



Our vision is that South Carolinians live free from the harms of addiction.

Our mission is to maximize South Carolina's opioid and addiction knowledge and resources through community engagement, research, and innovation.

The South Carolina Center of Excellence in Addiction is a collaboration of three state research universities – Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina – and two state agencies – the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) and the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Addiction leaders from these organizations have come together to support South Carolina's localities in navigating opioid and addiction resources, including, but not exclusively, opioid abatement funds. As new funding comes into the state, the Center is available to provide South Carolina-based help for local leaders as they seek to ensure that they are maximizing every dollar in a way that suits their needs.

The Center provides help for local leaders by:

1) Analyzing treatment data.

The Center has developed the statewide Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Performance Measurement System (OTPMS) to measure system performance in identifying and treating individuals with OUD. The OTPMS is based on the **Opioid Cascade of Care**, using four domains:

- ✓ Diagnosis/identification of OUD
- ✓ Engagement in treatment
- ✓ Receipt of OUD medication
- ✓ Retention in treatment and recovery

Beginning with Medicaid data, researchers at the Center are analyzing how our systems are performing in these domains to inform targeted investments, improve treatment access, and guide clinical interventions. County, regional, and state level reports are being produced for public dissemination.

2) Providing technical assistance with opioid abatement strategies and clinical needs.

The Center is delivering free consultation and connection with technical experts on abatement strategies and implementation. Local leaders and their partners can request technical assistance through a [form on the Center's](#) website or an email to camhr@clemson.edu with your request details.

A clinician warmline has also been established by the Center. Clinicians can call 864-914-1301, Mon – Fri, 9 am – 5 pm for consults on assessment, treatment, initiating MOUD, toxicology testing, withdrawal, pain management, connections with community recovery support, and identification and treatment of infectious diseases.

3) Hosting trainings around substance use disorder and opioid abatement strategies.

The Center is holding biweekly trainings every other Friday at noon for all South Carolina counties, municipalities, and their abatement partners – current or potential! The South Carolina Opioid Response Initiatives (CORI) ECHO is a great way to connect local leaders and addiction experts to learn about the most impactful community strategies and how to implement them.

Previous sessions have included overviews of addiction and what the opioid overdose issue looks like in South Carolina, an introduction to the concept of recovery ready communities, and a presentation on understanding local systems establishing unique partnerships.

These trainings, delivered on the iECHO platform, are free and open to all relevant individuals and organizations. [Sign up through iECHO to register.](#)

Administration

Organization of the Center’s activities is provided by DAODAS and DHEC, who support both our Director and Program Evaluator as they manage reports, budgets, communications, and sustainability planning. Centralizing leadership in this way ensures collaboration and cross-institutional leadership and oversight.

The Center has also established an Advisory Board, composed of South Carolina health care organizational leaders, people with lived experience, harm reductionists, treatment providers, preventionists, law enforcement, judiciary, and policymakers.

Funding for the Center is provided by multiple, braided resources, including state general funds, private foundation grants, and South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund discretionary funds.