

For Immediate Release

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Hyde County Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts Underway

The opioid epidemic affects everyone in our county, state and nation without regard to economic status, age, race or gender. In 2016 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the number of drug overdose deaths in North Carolina increased by over 14% in the one-year period between 2014 and 2015.

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners is taking a leadership role in addressing the fundamental causes of this problem and to initiate local steps to intervene in these trends.

A group of county staff including the Managers Office, Emergency Services, the Department of Social Services, the Health Department, Cooperative Extension and the Sheriff's Office have met and identified key stakeholders.

Goals:

- 1) To create and implement a comprehensive education/prevention program;
- 2) To identify treatment options, identify barriers to treatment, work towards creation of more treatment resources and methods to open treatment to those in need;
- 3) Support the Hyde County Sheriff's Office in getting drug dealers off of our streets.

Hyde County held a Leadership Forum on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 10 a.m. in the Hyde County Government Center Multipurpose Room and in the Ocracoke Community Center via telecommunications equipment and engaged local elected leaders, substance abuse agencies, staff and other stakeholders in an informed discussion about the opioid epidemic in an effort to develop collaborative strategies that enhance prevention, education, and treatment.

The next step is to have community meetings in all 5 townships of Hyde County to educate citizens on the signs and symptoms of opioid abuse, to share information on current treatment resources available and to gather input from our citizens in regard to this fight. This public input will be combined with the information already gathered to move forward in planning and implementing a program. In addition, Hyde County will create a web page that contains all of these resources where citizens will be able to sign up for email updates on the progress of the group.

In summary and simply put, Hyde County's goals will be to educate and prevent people from becoming addicted, to supply treatment resources to help people to recover from addiction and to stop illegal drug activity. We truly need the input and support of our residents to ensure these efforts are a success.

To subscribe to receive updates and all other county information please email dshumate@hydecourtnc.gov and ask to be put on the Hyde Happenings distribution list. Also, information will be posted on the Hyde County Public Information Facebook page.

Substance Abuse Community Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 20

Engelhard Volunteer Fire Department
27824 US Hwy 264, Engelhard, NC 27824

Monday, September 25

Hyde County Government Center
30 Oyster Creek Rd, Swan Quarter, NC 27885

Thursday, October 5

Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department
6880 US Hwy 94, Fairfield, NC 27826

Tuesday, October 10

Ponzer Community Building
39111 US Hwy 264, Belhaven, NC 27810

Thursday, October 19

Ocracoke Community Center
999 Irvin Garrish Hwy, Ocracoke, NC 27960

****All meetings will begin at 6:00PM****



Hyde County Drug Abuse Community Forum

Tentative Agenda

6:00PM - 8:00PM

<u>What?</u>	<u>How?</u>	<u>Who?</u>	<u>When?</u>
Start-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Welcome ~ Introductions 	Luana Gibbs	6:00
County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Purpose of Taskforce/Overall Goals ~ Review of Project Strategies ~ Funding Options 	Kris Noble	6:10
The Epidemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Overview of Drug Problem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local/State Statistics - Types of Drugs, Signs/Symptoms of Abuse - Seek Questions 	Kevin Sawyer/ Joshua Hopkins	6:40
Existing Local/Regional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Naloxone ~ Rx Drop Boxes ~ Mobile Crisis 	Anna Schafer/ Regional Partners	7:00
Getting Involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ How can you help? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Involvement - Taskforce Participation - Point Person for township, church, etc. 	Kris Noble	7:10
Community Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Group Discussion 	Kris Noble	7:20
Wrap-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Closing ~ Next Steps 	Luana Gibbs	7:55
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