

Follow-up Report

County and Location of Forum: Rutherford County, NC, The Foundation for Performing Arts ICC Campus

Date and Length of Forum (Please attach agenda): October 17, 2018 and the length was 3 hours.

Number of Attendees (Please attach list of participants): (See attached)

Name of Person Preparing Follow-up Report: Steve Garrison, County Manager

Key Ideas and Next Steps:

IDEA #1: Advocate for new federal and state legislation, funding and programming to help treat or prevent substance abuse

- What specific tools do you want to implement in our county?
 - Block grant funding for NARCAN
 - Grants for treatment alternatives to incarceration
 - Increased funding for services earmarked for veterans and females struggling with addiction
 - Evidence-based opioid treatment and intervention programs to expand best practices

- Who are the key partners you need to help champion this idea?
 - Health system partners (i.e., Rutherford Regional Hospital, Regional Health Department, Blue Ridge Health, Vaya Health, Community Care of NC, Family Preservation, others)
 - Community Health Council
 - Local government bodies (e.g., County, IPDC (Isothermal Planning Development Commission), towns)
 - North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC)
 - United Way of Rutherford County

- What assets do you have that could help you implement this idea?
 - Multiple health providers (e.g., hospital, Health Department, Blue Ridge, Vaya, etc.)
 - County (e.g., Sheriff's Office, EMS, Veterans Services, etc.)
 - Community Health Council
 - State and federal legislators
 - NCACC
 - Grant writers (IPDC, United Way and Community Health Council)

- What are the hidden obstacles to implementing this idea?

- We need a designated grant writer to work with the County and/or others to apply for grant funding
- Gaining support of federal and state legislators to support related legislation and funding

Name of lead person for idea: Rutherford County Opioid and Substance Addiction Ad Hoc Committee

Timeline to implement idea: Not defined. Ongoing.

IDEA #2: Expand education and information initiatives

- What specific tools do you want to implement in our county?
 - Create a marketing and media program to do the following:
 - Educate/Inform Communities:
 - Medicalize addiction – talk in terms of disease, not addicts
 - Educate the public of the impact of meds provided by their health care providers
 - Reverse the public stigma and the lack of public empathy for substance addiction
 - Create a road map of services available in the county and region and how to access them for substance addiction treatment
 - Educate families on how to prevent enabling individuals with substance addictions
 - Humanize the “faces of survivors”
 - Share stories from peer supporters and agencies treating substance addictions
 - Request that the Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) continue to meet with local primary care physicians
 - Provide them with information local information to make clinical review and assessment referrals
 - Share fact based information and data re: the impact of prescribed opioids
 - Advocate for medication assisted treatment in primary care
 - Gain a better understanding of barriers physicians face to prescribe detox protocols, make referrals to agencies that can help and to prescribe other medications effective in treatment of opioid addiction
 - Enhance access and utilization of United Way 2-1-1 referral services
- Who are the key partners you need to help champion this idea?
 - Health system partners
 - Community Health Council
 - Local government bodies
 - Faith based community
 - Media outlets
 - CCNC
 - Vaya Health
 - School System

- What assets do you have that could help you implement this idea?
 - See above re: key partners
- What are the hidden obstacles to implementing this idea?
 - Funding
 - Access to physicians
 - Lead agency to manage an education and information initiative

Name of lead person for idea: Rutherford County Opioid and Substance Addiction Ad Hoc Committee

Timeline to implement idea: Not defined. Ongoing.

IDEA #3: Increase support services available in the county

- What specific tool do you want to implement in our county?
 - Establish a cost effective, local detox and residential care facility and program – rehabilitation services
 - Develop a “re-entry” program for those who have legal barriers stemming from substance addiction
 - Work with individuals with substance addiction to remove barriers to employment (i.e., treatment, housing, job skill training, driver’s license, transportation, education, etc.)
 - Work with employers to place individuals recovering from substance addiction into jobs
- Who are the key partners you need to help champion this idea?
 - Pisgah Legal Services
 - Workforce Development/IPDC
 - NC Works
 - Health system partners
 - Isothermal Community College
 - Economic Development Association
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Federal and state legislators
 - Vaya Health
- What assets do you have that could help you implement this idea?
 - See above re: key partners
- What are the hidden obstacles to implementing this idea?
 - Capital funds to construct a community based treatment and/or residential care facility
 - Operational funds to manage a treatment and/or residential care facility
 - A lead organization to manage a treatment and/or residential care facility

- Funding needed to expand workforce enhanced programming centered around treatment, skill development and job placement

Name of lead person for idea: Rutherford County Opioid and Substance Addiction Ad Hoc Committee

Timeline to implement idea: Not defined. Ongoing.

IDEA #4: Hold opioid manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies and physicians accountable for opioid addiction epidemic

- What specific tool do you want to implement in our county?
 - Stricter regulations to require medical practices to prescribe detox protocols and to expand the checks & balances in place for pharmacies and health providers to limit availability
 - State and/or County work with legal firm to file a civil action complaint against opioid manufacturers and/or distributors
- Who are the key partners you need to help champion this idea?
 - State, federal and local elected officials
 - Attorney General's Office
 - NCACC
- What assets do you have that could help you implement this idea?
 - See key partners above.
- What are the hidden obstacles to implementing this idea?
 - Legislative support for bills
 - No plan "B" if attempt to litigate manufacturers and/or distributors fails

Name of lead person for idea: Rutherford County Opioid and Substance Addiction Ad Hoc Committee

Timeline to implement idea: Not defined. Ongoing.