



Center of Excellence in Addiction Newsletter – February 2024

Welcome to the South Carolina Center of Excellence in Addiction’s February 2024 newsletter! Look for this newsletter each quarter to stay up to date on the Center’s work, find out about upcoming educational opportunities, and learn about new and developing opioid use disorder/substance use disorder (OUD/SUD) resources. Missed a newsletter? No problem – [archived versions](#) are available on our website. If you’re not already on our subscription list, please subscribe here: <https://addictioncenterofexcellence.sc.gov/form/news-letter-sign-up>

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- A. Register for the 2024 SC Governor’s Opioid and Addiction Summit...**The Center of Excellence in Addiction is proud to announce that we have opened [registration](#) for the Summit, and we hope you’ll join us **April 30-May 1** in Columbia for this exciting event. In addition to plenary sessions on current drug trends and emerging needs, the Summit agenda includes 30 breakout sessions for a broad audience. Highlighting innovative, evidence-based approaches to addressing the overdose crisis, these sessions will benefit clinical providers, preventionists, social workers and counselors, law enforcement, peers, recovery community organizations, policymakers, payers, administrators, and community members. Registration is \$99, and we will be offering Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, as well as Continuing Education (CE) credits for nurses, social workers, counselors, prevention professionals, and law enforcement.

Interested in sponsor or exhibitor opportunities? Check out [our vendor information](#) or email jmanz@daodas.sc.gov to inquire about options and availability.

We are also accepting submissions for poster presentations! Researchers and students are invited to [submit poster abstracts](#) for consideration through Friday, March 22. Selected presenters will be notified in early April.

B. NEW! Our Clinician Warmline has opened...The Center's Clinician Warmline is up and running. Practitioners can call **864-914-1301** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, for free, confidential, clinician-to-clinician consultation on substance use evaluation and management. Expert South Carolina-based physicians and advanced practice nurses are available for consultations on a range of topics, including:

- Assessing and treating opioid, alcohol, and other substance use disorders
- Initiating medications for opioid use disorder
- Toxicology testing: When to use it and what it means
- Identifying and managing withdrawal
- Adjusting opioid-based pain regimens to reduce risk of misuse and harm
- Providing harm reduction and overdose prevention strategies
- Discussing useful communication and care strategies to support patients living with – or at risk for – substance use disorders
- Approaching substance use in special populations (pregnancy, kidney/liver disease, HIV and HCV, co-morbid opioid use disorder and pain)
- Connecting patients with counseling and community recovery supports
- Providing treatment for people living with the Hepatitis C virus
- Preventing HIV with PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis)

Download our [printable flyer](#) to share this info with colleagues.

C. NEW! Have your voice heard by taking our needs assessment survey...In order to target our work to meet the needs of South Carolina communities, we want to hear from YOU! Scan our QR code at the bottom of this newsletter or fill out [this quick survey](#) to let us know your thoughts.

D. Join us every other Friday at noon for our opioid response-related ECHO...The South Carolina Community Opioid Response Initiatives (CORI) is off to a great start, and we'd love to have you join us. This virtual, biweekly meeting offers a space for county and municipal leaders and their local partnering organizations to learn together and share their experiences around opioid abatement strategies. 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. Our next session will be held on March 8, from noon to 1 p.m. To register, [follow this link to create an iECHO account](#). For assistance with registration or for more details, please email papa@muscd.edu, or see this [guidance document](#). You may also view archived sessions on iECHO.org.

E. NEW! Technical Assistance is now available...We're excited to announce that the Center's technical assistance team is available to provide dedicated, South Carolina-led support on how communities can address OUD/SUD. Our expertise covers a wide range of topics – data collection and management, prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives, and much more. As you're thinking through your local design and implementation efforts, let us know how we can help. Our free consultation and referral to technical experts is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. [View the list of topics and connect with us here](#), or e-mail camhr@clemsontech.edu with your request details!

F. Upcoming data webinar...Join the South Carolina Center of Excellence in Addiction on **March 18 at noon** for a lunch-and-learn webinar on accessing and using opioid data for your local planning and administrative needs. Experts from the Center of Excellence, Christina Andrews, Ph.D., of the University of South Carolina, and Laura Bogardus, Ph.D., of Clemson University, will provide an overview of the opioid-related data sources that are available in South Carolina, how to access them, and how to use them to effectively manage grant applications and project implementation. [Register here!](#)

G. Did you know? South Carolina’s health departments are equipped with “OD Safety Kits” to prevent opioid overdoses! The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is highlighting the availability of overdose (OD) safety kits at health departments across the state.

Each OD Safety Kit available at local DHEC health departments contains two doses of the opioid-antidote medication naloxone, five fentanyl test strips, educational materials on how to use both, and guidance on how to identify an opioid overdose. The naloxone in the kits is a nasal spray that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, potentially saving a person’s life. The fentanyl test strips are small strips of paper that can detect the presence of fentanyl, a deadly synthetic opioid, in different types of drugs.

Learn how to recognize the signs of an overdose and how to administer naloxone nasal spray with an instructional video at scdhec.gov/cope.

H. Connect with us!

- a. Check out the Center’s website at www.addictioncenterofexcellence.sc.gov.
- b. We’d love to connect with you on social media! Follow the South Carolina Center of Excellence in Addiction on LinkedIn and @SCAddictionCoE on X for real-time updates, information, and resource announcements!
- c. Questions? Comments? Ideas? E-mail our Director, Jodi Manz, at jmanz@daodas.sc.gov.
- d. Take our needs assessment survey by [clicking here](#) or scanning this QR code:

