

Sampson County Substance Abuse Coalition, Inc.

Strategic Plan

July 1, 2017

In an effort to combat the growing crisis of substance abuse and addiction in Sampson County, the Sampson County Substance Abuse Coalition has identified and developed a plan that includes three strategic initiatives. These initiatives are: **(1) Intervention, (2) Public Awareness, and (3) Training.**

Specific actions to be taken regarding these initiatives are as follows:

Intervention: Efforts will involve the active use of all known referral and treatment resources. Eastpointe Mental Health will be a main partner with the Coalition as efforts are made to identify needs and intervene. Early intervention efforts targeting protection of our youth will involve active collaborative work between the Coalition, all known/available resource providers, all school system administrators and faith-based youth program leaders. This crucial initiative is undertaken to prevent substance abuse and to offer addicts an alternative before the eventual involvement with law enforcement and the judicial system. Some statistics indicate that early intervention is far less costly than arrest and jail time. In fact intervention cost is reportedly only one tenth of the cost of jail time.

Public Awareness: Efforts will involve the same entities listed above as well as all members of the public. Flyers, billboards, pamphlets, and all media outlets such as radio, tv, facebook, and newspapers will be utilized to share tips for recognizing and responding to substance abuse. Additionally, the Coalition will use their own website to arm the public with educational material, strategies for prevention and resources for intervention. The intent will be to quickly and effectively reach as many people as possible. All partners of the Coalition will be asked to assist with identified public awareness initiatives. Available resources will be regularly communicated and annual events will be planned.

Training: Efforts will be made throughout each year to provide opportunities to become and remain up to date on public health hazards related to substance abuse. Training initiatives to be undertaken will include, but not be limited to: training courses for emergency responders, safety training for public and private sector employees subject to dangerous environments, training sessions for anyone interested in making presentations to civic groups, at public meetings, etc. and programs for the general public.

To maintain healthy operations needed to adequately accomplish the above initiatives, the Coalition will continually seek donations and grant funding. All residents are called upon to support the Sampson County Substance Abuse Coalition in the battle against substance abuse and addiction within our communities.