


Randolph County Opioid-Drug Community Collaborative
Faith in Harm Reduction
May 22, 2023

AGENDA

1. Welcome, **Chairman Darrell Frye**
2. Randolph County Opioid-Drug Community Collaborative Overview, **Jennifer Layton**
3. *We All Have a Role to Play*, **Michelle Mathis**
4. Harm Reduction Explained, **Elizabeth Brewington**
5. Intersection of Faith & Harm Reduction, **Pastor Allen Murray**
6. Rural Harm Reduction Programs, **Robi Cagle**
7. Questions + Group Discussion



Randolph County Opioid-Drug Community Collaborative

- 2016 – Randolph County BOCC allocated funds to support development of Collaborative
- 2017 – Convened community partners & launched coalition
- 2017 – 2019 Implemented initial action plan

Key Accomplishments:

- Held informational community events to raise awareness & reduce stigma on substance use disorders
- Made materials available at the local library highlighting opioid use disorder, prevention, & treatment
- Implemented various overdose prevention campaigns utilizing multiple channels such as billboards & social media (Lock Your Meds)
- Established medication take back events & sites
- Increased access to naloxone, a life-saving opioid overdose-reversal first aid medication
- Secured grants to enable uninsured patients to receive behavioral health services
- Expanded access to substance use disorder treatment services & medications for addiction treatment via our local managed care organization, Sandhills Center
- Launched a syringe service program
- Offered Crisis Intervention Team training to local law enforcement
- Piloted post-overdose response team



Core Values of Harm Reduction

*"The opposite of
addiction
is not sobriety.*

The opposite of addiction

*is human
connection"*

- Johann Hari



Core Values of Harm Reduction

"The opposite of addiction is not sobriety."

The opposite of addiction

is human connection"

-Jahann Nari

PATHWAYS
TO
RECOVERY

COMPASSION

- Meeting people where they are
- Minimize risk with substance use

KINDNESS

- Including the voices of people who use drugs / people with substance use disorder

LOVE

- Self-directed care
- Dignity & respect

Randolph County
Serving with Care from the
Heart of North Carolina



North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

NC Data, Trends

- **11** North Carolinians died each day from drug overdose (2021), 8 of which were due to opioids
- **More than 32,000** North Carolinians lost their lives to drug overdose (2000-2021)
- Many more people, families, and communities impacted



NC Department of Health and Human Services

**N.C. Overdose Data:
Trends and Surveillance**

Division of Public Health
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch



North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

What Is Harm Reduction?

- harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.
- **Harm Reduction** is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.

National Harm Reduction Coalition





North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

Principles of Harm Reduction (Abbreviated)

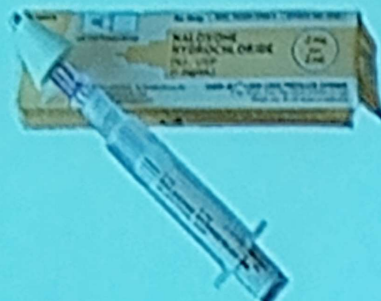
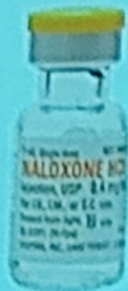
- Drugs happen
- It's complicated...
- Quality of life matters
- No judgement
- Nothing about us without us
- Power to the people
- Inequality is a reality
- Drugs hurt



North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

Naloxone Distribution

- Naloxone restores breathing
- Make this first aid medication widely available
 - Syringe service programs, jails, health departments, hospitals, community gathering places, stock pharmacies

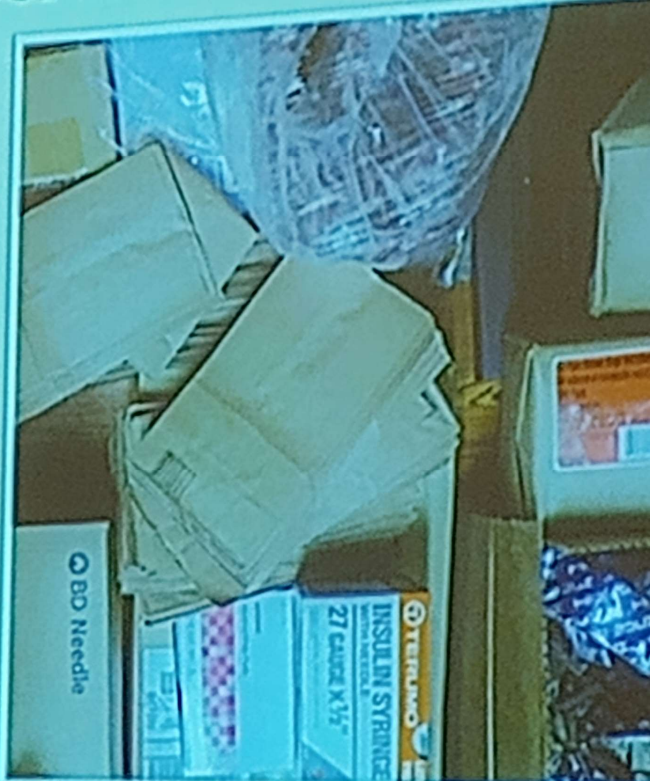




North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

Syringe Services Programs

- Legalized In NC July 11, 2016
 - Any governmental or nongovernmental organization "that promotes scientifically proven ways of mitigating health risks associated with drug use and other high risk behaviors" can start a SSP
- Evidence-based (5-7x more likely to connect to treatment)
- Cost effective
 - \$0.10 unused syringe vs. \$100,000 for HCV treatment/person





North Carolina Association
of County Commissioners

SSPs are critical touch points within communities

Core Services

Educational
Materials

Syringe &
Supply Access

Secure
Disposal

Naloxone Kits and
Referrals

Referrals to Mental Health and
Substance Use Treatment (as needed)

Additional Support

Safer Use
Education

Support Groups
and Advocacy

Referrals to Medical
and Social Services

Overdose Prevention
Education

Legal
Services

Post-Overdose
Response

Wound
Care

MOUD
Access

Case
Management

Hepatitis C
Treatment

Food

HCV and HIV Testing
and Linkage to Care

PrEP

Training and Professional
Development

Expanded
Sexual Health