FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# *What is the Center of Excellence in Addiction?*

# The South Carolina Center of Excellence in Addiction is a collaborative entity that was established to maximize the funding that South Carolina receives to address addiction. While this primarily refers to opioid settlement funds, we can also help you to obtain, sustain, reporting. We also help to train providers to treat addiction, which maximizes health care funding for our state.

# *Who are the partners that make up the Center of Excellence, and what do they contribute?*

# The Office of Substance Use Services (formerly the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services or DAODAS) and the Department of Public Health (formerly the Department of Health and Environmental Control) are the two state agencies that are part of the Center. They provide administrative support – things like help with budgeting, contracting, and communications. They also provide access to program staff who have expertise in addiction.

# Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and the University of South Carolina (USC) are the state research universities that are part of the Center. Each university plays a unique role. Clemson manages technical assistance for opioid settlement support and runs our clinician warmline. MUSC hosts a biweekly meeting called an ECHO for local opioid settlement staff and manages training opportunities related to addiction. USC provides analyses of local opioid treatment data and publishes those as individual county data profiles and a maintains a state data dashboard. Each university also provides access to researchers who study relevant addiction topics.

# *What do you do?*

# We serve three main functions for South Carolina: 1) providing opioid settlement support for counties and municipalities that receive settlement funds, 2) helping to build provider capacity to increase access to treatment in our state, and 3) developing innovative solutions to the evolving addiction crisis in South Carolina.

# *What kind of support do you provide for opioid settlement funds?*

# We help county and municipal administrators – who manage opioid settlement funds at the local level in South Carolina – understand the best ways to use these funds in their localities. These funds are a new resource in the opioid landscape, so figuring out how to spend those in the best ways for your specific community can be challenging. We help you assess what you need, identify strategies to address those needs, and implement programs once the funds are in place. We can also help with things like managing your outcome data for reporting and sustainability.

# We do this using multiple strategies. First, we offer direct technical assistance upon request. We connect you with experts who can help navigate through the questions and issues you have, and we have regular meetings of our technical assistance recipients to connect with one another. Second, we host biweekly trainings for county and municipal administrators that are also open to any community partners or subcontractors that they have. Third, we have a Data Analytics team that looks treatment system data in every county to assess where you may have gaps.

# *How do you help build provider capacity?*

# We offer direct clinical support to South Carolina’s providers through our Clinician Warmline, which is available 9 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday. The Clinician Warmline offers free, confidential, peer-to-peer consults for clinicians who have questions about diagnosing and treating addiction and related conditions like infectious disease. The line is staffed by experienced addiction medicine providers. The number is 864-914-1301.

# We also offer provider trainings upon request.

# *What kinds of innovative solutions are you working on?*

# We’re actively working with partners across South Carolina on providing treatment in non-traditional places, including hospital Emergency Departments and jails. We are also working with local law enforcement on diversion and deflection programs to keep individuals with SUD out of the criminal-legal system and help navigate them to treatment.

# *How can I get your data analytics for my county?*

# [Our Data Dashboard site](https://www.scopioidtxdashboard.org/) has links to every county profile.

# *How do I request technical assistance for opioid abatement needs?*

# Simply fill out this [very brief form](https://addictioncenterofexcellence.sc.gov/Addiction_Technical_Assistance_Request), and we will work with you to identify the right subject matter expert(s) to help. You can also just email us at [camhr@clemson.edu](mailto:camhr@clemson.edu) if you’d prefer.

# *What is the CORI ECHO? How do I join?*

# The Community Opioid Response Initiatives (CORI) ECHO is a biweekly meeting that offers training to county and municipal administrators, as well as community partners, on use of [approved opioid abatement strategies](https://scorf.sc.gov/fund-uses).

# To join, you just need to [sign up at iecho.org](https://iecho.org/public/program/PRGM1699561437266ZXPRWJT0ED) one time, and then you will receive info on each session via email, including Zoom links for each meeting.

# *Can I request a presentation or provider training?*

# Yes! We are happy to provide presentations on a range of topics, and we have internal capacity to conduct provider trainings on addiction-related topics, including Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).

# *Where are you located? How can I get in touch with you?*

# The Center’s administrative functions are embedded within our state agency partners (BHDD and DPH), but we don’t have a dedicated brick and mortar office. To get in touch, please reach out to our director, Jodi Manz, at [jmanz@daodas.sc.gov](mailto:jmanz@daodas.sc.gov)