

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program for East Tennessee (RCORP-ETC)

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What is RCORP-ETC?

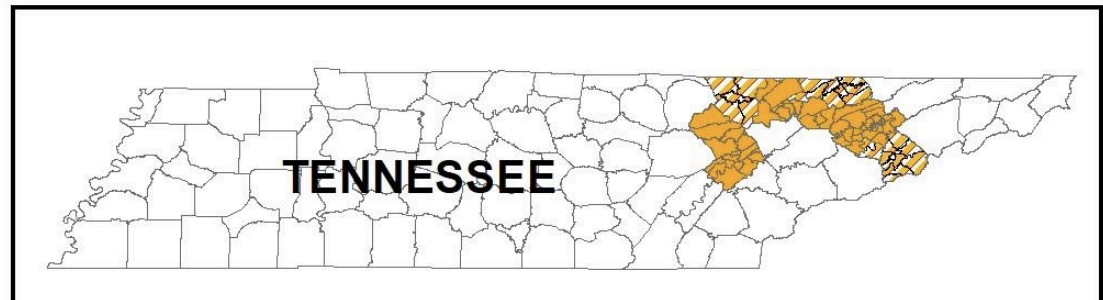
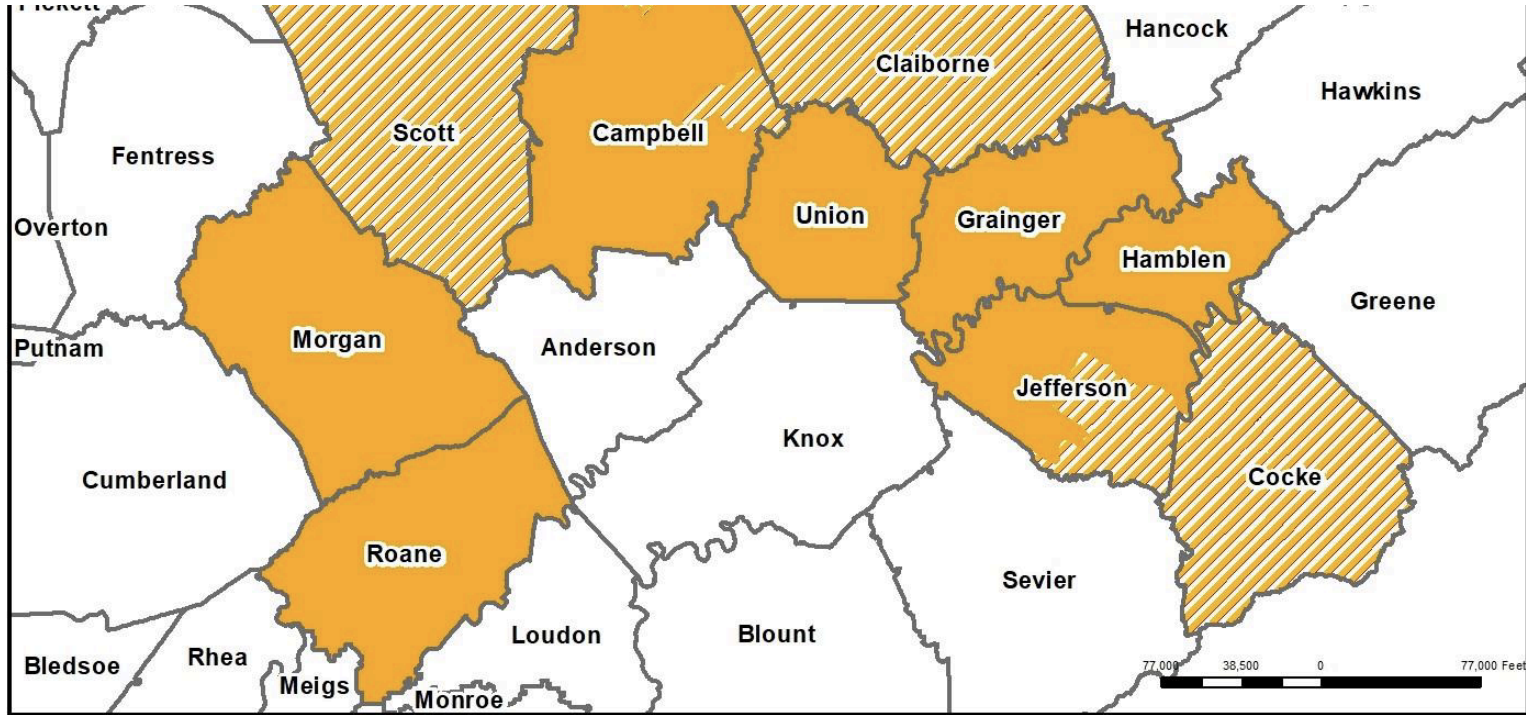
- The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT) College of Nursing applied for and was awarded a grant by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) beginning in September 2018 to establish the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program for East Tennessee (RCORP-ETC).
- The initial grant provided support for planning. A subsequent grant for implementation has since been awarded.
- It started with a vision to reduce or prevent the harms of substance use disorder in the East Tennessee health district through improved prevention, education, and treatment/support services as the cornerstone of a collaborative effort between UT and community partners.



Why East Tennessee?

- Although our entire country is recognizing a crisis related to opioids, Tennessee is facing an epidemic. Between 1999 and 2016, the deaths related to prescription medication overdose more than quadrupled.
- Efforts to reduction the number of opioids prescribed statewide have been quite effective. However, deaths and hospitalizations related to opioids continue to increase.

RCORP-ETC Target Region



RCORP-ETC Consortium Membership

American Job Center, TN Department of Labor & Workforce Development	Rescue 180 Coalition, Inc.
Behavioral Health Group	Rural Medical Services, Inc.
Campa Community Care	Schools Together Allowing No Drugs (STAND)
Cherokee Health Systems	Tennessee Department of Correction
Childcare Resource & Referral Network (CCRN)	Tennessee Department of Health – East Regional Health Office
Knoxville Area Project Access	Tennessee Department of Human Services, 4 th Judicial District Child Support Office
Mountain People's Health Councils, Inc.	Tennessee Primary Care Association
OB/Gyn Physician - UTMC	Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless
Region II Emergency Medical Service Director's Association	The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

The Work of RCORP-ETC

- The Initial work consisted of six core activities including:
 - Conducting a Detailed Analysis
 - Developing a Comprehensive Strategic Plan
 - Developing a Comprehensive Workforce Plan
 - Completing a Sustainability Plan
 - Training and/or Developing Training Curricula; and
 - Enhancing Individual, Caregiver, and Community Education and Engagement.
- Work groups for each of the six-core activities were co-led by representatives from UT faculty as well as a partner organization based in one of the targeted counties.

Detailed Analysis

- The Analysis Working Group conducted a detailed analysis to identify opportunities and gaps in OUD prevention, treatment, and/or recovery workforce, services, and access to care within eastern Tennessee and existing federal, state, and local OUD resources that could be leveraged within the rural community.
- **Understanding the State of Opioid Use Disorder in the RCORP-ETC Region 20182019.**
<https://tnopioid.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Master-Analysis-Report-3.7.pdf>

Detailed Analysis Workgroup

Co-Facilitators	Danielle Sims Knoxville Area Project Access	Laurie L. Meschke UTK Department of Public Health
Membership	Sandy Webber 8 th Judicial District	Debra Shultz Rescue 180
	Katlyn Clark BHG Recovery	Keith Shultz Rescue 180
	Jamie Dean BHG Recovery	Erica Wilson East Tennessee Regional Health Office
		Kim Raia East TN Quality Growth and University, of TN County Technical Assistance Service
Graduate Student Support	Zeruiah Buchanan UTK Department of Public Health	R. Catherine Buddin UTK Department of Public Health
	Tamarra Spalding UTK Department of Public Health	Ashlyn Schwartz UTK Department of Child and Family Studies



Comprehensive Strategic Plan

- The Strategic Plan Working Group developed a comprehensive strategic plan that addresses gaps in OUD prevention, recovery services, and access to care.
- Strategic Plan will be posted on <https://tnopioid.utk.edu/>

Strategic Plan Workgroup

Co-Facilitators	Dr. Laurie L. Meschke Public Health, University of Tennessee	Debra Schulz & Keith Schulz Rescue 180
Membership	Trent Coffey STAND Coalition	Karen Pershing Metro Drug Coalition
	Melanie Cordell Tennessee Valley Coalition to End Homelessness	Janet Ridley East Tennessee Regional Health Office
	Dr. Amy Hawes Knox County Regional Forensic Center	Danielle DuFur Sims Knoxville Area Project Access
	Dr. Marti S. Head Joint Institute for Biological Sciences, ORNL	Judge Duane Slone Fourth Circuit Court in Tennessee
	Sherry F. Parton TN Dept. of Human Services	David Whaley Child Protective Services
Betsy Lowe Department of Children's Services	Tamarra Spalding & Catherine Mill	

Prioritization Process

January: RCORP-ETC assessment report identifies OUD-related strengths and challenges

March: Strategic Plan working group prioritizes top 10 issues through discussion

April: RCORP-ETC selects top 3 priorities via factsheets and two prioritization processes

July: RCORP-ETC members adopt responsibilities and set timelines for actions

Note: Factsheets available at <https://tnopioid.utk.edu/resources-2/>



Top 3 Priorities



Mental Health

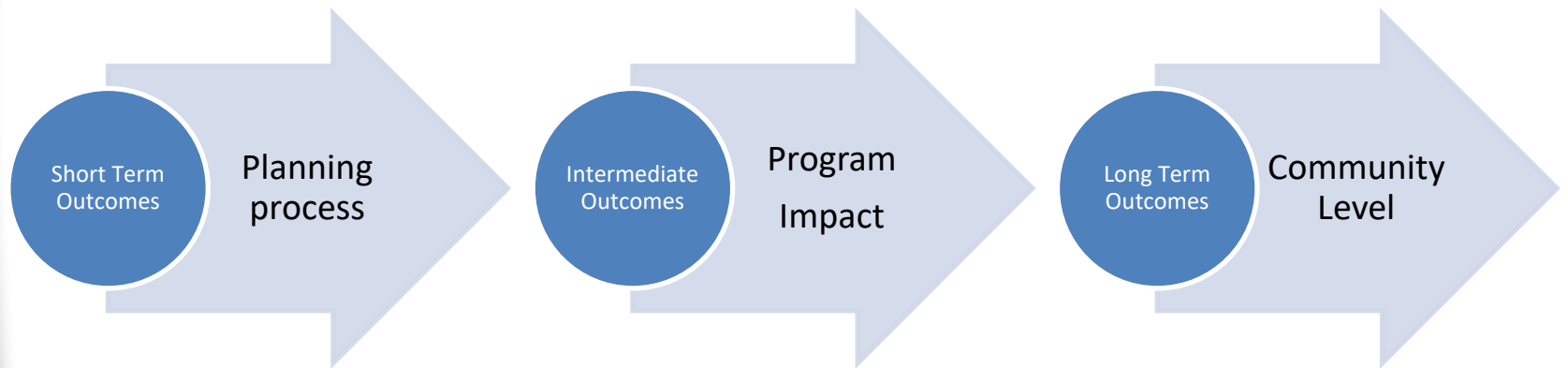


Stigma Reduction



Treatment and
Recovery
Services

Program Process



Mental Health Long Term Outcomes

Community-
Professional
Focused



Decrease the average number of poor mental health days by 20%.



Decrease the percentage of adults reporting 14 or more days of poor mental health per month by 10%.



Reduce percent of adolescents who seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months by 10%.

Youth
Focused



Reduce percent of adolescents who felt sad or hopeless in the last 12 months by 10%.



Reduce number of child abuse and neglect cases by 10%.

Mental Health Actions

Community-Professional

- Telemedicine
- Mindfulness training for trainers
- Screening, brief intervention, referral to treatment (SBIRT) screening training for health-related professionals

Youth

- Youth prevention activities
- Assessment of youth with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)
- Parenting classes for youth, ages 0-14

Mental Health Action Team

Community/Professional

- Debra Schultz - Rescue 180
- Tamarra Spalding - UTK Dept. of PUBH
- Maggie Holland - Cherokee Health Systems
- Soghra Jarvandi - UT Extension
- Jessica Gardner - UT Extension
- Wendy Ford, RN - Cocke Co. Health Dept.
- Erica Wilson - East TN Regional Health Office

Meeting: September 19, 1-2p

Youth

- Sherry Parton - TN Dept. of Human Services
- Bill Walker - East TN Local Workforce Board
- Karen Wright - TN Child Care Resource and Referral
- Tom Miklusicak - TN Dept. of Labor / American Job Center
- Laurie Meschke - UTK Dept. of Public Health
- Nan Gaylord - UTK College of Nursing
- Jennifer Tourville - UTK College of Nursing

Meeting: September 9, 2019, noon-1

Stigma Reduction Long Term Outcomes

By 2025, community members will reduce their reported levels of stigma by 20%

Stigma Reduction Actions

- Digital storytelling
- Intrinsic bias/stigma reduction training for health-related providers
- Train-the trainer training for faith-based communities

Stigma Reduction Action Team

- Keith Schultz - Rescue 180
- Sharon Davis - UTK
- Cameron Taylor - TN Dept. of Health
- Skyla Guigou - Sevier Co. Health Dept.
- Angie Allen - TN Dept of Health: State Office of Rural Health
- Sherri Farmer - TN Dept. of Human Services
- Megan Lay - UTMC
- Cade Long - TDOC Probation and Parole
- Marta Cogburn - Celebrate Recovery: FUMC Newport
- Bonnie Morris - Celebrate Recovery: FUMC Newport
- Mary Ottinger - Rural Medical Services

Meeting: September 19, 2019, noon-1

Treatment & Recovery

Long Term Outcomes

- By 2025, increase the average number of buprenorphine treatment providers in the RCORP-ETC area by 100% (2.5 to 5.0)
- By 2025, provide MAT to all persons in treatment and recovery as desired

Treatment & Recovery Actions

- Medicaid enrollment assistance
- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) provider training
- MAT safety net for persons in OUD treatment and recovery

Treatment & Recovery Action Team

- Marti Head - ORNL
- C. Darlene Ely - Dept. of Labor - WFS
- Kaisson Carr - ReVIDA Recovery
- Cassie Mitchell - ReVIDA Recovery
- Scott Hurst - TN Dept. of Corrections
- Jason Goodwin - Metro Drug Coalition
- Karen Pershing - Metro Drug Coalition
- Danielle Sims - Knoxville Area Project Access
- Jenny Crowley – UTK Communications Dept

Meeting: September 25, 2019, 9-10 am

Comprehensive Workforce Plan

The Workforce Plan Working Group will develop a comprehensive workforce plan that addresses the gaps in OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery workforce identified in the analysis.



Workforce Workgroup

Co-Facilitators	Dr. Pam Hardesty, University of Tennessee College of Nursing	Tom Miklusicak American Job Center
Membership	Angie Allen TN Dept. of Health	Amanda Keller TCAT
	Laura Howard Align 9	Sherry Parton TN Dept of Human Services
	Larry Stanifer Rural Medical Services	Debra Schultz Rescue 180
	Karen Wright Childcare Resources & Referral Network	

Workforce Goals

- Increase the number of OUD trained mental health providers through **coordinated training opportunities**.
- **Work with and engage primary care physicians** in order to increase the number of primary care physicians with Drug Enforcement Administration waivers.
- **Expand the number of Primary providers and paraprofessional providers through recruiting** in existing NP and PA programs in East Tennessee and the state, promoting programs such as the National Health Service Corps Substance Abuse Disorder Workforce Loan program, HRSA funded Opioid Workforce Expansion Program, and the USDOL Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for funding and supporting training and skill-building programs.
- Expansion goal is 2% increase of providers over a two-year period.

Workforce Objectives

- **Work with the UTK Center for Nursing Practice** for recruitment of additional NPs, RNs, and case managers to add recovery and training services to the Center.
- **Recruit needed trainers** from the community health providers and universities for specific programs identified in the strategic objectives to train community leaders for implementation of youth mental health prevention, parenting classes, training associated with OUD-related stigma issues, practitioner buprenorphine education, and best practice in MAT (medication assisted programs) healthcare.

Workforce Objectives

- **Provide 3 to 5 Coordinators** in the RCORP-ETC to lead the following strategies:
 - Community Mental Health initiatives
 - Telemedicine opportunities
 - Recruitment
 - University and Community Partnerships/funding
 - Policy changes at the state level

Workforce

Coordinator Objectives

- Work with UTK for **SBIRT** (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) training via HRSA grant.
- Develop and pilot **three youth mental health programs**.
- Identify **telemedicine programs** and analyze the feasibility of the creation of a telehealth hub with UTHSC as another training opportunity for primary care providers.
- Work with state and local **policy** makers to remove barriers for NPs and PAs.
- Partner with educational programs such as STEM, East Tennessee universities and colleges to **increase the number of mental health providers and retraining of existing healthcare providers**.

Workforce Coordinator Objectives

- Work with regional healthcare HR sources to provide the RCORP-ETC region evidence-based rural recruitment and retention strategies as well as evidence-based strategies to provide personal and professional support for retention of rural primary care professionals and staff.
- Partner with local universities and colleges to provide community training in OUD stigma reduction to recruit trainers for support groups.
- Look at feasibility/opportunities for funding of additional mobile medical response vehicles.
- Work with providers to become NHSC (National Healthcare Service Corps) approved sites.



Sustainability Plan

The Sustainability Plan Working Group will complete a sustainability plan that identifies strategies for sustaining the consortium and operationalizing the activities proposed in the strategic and workforce plans beyond the one-year period of performance and developing quantifiable metrics that will be used to assess the impact of future activities.

Sustainability Plan Workgroup

Co-Facilitators	Dr. Sharon K. Davis, University of Tennessee College of Nursing	J. Stacy Rhodes Region II Emergency Medical Director's Association
Membership	Cade Long Tennessee Department of Corrections	James Lovett Mountain People's Health Councils
	Laura Howard Align 9	Mindy Grimm Union County iCare

Sustainability Plan Goals

- Goal:** Continue RCORP-ETC beyond the planning grant funding period
- Determine organizational structure and governance of RCORP-ETC
 - Research options for different governance structures
 - Present the governance options to the CMs
 - Vote on new governance structure
 - Ask for volunteers or have members suggest candidates for each position
 - Have candidates create a short bio
 - Vote on leadership
 - Transition consortium materials to new leaders
 - Transition to a new Executive Team Structure to implement Project HOPE
 - Hire project manager
 - Determine quarterly meetings for the next 3 years
 - Identify community members to co-lead the RCORP Project HOPE
 - Identify no cost meeting venues
 - Develop a Gantt chart for the implementation grant work plan

Sustainability Plan Goals

Goal: Collaborate with the following entities to determine who can provide or help develop resources and activities to meet the goals of the Strategic and Work Force Plans

- **Community** resources
- **University of Tennessee** Summit for Opioid Addiction and Response (SOAR) network and Center of Nursing Practice
- **Tennessee Department of Health** officials
- **HRSA** PO and **JBS** TEL
- **State Legislators**

Sustainability Plan Goals

Goal: Communicate Project HOPE activity evaluation measurements

- Develop strategic communication with stakeholders and the public about RCORP-ETC activities and successes.
 - Update social media and website communications
 - Post minutes of the CM on the website
 - Develop relationships with local TV and radio stations who will promote the activities and share successes

Sustainability Plan Goals

Goal: Obtain needed funding to support key activities

- Develop funding strategies to support the consortium and its key goals.
 - Obtain needs list from consortium members
 - Share needs with state officials for identification of possible funding sources
 - Share needs with HRSA PO and JBS TEL for identification of possible funding sources
 - Look at private foundations for appropriate funding for the list
 - Share needs with the faith-based communities
 - Share needs with educational institutions (university and local school boards)
 - Determine in-kind contributions

Sustainability Plan Goals

Goal: Obtain needed funding to support key activities

- Regularly scan:
 - SAMSHA's funding for targeted grant resources
 - SAMSHA's funding for Community Mental Health Services block grants
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grants
 - State Targeted Response grants
 - Partnerships for Success grants
 - Office of National Drug Control Policy's Drug-Free Communities grants
 - CDC Public Health Crisis Response funding
 - State Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act funding
 - HRSA's National Health Service Corps designation



Training and/or Developing Training Curricula

The Training and Curriculum Working Group is providing training and education for rural substance use, mental health, and primary care practitioners on topics such as OUD, screening for mental health and substance use disorder conditions, recognizing potential cases of OUD, opioid overdose prevention, evidence-based pain management strategies, communicating with individuals with OUD, and treatment and recovery options and referrals.



Enhancing Individual, Caregiver, and Community Education and Engagement

The Education Working Group is enhancing individual, caregiver, and community education and engagement by educating them on the risks of and side effects of prescription and illicit opioids and how to properly administer naloxone.

Interested in joining the RCORP-ETC??

Please contact Sharon Davis at
sdavis93@utk.edu

