

County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse

Follow-up Report

County and Location of Forum: Columbus County, NC – Southeastern Community College Auditorium

Date and Length of Forum: November 8, 2017 – 3-6 p.m. (agenda attached)

Number of Attendees: 105 (sign-in attached)

Name of Person Preparing Follow-up Report: Daniel Buck, Health Education, Columbus County Health Department

Key Ideas and Next Steps:

Attendees split into 3 groups to have discussion and brainstorming on 3 topics

Topic #1 (Group One Discussion): Opioid Awareness, Education, and Prevention for the community – Best methods?

- More 1-to-1 education about available drop boxes
- More advertising and additional forums
- Public Awareness (Trainings)
- Training speakers in regard to Opioid issue
- Health classes
- Testimonies in high schools and middle schools
- After school activities
- Faith-based programs/meeting/resources
- Red ribbon week type curriculum
- Increased Opportunity for addicts
- Volunteering

Topic #2 (Group 2 Discussion): Gaps in Resources – How do we fill the gaps?

- Lack of Awareness of current resources (not consistently using)
- Addressing mental health issue in county – integration
- Stigma in provider community with MAT
- Systems are uncomfortable
- Public Education on signs/symptoms

- Lack of treatment facilities for certain population groups (elderly, women, pregnant)
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of Coverage
- Resources for uninsured
- Gaps for families affected
- Resource Awareness for caregivers

Topic #3 (Group 3 Discussion): Data/Information Gathering and Tracking – most important data to track in Columbus County?

- Number of deaths (opioids)
- Number of Prescriptions (Opioids)
- Emergency room and EMS opioid data
- Mobile Crisis Response Time
- Demographics (Who is being affected by Opioids?)