a Transportation Unit dedicated to connecting County residents, who are without personal transportation, to scheduled appointments at behavioral health and medical treatment providers. The Transportation Unit will be comprised of a transportation coordinator, three drivers and four vehicles. A Volunteer Transportation Group will provide additional support. The drivers are part-time positions at 20 hours per week. The transportation coordinator is a full time position, which provides health care and retirement benefits. Surry County hopes to have the Transportation Unit and the Volunteer Transportation Group operating by January 2021. If you are interested in being part of this new and innovative unit, as a driver or the transportation coordinator, information is found at surrycountycares.com, or contact the Substance Abuse Recovery Director at willism@surry.co.nc.us or 336-401-8218.

VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION GROUP

The federal grant noted above also provides funding to create and support a Volunteer Transportation Group. Participants in the Volunteer Transportation Group will be organized by the transportation coordinator and connect County residents, who are without personal transportation, to scheduled appointments at behavioral health and medical treatment providers. (Treatment providers in Surry County note that 25% of clients in treatment programs miss appointments due to lack of transportation.) Grant funding will reimburse volunteer drivers at the rate 24 cents per mile. (A vehicle with a 20 gallon gas tank, at 25 miles per gallon, is reimbursed at \$120 per tank of gas.)

SURRY COUNTY INTERVENTION TEAM

The Intervention Team is a Surry County asset that connects individuals affected with Substance Use Disorder to treatment and the resources needed to build a path towards recovery. Team members provide ongoing support up to and including completion of treatment. **Anyone can call at anytime - 336-899-1585**

Connection to treatment / Reduce future addiction related crisis events / Overdose prevention education
Narcan distribution / Access to Peer Support Specialists / Resource to care information / No cost service

Charlotte's SCORE Letter of the Month

Substance Abuse Prevention

Question: What are some substance abuse prevention programs? Are they effective, and if so, why is our County not doing more of this to combat our substance abuse problems?

-Coby E.

Many different programs certainly qualify as prevention programs, such as “in-person” counseling or tele-counseling, attending or participating in on-line support group meetings, attending meditation classes, or just supporting someone you care about by helping them to choose healthy behaviors.

In response to your question of “if prevention programs are effective, why do we not have more of them in our County?”, we’ve been making a small effort in Surry County for the last several years. The Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, at the Health & Nutrition Center, provides presentations in County schools. The Sheriff’s Office’s School Resource Officers (SRO’s) are trained in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program, which is mandatory for all fifth-grade students. DARE is a great program, but research has shown that by the time our youth advance to seventh grade, they do not remember very much about what they learned in the fifth grade DARE Program and new societal influences greatly effects their decision-making abilities. Insight Human Services, a non-profit organization, also provides some drug education programs in the schools. Insight Human Services also affects community outreach by hosting the annual Hopefest event. The biggest drawbacks to prevention programs are that they cost money, they compete with other educational programs and their effectiveness is difficult to quantify. Other problems are: a lack of effective and focused efforts by the multiple entities that provide the programs; no specific national guidance on what is effective; prevention has not been a priority in the U.S. and North Carolina; and lastly drug abuse and addiction are both difficult for anyone to accept as possibly affecting themselves or a family member.

Surry County recently created the position of the *Community Outreach Coordinator*, which works in the office of Substance Abuse Recovery. This position is responsible for increasing our County’s prevention efforts by assisting and collaborating with our existing resources. This position is also responsible for finding or creating new resources where they are lacking. Providing education to expectant mothers, parents, service organizations, professionals, youth groups and other specialized groups will be necessary to change the way our community perceives substance use and those who suffer from Substance Use Disorder. Most importantly though, the desire to be involved in change are the most important elements of a successful prevention effort. Nothing changes until something changes. I know through my own experiences that no one is immune to the risks of substance abuse. Please help us by providing us your comments at our Facebook page www.facebook.com/surrycountycare, or to our emails at reevesc@surry.co.nc.us or willism@surry.co.nc.us .

Thanks Coby!

Written by: **Charlotte Reeves, M.A.**, Surry County Substance Abuse Community Outreach Coordinator