



County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse

Follow-up Report

County and Location of Forum: Halifax County at the Ervin V. Griffin Sr. Centre – Halifax Community College

Date and Length of Forum: October 11, 2017 2-5p.m.

Number of Attendees: 15 elected officials (45-50 including public)

Name of Person Preparing Follow-up Report: Ian M. Bumgarner

Key Ideas and Next Steps: Awareness and Education, Access to Services, Creation of an Overuse/Addiction Task Force, and more community forums. The next steps are to continue to build upon the event's theme of collaboration and education on the opioid epidemic.

IDEA #1: New Hannover County Model

What specific tool do you want to implement in our county?

The New Hannover County model is one tool in which there is a team of professionals that meet with an individual after the over-dosed patient and is discharged. This group would go out and talk with the patient to evaluate them and see if they would consider seeking treatment. This team would provide information and pamphlets describing the services available to the patient.

- Who are the key partners you need to help champion this idea?

Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Agencies, Hospitals, and Cardinal Innovations.

- What assets do you have that could help you implement this idea?

Professionally trained and willing county departments hoping to make a difference and information in a pamphlet form.

- What are the hidden obstacles to implementing this idea?

The patients themselves, the ability to track down the patient once released, getting services within the county, transportation, and money. Real time availability of mental health professionals.

IDEA #2: Youth Education (Babe Ruth Baseball/School Systems)

- What specific tool do you want to implement in our county?

Yearly Prevention Education- Information spread to the kids in the County through sporting events and the classroom.



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- Who are the key partners you need to help champion this idea?

Babe Ruth Baseball and other youth sports leagues. Need commitment from the parents, community and school leaders, and coaches.

- What assets do you have that could help you implement this idea?

Partners within the faith-based community, law enforcement, shop owners (sponsors), and local health providers.

- What are the hidden obstacles to implementing this idea?

Transportation to the events, money, and information may not necessarily be geared towards youth.

IDEA #3: Access to Care

- What specific tool do you want to implement in our county?

Transportation Assistance, increasing recovery homes, and more foster homes.

- Who are the key partners you need to help champion this idea?

Halifax DSS and Health Department, Cardinal Innovations, health providers, the hospitals.

- What assets do you have that could help you implement this idea?

Willing parties to collaborate and set things in motion.

- What are the hidden obstacles to implementing this idea?

Funding, large county area with limited access to transportation, available transportation is way too costly, lack of services within county.