



Cumberland County
Public Health Department
C-FORT Minutes November 2025

Agenda Item 1. Introductions and Sign in

- Review minutes and make suggestions
- Use chat box/sign-in sheet to enter name and agency
 - No edits to be made to the minutes from October

Greg Berry	
Sanquis Graham	
Shella West	
Leona Smith	
Danielle McClamb	
Danielle Farrior	
John Russe	
Jessie Garner	
Diana Corona	
Jay Higgins	
Taylor Blount	
Jamie Melvin	
Diane Covington	
Brittany Borders	
Naiomi Marshall	
Capricia McDonald	
Regina Williams	
Nicole Beckwith	
Subrena Guy	
Kellie Ross	
Jasmine Harris	
Jason Boggs, Camp Rock Fish	
Shanhong Luo	

Agenda Item 2. Opioid Data and Partner Updates

Louis Leake, Review of Overdose Data, ED Visits Data, Fentanyl Report,

- No updates for this month

Tara Tucker, Cape Fear Valley Community Paramedic

- No updates

Lisa Mack, Recovery Housing Support

- 60 clients
 - 16 have been assisted twice
 - Fresh start
 - On track - 7
 - Life Net - 1
 - Private - 3
- Financially assisted:
 - October - 17
 - November - 9

Jason Boggs, Camp Rockfish

- No update

Louis Leake, CTC Opioid Settlement

- Supplies left over, let them know if you have need
- Tents, Narcan, some winter clothing, and some food and personal hygiene kits
- Telephones are left as well (5 left)
- Straight talk cards are available to update phones as well

Courtney McCollum, CCJS Opioid Settlement

- No update

Sanquis Graham, Healing from Within

- Working with Alliance Health for positions
- Providers/counselors and peer support to work with collaboration with Heather and mr Jackson at the detention center
- Building connections outside of the community
 - Stacy Buckner, getting resources for veterans
 - Needs are not being met for those who frequent the detention center, and trying to help them
 - Trying to have a plan to have staff there

Regina Smith, Mid-Carolina Regional Council

- Several speaking engagements at churches to reach the population

- Trying to gauge the mental health piece that is not being addressed, trying to target the church population to make the resources available known
- Alliance is doing the mental health first aid (adult and youth), 30 slots are paid for
- NC works – referring people to them
- Engagement at Albright Middle School, visiting the high school as well; Kevin Brooks – connecting with the middle school for grandkids to have a support group

Ivan Pride, Myrover Reece Opioid Settlement

- No update today

Charlton Robseon, NCHRC Opioid Settlement

- Partnering with pharmacy to distribute SSP and wound supplies
- Continue to work on syringe and Narcan distribution
- Live for referrals for Carolina infectious disease (wounds from injections) for a warm hand off
- Funding comes from funding from OSF, costs of the medical visits and everything is covered, logistics are taken care of as well (uber), phones can be provided so they can be in touch with providers during their care

Regina Williams, Recovery Resource Center

- Numbers since the last CFORT meeting:
- Total clients: 213
 - Syringe service: 159
 - Women’s wellness group: 12
 - Mid Carolina kinship care group: 1
 - smart recovery: 17
 - Peer support: 9
 - Recovery dharma: 12
 - Uber rides: 3 (for November so far)
 - Bus passes: 5
- An increase in clients who need food, snack bags are being handed out by RRC staff and CCP staff. Donations would be appreciated
- Planning to do outreach starting in January to hand out supplies for the winter months, information about the center, food, etc.

Naiomi Marshall, RI

- October – increase, 151 guests come through the facility
- 86% came for substance use
- 14% for mental health stabilization

- 33% discharged; Many left and were admitted to a treatment program or a community-based resource
- 4% for higher level of care
- The rest were discharged home
- Increase in repeat clients during the colder months

Dr. Luo, FSU Xylazine Study

- Approved for an extension for next year
- Goal to collect 900 surveys has been surpassed, currently have more than 1000
- Next year's focus will be on collecting the samples
- Trying to reach the goal of 300 professional surveys
- Working on the stigma/policy/discussion on the opioid crisis

Agenda Item 3. Local Drug Checking Results

Greg Berry, CFORT-C

UNC Collaboratory Study

- FSU in Collaboration with CCDPH/CFORT, and UNC Street Safe Lab
- Initial Findings from (July – October) 2025

Analysis of 59 unique drug sample donations over a 3-month period

- Xylazine research study
 - IRB approved, conducted by FSU with CFORT
- Drug checking – collection kits
 - Taking samples from supplies used, such as caps, cottons, etc.
- Some of these samples contained more than 1 type of drug
- A lot of this testing occurred during syringe service program/harm reduction services
- Analysis by sample type
 - Polysubstance was the norm, not the exception
 - Stimulants frequently contained fentanyl
- What this means for the community:
 - Overdose is more complex than “too much fentanyl.”
 - Xylazine and medetomidine-related wounds and withdrawals will be underrecognized without education
 - Polysubstance patterns will impact MAT, ED management, and case planning
 - 100% of xylazine samples also contained fentanyl
 - Other risks: severe wound development, misidentifying overdose, potential addiction to xylazine, withdrawal, complications
- Treatment of wounds with referrals

- What was expected vs what was found
 - That data will be combed through to provide a more realistic idea of what the samples contain
 - Every sample contains something that was not expected

Agenda Item 4. Next Steps

- Invitation to participate in the SIM Taskforce (and Peer Subcommittee)
 - Peer support committee around the county
 - Referrals for services around the county
 - Jay Higgins – 7 peer support specialists involved
 - Meet every Wednesday
 - If you know or have any PSS who want to join the committee, contact Jay or Charlton
 - This is the first group/organization in the country to do this type of work, so get involved!
- SAMHSA – Expansion of Naloxone Distribution
 - The team is now fully staffed
 - Trying to find ways to get Narcan to the community
 - Three more boxes have been purchased for distribution
 - Peer support specialists are going out into the community to connect with those who are in need all over the county/in encampments
 - Hope Mills is a major area of need
 - Trying to build trust and bridge the gap to find needs
 - Health Educators on the team are going out to teach
- End of Year (2025) Reports (December)
 - The next meeting will be extended from 10-12, lunch will be provided, and it is encouraged to attend in person
 - CFORT will be in the auditorium for 2026
- *How Being Trauma Informed Improves CJS Response*, January 13th, 2026
 - 9-4, all day training
- Next Perinatal Taskforce Nov. 25th, 2025 (2PM – 3PM)
- Reminder: Help Professionals to Participate in Xylazine Research
- Over the last month, Selena has been able to train 164 students between October and now in Cumberland County schools

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 10am-12:00pm.

Location: Health Dept/Hybrid