

WILSON COUNTY SUBSTANCE PREVENTION COALITION

Official Newsletter | Volume 3 Issue 6 | November 2024

WCSPC HISTORY

The Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition was established in April 2007. The coalition is organized for the charitable purpose of reducing substance misuse by addressing factors in the community that increases the risk of substance misuse and promoting the factors that minimize that risk.

Recovery Concepts Community Center (RC3) is a community recovery center and an initiative of The Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition, created in 2017. This community center is for those working to sustain and maintain their recovery from substance use disorders can visit the center to take part in educational opportunities, group meetings, social events, or just to hang out in a place that is recovery informed, friendly, and healthy.



Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition staff picture

(from left to right) Anna Harris, Jeff Hill, Pamela Letchworth, Ashlie Smith.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

- *HRSA Impact*
- *Food & Toy Drive 2024*

Page 3

- *Partner Portion*

Page 4

- *Partner Portion*
- *Contact Information*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Recovery Through Art** - November 7, 6:30pm
- **Recovery Through Art** - November 22, 6:30pm
- **Recovery Through Art** - December 12, 6:30pm
- **WCSPC Full Coalition Meeting (Open House Style) @ RC3** - December 12, 10:00am - 12:00pm
- **Easy Does It Café** - Mondays 6:00pm
- **Open Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting** - Wednesdays 7:00pm
- **Open Narcotics Anonymous Meeting** - Saturdays 10:30am

HRSA RCORP IMPACT

On September 23, 2024, the Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition had the opportunity to host the team from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), including Administrator Carole Johnson, for their RCORP Impact award announcements and a community roundtable discussion. Administrator Johnson announced federal funding awarded to our agency (totaling \$3,000,000 over the next 4 years) while also communicating with our community partners about the need for continued expansion of SUD treatment & recovery resources within rural communities like our own. The RCORP Impact Grant will help expand resources in Wilson, Nash, Edgecombe, Warren and Wayne counties.

We're thankful for our partnerships here in Wilson County as well as in Nash, Edgecombe, Warren and Wayne counties and for RCORP Impact Funds allowing us to continue our mission of meeting people where they are, while providing the BEST services we can.

Special thanks goes to our staff and partners who really stepped up to the plate and made this event a true success. We are grateful for our team and for the community we serve.

No Stigma. No shame. Just help.



Group picture from the announcement!

NO STIGMA. NO SHAME. JUST HELP.

WILCOPREVENTION.ORG

FOOD & TOY DRIVE 2024

We are excited for the Christmas season around here! Help us give a little Christmas joy to local families, bring new and unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items to RC3 anytime from November 18th - December 13th!

WCSPC & RC3
Christmas
**FOOD & TOY
DRIVE**

We are looking for donations of new (unwrapped) toys and non-perishable food items to give to a local establishment for distribution. Tax deduction slips will be available upon donation.

Drop-off location:
RC3
2860 Ward Blvd, Suite C,
Wilson, NC 27893

Accepting donations:
Monday, November 18th -
Friday, December 13th

(252) 991-7267 • wilcoprevention.org • Facebook: @wcspc.nc

PARTNER PORTION

My name is Terry Pierce. I am the Hope Alliance Coordinator.

I knew at a young age I wanted to work with people battling the disease of substance addiction. Living with a “functional alcoholic” father and a sister battling crack/cocaine addiction, I watched my mother cry endless tears in pain as her first-born child was battling a hell storm.

I remember going to the jail to get my father out as he was arrested on another DWI. I remember not having a bookbag for school, but my father had his beer. I remember going for days and not seeing my dad because he was with his buddies out drinking and I would be asleep when he got home.

Years of living like this I knew I had to do something to prevent another mom from crying over her child or a wife bailing her husband out of jail for another DWI. Trying to talk to my sister or my father about getting help would always cause arguments within our home.

Throughout the years, my mom and I would call every treatment facility, every mental health facility, every resource we could find. Time and time again we were told unless you have insurance, you will have to pay out of pocket for treatment and it was always thousands of dollars. It felt as if no one cared about the person, just the money. I knew there had to be someone that could or would be willing to help our family but without the insurance, we kept facing rejection. The tears I witnessed my mother cry after being told “unless you pay out of pocket, there is nothing we can do”, set my heart on fire to find that help!

How can someone put a price on saving a life? Is a life not more valuable than that? Not understanding this led me to my career today.

I started my studies at Barton College where I obtained my bachelor's degree in social work with a concentration in substance use. I then went on to Ohio State University where I received my master's degree in social work with a concentration in substance use and mental health. I then attended East Carolina University for my certification in Addictions Prevention and Treatment Studies.

Although these degrees are important and look good on a resume, having these does not mean anything to a family trying to save their loved one, or to the person using trying to free of substance use. While I learned a lot from both colleges, having hands-on experience teaches you so much more than sitting in a classroom. There is no “textbook addict” or alcoholic. Those pictures we always see of how a “junkie” or alcoholic looks are by far nothing more than stigma. What those textbooks don't show us is those that are battling addiction look like you and me. They are the coworkers we see daily, the doctors we go to when we're sick, the lawyers that help us out of a ticket, the tellers at the bank, the kids we are cheering on at our schools' game, etc. They look like my father getting up daily going to work. They look like my sister that had several college scholarships due to her performance playing high school ball.

Just as those college degrees are a title on a resume, our social status or professional title means nothing to addiction. Addiction does not care about your status, wealth or who you are, just as the dope dealer doesn't care about your life other than making a profit from your battle or the demons you fight with daily.

(continued)

Having a career with Hope Alliance has given me many heartwarming moments. Meeting people at the lowest times in their life, giving them hope, encouragement, support and seeing them overcome their addiction has been the best achievements of this career. Saving a son, daughter, mom or dad is what makes this a career and not a job. Having a family member come to you and personally thank you for the opportunity given to their loved one, or the person calling you to say thank you for saving them, to those referrals that come from someone who has gone through Hope Alliance is priceless.

While those blessings are amazing, this career does come with its heartbreaks. Seeing those you have tried to help overdose or lose their life to addiction is hard to accept. Having to tell a mother and father that their child has overdosed and is now deceased, is the hardest thing I ever had to do. But it doesn't have to be this way. There is hope and it's only a phone call away.

Hope Alliance is only a piece of puzzle, it takes a whole community to come together to overcome addiction. It's not just that person's problem. It's a community problem. Hope Alliance is blessed to partner with other community agencies that are just as passionate about saving lives from addiction and we have joined together to give residents of Wilson another chance at a better tomorrow.

Had there been a Hope Alliance or a community that offered these resources, that I could have reached out to, chances are I would still have my father. Although my sister is aware of Hope Alliance, I can only pray that she will take that step before it's too late; yet in the meantime,

I just keep reaching out to her and others in hopes they will accept the help and resources our community offers and realize they too can overcome this nightmare.

While there is still work to be done in Wilson and surrounding areas, our community will keep fighting for sobriety!!



Terry Pierce posing for RC3's Recovery Ally Campaign.

CONTACT US

[Click here](#) to leave us a message

or by

Phone: (252)991-7267

Email: anna@wilsonrc3.org

Website: www.wilcoprevention.org

Facebook: [@wcspc.nc](https://www.facebook.com/wcspc.nc)

Instagram: [@wcspc.nc](https://www.instagram.com/wcspc.nc)

Linktree: linktr.ee/wcspc.nc

Address: 2860 Ward Boulevard, Suite C,
Wilson, NC 27893

Or [click here](#) to leave an anonymous comment/suggestion