

The Solution



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Executive Committee:

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Vice Chairperson

Kerry Burch

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Zorana Roldan Romo

Immediate Past Chair

Dr. Paul Friday

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Janice Williams

Fiscal Sponsor:

Substance Abuse
Prevention Services

Executive Director:

Jane Goble-Clark

CMDFC Coordinator:

Andie Anselmi

Message From The Chair

I HATE final anything, especially columns. And, for those who know me well, I am never at a loss for words; but I am now. I am at the end of my tenth year in a leadership capacity in the Coalition (four as Chair and six as Vice Chair). As a founding member I have seen the Coalition grow from a handful of concerned professionals and citizens into a major and viable voice in the community *against* drug and alcohol abuse and *for* prevention and treatment. We are now our own non-profit 501(c)3 entity!

We have been fortunate (through hard work) to have received a five year, \$100,000 per year Office of National Drug Policy (ONDCP) Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant for Community Coalitions. This is our final year of that grant. With the ONDCP DFC grant, we managed to continue to provide salary for Andie Anselmi, without whom we would flounder. Using other grants such as the North Carolina Coalition Initiative (NCCI) and Prevent Underage Drinking (PUD) grants and some ONDCP funds we were able to add Melanie Wilkinson, Shelly Freedman and Alice McGinley whose dedication and commitment have provided incentive and enthusiasm to our efforts.

The value of our coalition is its diversity. We represent all segments of the community: mental health and substance abuse professionals from the major community agencies, public health, schools, law enforcement, the faith community, Criminal Justice System employees, academe, and concerned, dedicated citizens as well as the National Guard. Together we have developed focused campaigns against underage drinking and illicit drugs. The Parent Centered Prevention committee has hosted local, neighborhood Town Hall meetings for parents and youth and our youth group, Students Preventing and Informing on Drugs and Alcohol (SPIDA) has expanded. Good job!

We have accomplished much but there is more to be done. While our alcohol purchase data show a significant decrease in the number of establishments selling alcohol without asking for identification, one out of four still do. While we have seen a decrease in binge drinking through Center for Prevention Services (CPS) Youth Drug Survey, there has been a significant increase in alcohol consumption and marijuana use in the high schools. In April, 2011, our Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) data in Cook County show that **75% of all persons under 25 years of age**, who are arrested in Mecklenburg County on any charge, **test positive for some drug in their system (excluding alcohol)**! The largest percentage are using marijuana. There has been a spike in the percentage testing positive for opiates, and we know from police data that Charlotte is a hot-bed for the distribution of Black-Tar Heroin that takes the life of one teenager nearly every month. These data are only the tip of the iceberg of substance related problems. We should never forget the number of troubled families impacted by unrecognized (denied) substance abuse angst and conflict.

We have left-over challenges and we will face even more challenges since our Community Survey data and One-on-One data show that nearly 30% of citizens support drinking under the age of 21 and 46% of high school youth see no or only slight risk in drinking alcohol and 40% see no or only slight risk in occasional marijuana use.

We have come a long way as an organization; we have been recognized for our work by the Mayor, the City and the County Commissions, and the media. We must now continue to grow and evolve and I am very confident that our new Executive Committee led by Tony Beatty will do that. And so I end my final column with this: I value the opportunity to have served the Coalition these past few years but I'm not going far. I will continue to serve the Coalition on the EC as Immediate Past-Chair and I will continue to work hard for our good cause.

Paul Friday, Ph. D.

Chairperson

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Join the Solution...

Meet The Executive Committee



Tony Beatty

I have worked in the substance abuse treatment field for over 29 years, all of that time with Mecklenburg County. My current job is as Program Administrator for the Substance Abuse Services Division with the Mecklenburg County Provided Services Organization. We provide social setting detoxification, residential services, outpatient treatment in the men's and women's homeless shelters and at Jail Central. We also do screenings at Department of Social Services Drug Treatment Court.

What I would like to see happen with the Coalition during the next two years is for it to become an organization that truly represents all facets of the local community and matches the diversity of the community. We need more representatives from the business area and from the treatment area.

I am the Healthy Carolinians Coordinator at the Mecklenburg County Health Department. In this role, I work on assessing community health status and needs and collaborate with other community agencies to develop action plans to address these needs. I first started attending the Charlotte Mecklenburg Drug Free Coalition meetings in 2006 because I was interested in how the coalition was created and how it functioned to address substance (an issue identified in our community health assessment). I was immediately impressed with the passion and dedication to prevention and treatment that the other members brought to the coalition and they easily inspired me to join the cause. As Vice Chair, I look forward to helping the coalition sponsor innovative educational programs throughout the community and bringing new members and partners to join our mission. I also hope to have our quarterly newsletter translated into 7 different languages (hehehe).



Kerry Burch

I am the Prevention Supervisor for Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center and have worked at Anuvia for the past 12 years. I currently have my CSAPC (Certified Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant) and CSAC (Certified Substance Abuse and Consultant) certifications and enjoy the substance abuse field.

Substance Abuse Prevention is continuing to evolve as a field and so is Anuvia. When I began in the field the prevention department had three employees including myself and we now have 17 employees when we are fully staffed. When I came to Anuvia, I was charged with serving the Latino population and was an advocate for Spanish materials, since at the time there were no materials available. We have come along way from internal translation of materials to evidence based curriculums available in Spanish. It is extremely rewarding when a young person or family shares with you the progress they have made toward a healthier lifestyle and demonstrate gratitude to the contribution you have made in their lives.

I hope to bring some of the skill I have acquired while pursuing my MBA to the treasurer position. I hope to assist the coalition in expanding its current revenue streams and ensuring integrity with the usage of funds the coalition currently possesses. I would like the coalition to continue with advocating for substance abuse prevention and targeting areas in the county with the most needs according to data.



Zorana Roldan Romo

Janice Williams MSed - Has served as the Director of the Carolinas Center for Injury Prevention for almost 10 years working to reduce the burden of injury in the community through research, data and resource sharing, and program development. Primary work related to substance abuse includes DWI/DUI programs, underage drinking prevention, Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in healthcare, and substance abuse prevention and awareness as it relates to other child and adult safety programs in the prevention of pedestrian injuries, child maltreatment, and falls prevention. I would like to see the Coalition address adding non-traditional partners to the effort, addressing more affordable treatment options, and looking at key messages that might move the prevention and awareness efforts forward.



Janice Williams

I am responsible for coordinating the BASICS alcohol and drug prevention and education program through the Wellness Promotion Department at UNC Charlotte. Our program intervenes with UNC Charlotte students who violate the university's alcohol and drug policies. We use education and motivational interviewing to encourage students to make safer choices for themselves and to take a more active role in addressing substance use issues with their peers. I was initially elected to fill an At-Large seat on the Executive Committee; however, I have been asked to serve as the Chair of the Public Policy Committee instead and I was happy to accept. I am excited to be serving on the Executive Committee in this capacity and I look forward to building the Policy Committee and moving the committee toward a more active role in advocacy in our community.



Angela Allen

Operation Warn and Reduce

By: Janice Williams



Prescription drugs, particularly pain medications, play a large role in increasing trends of unintentional poisonings and substance abuse addiction for adults and young adults alike. Nationally, among people 35 to 54 years old, unintentional poisoning caused more deaths than motor vehicle crashes (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and nearly nine million 12-17 year olds report that they can get prescription drugs illegally in a day and 5 million report that they can get them within one hour (National Center on Addiction and Drug Use, Columbia University). Many local programs are working to chip away at this rising trend. Recently, a new program was added to that effort with the award of a grant from the American Medical Association and with funds from Perdue Pharma to the Drug Free Coalition. The new program, Operation Warn and Reduce will be led by Janice Williams of the Carolinas Center for Injury Prevention. The funding for this program will be received by Center for Prevention Services (formerly Substance Abuse Prevention Services). The project will include an education component in CMC RX pharmacies. That project will include a warning label, brochure, and pharmacist counseling intervention for all adults who have a legitimate prescription filled for an at-risk medications for an adult or for a child. The final messaging for this project is still being developed and will be made available to the Coalition's Parent Centered Prevention committee for use at Town Hall meetings. Anyone wishing to provide feedback on the program can contact Janice Williams by email at Janice.Williams@carolinashealthcare.org



Collegiate Recovery Community at UNC Charlotte

By: Debbie Insley and Angela Allen

It's not easy being a college student. After years of living at home, students must suddenly deal with demanding professors, new roommates and the freedom of life without parents! Those recovering from addictions face another challenge when they go to college. The recovering student wants to keep his or her addiction private, which is hard to do considering all the temptations. When a new friend suggests going out to party, the recovering student gets tired of explaining his or her story. They may lose a possible friend. Even older students in recovery face a daily struggle connecting socially on a college campus.

Back in February of this year, a meeting with Debbie Insley (Director of Wellness Promotion), Dave Spano, and Carol Rose alumni of UNC Charlotte occurred looking into the possibility of establishing a Collegiate Recovery Community. In April, Debbie Insley attended the 2nd Annual Collegiate Recovery Conference at Texas Tech and the ball started rolling!

The Wellness Promotion Department at UNC Charlotte is working to establish a Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC) for students, faculty and staff. This CRC is based on a model developed by Texas Tech University. We already have several students who are in recovery and excited to help out with this new initiative. We are now offering 12-Step meetings on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:00pm and Friday afternoon from 12:30-1:30pm for those who are in recovery or considering recovery on our campus.

By offering a 12-Step meeting right on our campus, it will bring hope for students in recovery. And by starting up a CRC program at UNC Charlotte it will be connecting the ongoing efforts at UNC Charlotte in substance use, prevention, education, intervention and now recovery!

We have a great new logo, designed by Coalition member Angela Allen, and we will begin printing promotional material soon. Our next steps are to establish a CRC Committee to begin work on mission and vision statements and to survey UNC Charlotte students about their need for recovery services. We welcome any ideas or assistance from the Coalition and we look forward to bringing you more exciting news in the future.

First year goals include:

- Space commitment for CRC students to meet, network and attend meetings.
- Establish 12-Step recovery meeting that will meet Monday evenings at 6:00pm and Friday afternoons at 12:30pm.
- Provide networking opportunities for recovery students to meet each other and to participate in non- alcohol related activities
- Establish a CRC Advisory Board
- Pursue funding opportunities for program expansion, implementation and maintenance
- Join and become an active member of the Recovery Schools Association

Collegiate Recovery Communities meet the needs of today's college student and encompass UNC Charlotte's commitment to foster and grow the potential of each student attending the University. These communities offer a recovery continuum of care environment that



What's your story?

Do you have any upcoming events or story ideas? Send your event information, pitch ideas, or share some pictures for the next edition of The Solution. Contact Kerry Burch at kerry.burch@carolinashealthcare.org