

## **Board of Commissioners**

Earl Pugh, Jr., Chair  
Barry Swindell, Vice-Chair  
Benjamin Simmons, III  
Tom Pahl  
Dick Tunnell

# COUNTY OF HYDE

30 Oyster Creek Road  
PO Box 188  
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885  
252-926-4400  
252-926-3701 Fax

Bill Rich  
County Manager

Fred Holscher  
County Attorney

Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board



**For Immediate Release:  
September 11, 2017**

**Contact: Anna Schafer, Public Health Educator  
Hyde County Health Department  
252-926-4381 | [aschafer@hydehealth.com](mailto:aschafer@hydehealth.com)**

## **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](mailto:dshumate@hydecourtnc.gov) and ask to be put on the Hyde Happenings distribution list. Information will also be posted on the county website and social media outlets.

## Substance Abuse Community Meeting Schedule

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

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



# Hyde County Drug Abuse Community Forum

## Tentative Agenda

6:00PM - 8:00PM

<u>What</u>	<u>How?</u>	<u>Who?</u>	<u>When?</u>
<b>Start-Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ Welcome</li><li>~ Introductions</li></ul>	Luana Gibbs	6:00
<b>County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ Purpose of Taskforce/Overall Goals</li><li>~ Review of Project Strategies</li><li>~ Funding Options</li></ul>	Kris Noble	6:10
<b>The Epidemic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ Overview of Drug Problem<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Local/State Statistics</li><li>- Types of Drugs, Signs/Symptoms of Abuse</li><li>- Seek Questions</li></ul></li></ul>	Kevin Sawyer/ Joshua Hopkins	6:40
<b>Existing Local/Regional Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ Naloxone</li><li>~ Rx Drop Boxes</li><li>~ Mobile Crisis</li></ul>	Anna Schafer/ Regional Partners	7:00
<b>Getting Involved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ How can you help?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Community Involvement</li><li>- Taskforce Participation</li><li>- Point Person for township, church, etc.</li></ul></li></ul>	Kris Noble	7:10
<b>Community Input</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ Group Discussion</li></ul>	Kris Noble	7:20
<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Closing &amp; Next Steps</li></ul>	Luana Gibbs	7:55
<b>Adjourn</b>			8:00