



**Minutes
C-FORT Meeting
June 23, 2022 at 2PM**

1. Introductions
2. C-FORT Updates

Louis Leake provided an update of the overdose and ED visits for May 2022. There 287 ED visits for overdoses involving medications or drugs with dependency potential year to date (this is in comparison to 259 visits YTD in 2021). Individuals who are White a disproportionately impacted. There were 104 opioid overdose emergency department visits year to date in Cumberland for 2022. This is an increase from 88 opioid overdose ED visits this time last year (Jan to May 2021). White and American Indian/Alaskan Native and young people (25-64) are disproportionately impacted.

Martina provided an update on the opioid C-FORT Coordinator position. The C-FORT Coordinator position has not been filled. We are still in the process of conducting interviews. Members are encouraged to continue to share the posting.

3. Presentation: Xylazine and Opioids

Greg Berry and Charlton Roberson provided an update on Xylazine and Opioids in Cumberland County.

- Over the last two months Fayetteville SSP has seen an increase in the number of wounds/skin infections (2 dozen participants with these wounds). Wounds not at injection site, wound start at lesions and then form ulcers. Wounds are breeding ground for other secondary infections.
- These pattern of wounds emergency away from the injection sites with know patterns of Xylazine. Participants report a sedative effect when using. Reports of OD reversal require many doses of Narcan. Testing form UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab has confirmed the presence of Xylazine in Fayetteville's drug supply. Participants agreed to provide samples for testing.
- What we know about Xylazine
 - o First noticed in Philadelphia, PA.
 - o It is a veterinary tranquilizer, showing up in heroin and fentanyl. Causes central nervous system depression. Low BP, slowed breathing, and slowed heart rate. Can make someone feel out of breath and tired.
 - o It can be dangerous. Can cause painful ulcers. Important to keep wounds clean.
 - o Always use naloxone in the event of an overdose
 - o Increase in wounds associated with xylazine use
 - o There is potential addiction to Xylazine, complications with Xylazine withdrawal, and complications with treatment.

- Harm reduction strategies
 - o Inform users of the presence of xylazine, suggest switching supplies
 - o Offer testing and test results
 - o Increase access to wound care and reinforce clean using practices
 - o Connect users to substance misuse treatment
- Public health strategies includes low-threshold access to point of care
 - o Test and monitor of local drug supply
 - o Harm reduction services
 - o Nursing accompany outreach
 - o Access to health care, wound cultures, and antibiotics

The group discussed opportunities for partnership with Stedman Wade Health services, Care Clinic, Operation Inasmuch, and Methodist for wound care. The group discussed strategies to get individuals access to wound care kits and antibiotics. We will follow up in a future meeting.

Philadelphia, PA has addressed Xylazine in their community. Greg will share points of contact and we will follow up for a future C-FORT meeting.

4. C-FORT Pocket Guide

We are working on placing orders for the revised C-FORT guides. Thank you to those that sent edits to the pocket guide, we incorporated those changes. The C-FORT guides will be ordered in July. We have them available for pick up at a future C-FORT meeting.