



Community Conversation about Substance Abuse/Opioid Epidemic Redstone Federal Credit Union February 7, 2020 | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Discussion Notes

Community Conversation Participants

- Linda Akenhead (WPS Member)
- Greta Ashburn (His Way Recovery Center)
- Brooke Bell (Redstone Federal Credit Union)
- Jeanne Brown (WPS Leadership Council)
- Libby Brown (Refuge of Grace)
- Carla Bugg (R.O.S.S.)
- Ashley Clark (Community Foundation Advisory Council)
- John Craft (Salvation Army)
- Karen Crowson (Partnership for a Drug-Free Community)
- Lucy Douglas (WellStone Behavioral Health)
- Mary Grace Evans (Redstone Federal Credit Union)
- Morgan Farrington (Goodworks: North Alabama Harm Reduction)
- Fran Fluhler (Manna House)
- Darin Geiger (Family Services Center)
- Patti Gipson (WPS Member)
- Donna Harris (Thrive Alabama)
- Carla Holder
- Melea Horton (WPS Member)
- Donna Johnson (Downtown Rescue Mission)
- Connie Kane (Crisis Services of North Alabama)
- Alice Kindred (WellStone Behavioral Health)
- Lori King-Taylor (WPS Leadership Council)
- Ann Kvach (Community Foundation Of Greater Huntsville)
- Ann Light (Partnership For A Drug Free Community)
- Leigh Littrell (Refuge of Grace)
- Mark Litvine (R.O.S.S.)
- Cynthia Ludwig (WPS Member)
- Heather Mason (Heals, Inc.)
- Holly McCarty (WPS Leadership Council)
- Jennifer McDougal (Redstone Federal Credit Union)
- Cathy Miller (United Way Of Madison County)
- Jana Moody (WPS Leadership Council)
- Jeannie Munger (Defense Intelligence Agency)
- Cynthia Parker (National Children's Advocacy Center)
- Daniel Pawlus (Thrive Alabama)
- Karen Petersen (Hudsonalpha Institute for Biotechnology)
- Tayna Rains (New Futures, Inc.)
- Dianne Reynolds (WPS Leadership Council)
- Dr. Jennie Robinson (The ELM Foundation)
- Elise Rose
- Jennifer Rose (Not One More Alabama)
- Cara Sexton (Redstone Federal Credit Union)
- Beth Simms (Caring for Life)
- John Simms (Huntsville Hospital)
- Amy Slamp (Community Volunteer)
- Ashantye Smith (United Way of Madison County)
- Audrey Smith (Huntsville Recovery)
- Debra Smith (Legacy Health Connections)

- Jessica Hovis Smith (Longview Financial Advisors)
- Bradley Snipes (Huntsville Police Department)
- Pat Stokes (FBI)
- Kathi Tew (WPS Leadership Council)
- Melissa Thompson (Community Foundation Of Greater Huntsville)
- Ed Toth (FBI)
- Lynn Troy (Troy 7)
- Don Webster (HEMSI)
- Michelle White (Mazda Toyota Manufacturing)
- Dr. Nancy White
- Katie Woods (Community Foundation Of Greater Huntsville)

Organizations and Governmental Agencies Identified that Are Currently Serving Substance Abuse Needs in Our Community

- AA/NA
- Alabama Department of Public Health
- Aletheia House
- Auburn University Opioid Training Institute
- Best Life Recovery
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Bradford Health Services
- Celebrate Recovery
- Churches-Youth Groups
- Crestwood Hospital
- Crisis Services of North Alabama
- DHR
- Downtown Rescue Mission
- Drug Court
- Family Services Center
- FBI Citizens' Academy
- First Stop
- Girls, Inc.
- GoodWorks
- Grateful Life Church
- HEALS, Inc.
- HEMS I
- His Way
- Huntsville Hospital
- Huntsville Recovery
- Medication Assisted Treatment Programs
- National Child Advocacy Center
- New Futures
- New Hope Children's Clinic
- Not One More Alabama
- One Stop
- Partnership for a Drug-Free community
- Pathfinder
- Police Departments/Law Enforcement
- R.O.S.S.
- Refuge of Grace
- Salvation Army
- School Districts
- Sheriff's Department
- Smart Recovery
- Stepping Stones
- The CARE Center
- THRIVE Alabama
- Transitions
- Veteran's Court
- WellStone Behavioral Health

PREVENTION

Gaps in Services

- Education
- Stigma
- Denial
- More proactive physicians
- More proactive schools
- More proactive in jails
- Preventing social isolation from stigmatized communities
- Trauma informed care
- Neuroscience
- Sharing personal stories of experience
- Education regarding stigma, especially regarding prescriptions
- Family education
- Coping skills for kids
- Parental education on how to support kids
- Engagement of corporate dollars to support education
- Involvement of churches
- Accessibility to services
- Lack of coordination of agencies

Barriers to Services

- Primary care physicians
- Transportation
- Lack of healthy relationships
- Support systems
- Cultural and language barriers
- Financial resources
- Funding
- Knowledge of services
- Laws regarding children born to women who are addicted
- Afraid of consequences for asking for help
- Pride
- Denial
- Understanding of family and gender differences in treatment
- Childcare during treatment

Community Priorities

Topics	# of References by Small Groups
Education early and in variety of settings	8
Remove/reduce stigma	3
Training for teachers and others	2
Collaboration among groups	1
Dealing with root cause	1
Developing coping skills for children	1
Economic impact	1
Effective treatment	1
Emphasize scientific understanding	1
Family Support	1
Law enforcement engagement	1
Legal services	1
Marketing-advertising	1
Recognizing opioid epidemic is a public health issue	1
Resources	1
Take back program	1

RECOVERY

Gaps in Services

- Beds
- Detox facilities
- Safe houses after detox
- Lack of providers
- Lack of screeners
- Lack of treatment specific to women
- Lack of appropriate grouping
- Childcare
- Access to peer support
- Jail recovery
- Support when discharged or released
- Stigma
- Multiple pathways to recovery
- Transition from addiction to recovery
- Transitional housing
- Funding
- List of current treatment options
- Integrated case management
- Feeling of isolation
- Affordable services

Barriers to Services

- Death
- Syringes
- Price of Narcan
- Inability to pay
- Unmet mental health issues
- Brain changes
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Access to programs in jail
- Lack of services in the jail
- Lack of peer support specialists
- Non-narcotic pain management

Community Priorities

Topics	# of References by Small Groups
Remove/reduce stigma	4
Case management/coordination of services	3
Education and knowledge	3
Advocacy/lobbying	2
Childcare (parents and grandparents)	2
Creating supportive resource centers	2
Decriminalizing addiction (e.g. a health issue not a criminal issue)	2
Training	2
Understanding that addiction is a disease	2
Access to programs in the jails	1
EAP at large companies	1
Effective treatment	1
Focus on economic impact	1
Job opportunities	1
Media Spotlight	1
Mental health/addiction awareness	1
Partnerships	1
Peer Support Specialists	1

REBUILDING

Gaps in Services

- Housing
- Jobs
- Sustained support systems
- Transportation
- Career counseling
- Safe social gatherings
- Ongoing therapy
- Childcare
- Hotline
- Need to have a purpose for staying clean
- Family support

Barriers in Services

- Prejudice
- Lack of knowledge of support
- Legal assistance
- Housing
- Stress
- Healthcare
- Public transportation
- Felon status
- Technology to support job seeking
- Insurance/medical costs

Community Priorities

Topics	# of References by Small Groups
Employment opportunities, esp. higher wage jobs	4
Knowledge about available services	3
Education	2
Integrated care/recovery hub	2
AL Department of Rehabilitation	1
Attention to unique needs of rural areas	1
Credit Recovery	1
Decriminalizing addiction (e.g. a health issue not a criminal issue)	1
Faith community	1
Foster system	1
Housing	1
Involvement from corporate partners	1
Learn from those who have gone through this	1
Learning life skills	1
Legal support	1
Legislation	1
Media spotlight	1
Networking/collaboration for service providers	1
Rebranding of recovery programs	1
Safety	1
Take information to those who need it	1
Training	1
Transportation	1