



# McDowell County FACES Newsletter

## The FACES of HOPE

August, 2013

facesfrn.com

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## SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN MCDOWELL: WHAT WE ARE DOING ABOUT IT?

On August 20, 2013 I was asked to go to Beckley and complete an interview about substance use and abuse in our county, what we are doing to make a difference. I had to respond to three questions and after the interview was completed, I thought it would be a good opportunity to share the findings with you.

**Q-1: Why is your Substance Abuse Program Working? ‘**

**Q-2: What is unique about your experience?**

**Q-3: Do you have success stories?**

The first two questions hold the same answers. The rest of the stories here are success stories. There are multiple agencies working on the substance abuse problem. These include: law enforcement and the judicial system, physicians and hospitals, mental health, education system, providers of services, rehabilitation, government, nonprofits, employers, families, and faith. While each of these have a very specific role to play in the issues surrounding drugs, it is the cohesive manner that the approach the issues that is im-

portant. It is the HOPE Coalition that provides the neutral table where they can come together and design a plan of action, network, and share the load and burden of substance use and abuse. While unable to attend monthly meetings, these groups are willing to come together periodically to share information, programs, materials, and address needs. This is especially true when addressing the McDowell County Day at the Legislature. These groups meet and identify what the specific needs are and vote on the issues to be addressed.

Outside the meetings, initiatives are completed such as SYNAR Tobacco Compliance; DEA Take Back Days; Permanent Drop Box; Next Generation Ambassadors For Change; Keep A Clear Mind; Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT); Alternative Sentencing; Juvenile Drug Court; Suboxone Clinic; and Parents As Teachers.

The HOPE Coalition, under the auspices of FACES, is the recognized Coalition for substance use and abuse preven-

tion and has a good collaborative relationship between its sectors and the community, providing opportunity for networking, training, and sharing available resources. The HOPE Coalition has 44 members including eight youth. Utilizing assessment data collected through multiple venues, the members of the HOPE Coalition have participated in the processes of planning and implementation of programs listed below, strategies, and projects to ensure capacity building and sustainability. Staff has completed the following trainings: WV Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (WVAADAC); It Takes a Team; Peers Making Peace; Suicide Prevention; Preparing Behavioral Health Agencies to Meet the Needs and Service Members, Veterans and Families; Advocacy in Action; True Colors; Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS); Second Step; Bath Salts; Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD); Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT); and Keep A Clear Mind.

# PREVENTION: Success Stories



**Take Back Days:** The HOPE Coalition participates in the National Drug

Take Back Days aimed at providing a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of unused, unwanted prescription drugs. McDowell County FACES along with members of the Sheriff's Department and HOPE Coalition have partnered to participate in five of the six events held. McDowell County residents have turned in over 200 lbs. at these collection sites. In the April 2013 disposal day over 1/3 of a million pounds was collected. DEA has scheduled another event to be held October, 2013. This initiative has been so successful, our county opted to build a permanent drop box.



**Permanent Drop Box:** The HOPE Coalition and Sheriff's Office worked with the Stevens Correctional Center to place a permanent prescription

drug disposal box which is available for those wanting to dispose of their unused or expired medications. The locked box is similar to a mailbox. Once unwanted pills are dropped in, they cannot be removed nor can anyone reach into/through the door.

Education components of the initiative was created by the Next Generation youth and includes materials on flushing the medication not being environmentally safe. Throwing them in the trash

makes them an easy target for thieves and pets or children may ingest them.

**SYNAR:** Funded with Federal Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment (SAPT) block grant funds administered through the West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources; Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities, the See Red material was sent to all retailers in the state. The retailer education material consists of two flyers (for display purposes), a brochure, and stickers for registers to remind clerks of the law. The message contained in the material tells the retailer to be aware that it is illegal to sell tobacco products to youth under the age of 18. Tobacco products include: cigarettes, cigarette papers, pipes, cigars, blunts, small cigars (cigarillos), snuff, and chewing tobacco which includes snuff and other types of tobacco products. Retailers are also advised to always ask for ID when selling tobacco products and make sure that the ID isn't false.

Members of the HOPE Coalition collaborate with WV State Police and Trooper Tupper and Gillespie to ensure merchants and their employees were in compliance with WV State Code 16-9A-2 and federal FDA regulations. Any clerk who sells tobacco products to a youth compliance inspector during Synar compliance inspections will be cited, on the spot, by a law enforcement officer. The store owner/corporation will also be cited. The clerk/store owner/corporation will not only have to pay a fine but will also have to

pay court costs. The completion of two SYNAR dates and 16 stores resulted in zero sales in year one and 2 sales in year 2.



**EDUCATION:** There are multiple agencies, providers, clinics, and schools that provide

education for the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

As easily seen in the news, our law enforcement is out in all



the county bringing down dealers, labs, crops, etc. The officers work in collaboration with city, county, state, regional, and federal agencies to keep our families as safe from substance abuse as possible. FACES has been tracking magistrate court reports for the past 2 years and over 250 arrests were made each year related to 143 DUI, 74 possession of controlled substance, 15 intent to deliver, 33 public intoxication. There were 12 arrests for 19-20 years of age, 78 for 21-30 years, 72 for 31-40 years, 45 for 41-50 years, 27 for 51-60 years, and 9 over the age of 61. Of the arrests 127 were found guilty, 30 were placed on home confinement, 67 were withdrawn, 83 were dismissed, 10 were bound to circuit court, 35 to grand jury, 10 received jail time, and 20 probation. This year meth labs, marijuana crops, moonshine stills have all come down. Good work!

# INTERVENTION: Success Stories



**Parents As Teachers:** The HOPE Coalition networked with BHFF and local agencies to bring this initiative to McDowell County which is housed at Community Crossing. As a program that addresses risk factors (including substance use and abuse) for prenatal through age five children and families, this program is designed to provide all parents with research-based child development information, guidance, assistance, and family support that encourages the development of young children. The vision is that all children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential.

Parent educators conduct home visits to provide information about stages of development, general parenting guidance, tips on home safety, effective discipline, and constructive planned activities. Periodic monitoring and formal screening of overall development, language, hearing and vision are also offered to participating families. Parents in the program enjoy monthly group connection meetings and weekly play groups. The program has close to 40 participants in the program now.



**SBIRT:** HOPE Coalition sector members Southern Highlands and Welch Community Hospital are introducing Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). All

patients in participating emergency rooms automatically undergo a quick screening to assess their alcohol and drug use. If they're at risk of developing a serious problem, they receive a brief intervention that focuses on raising their awareness of substance abuse and motivating them to change their behavior. Patients who need more extensive treatment receive referrals to specialty care. Southern Highlands has placed three staff at Welch Community Hospital to cover non-conventional hours including weekdays from 6 pm to 2-3 am and Saturday and Sunday from early afternoon to late nights. From May-July there have been 404 screenings; 285 positive screenings; 76 agreeing to talk to a counselor; 71 interventions; 3 brief treatments; and 16 referrals to treatment.



**Alternative Sentencing Program:** HOPE Coalition sectors opened the alternative sentencing program which provides non-violent McDowell County offenders services they can perform in lieu of jail time, as well as other programs that specifically address drug addiction including: AA/NA Support Groups, Substance Abuse Counseling, Living Skills Curriculum, Active Parenting Curriculum, Helping Women Recover Curriculum, Drug Education & Awareness Classes. Eli-

gibility for the Alternative Sentencing Program services is mandated through the Circuit Court, Magistrate Court and Family Law Master Offices. The program also accepts referrals from the Department of Health and Human Resources for specific programs. This Program offers individuals an opportunity to address issues and allows them to move back into mainstream society.

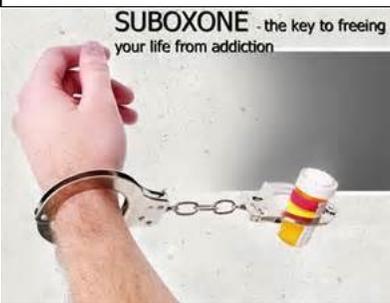


**Juvenile Drug Court:** This is a diversion program to aid in the rehabilitation of substance abusing youth. It is a court managed, drug treatment program available to youth who have been arrested and/or charged with an offense and determined to have substance abuse issues. The program is available to pre-petition youth. Participants receive intensive treatment, supervision, drug testing and monitoring to achieve successful treatment outcomes.

Services include juveniles 10-17 years old or under 21 and currently under juvenile jurisdiction in Court. Non-violent misdemeanor or felony offenses or drug/alcohol related status offenses. No previous adjudications for sex offenses. Program length is structured as a four-phase program that each participant will complete in approximately 8 months but may vary according to the youth's success in the program.

## TREATMENT: Success Stories

**Welch Community Hospital:** Provides acute care, emergency services, ICU, and delivery services to serve the needs of individuals in McDowell. Unfortunately, this is many times where documentation of newborns exposed to substance abuse. This is also where overdose patients are seen. The hospital works diligently to care for our loved ones. In 2012, there were 166 individuals treated in the emergency room for overdosing. More than 40% of the babies test positive for exposure to drugs.



### Suboxone Programs:

Tug River Health Association and Southern Highlands Community Health Center offer Suboxone Programs. Tug River

utilizes telemedicine for counseling.

Southern Highlands clinic was developed through cooperation between county leaders, Southern Highlands, and West Virginia University. As part of the plan, doctors from WVU use teleconference with patients at the clinic as part of the treatment services. The treatment includes group therapy and WVU supplies a psychiatrist who can order the Suboxone for the clients. Suboxone helps people get off opiates, but unlike methadone it completely

weans the person off in a year or so rather than making them dependent on it. Once a client completes his or her treatment in a 12-month period, they go off Suboxone and no longer have to keep up with group therapy. When one client completes his or her treatment, it will open up space at the clinic for another client.

The program started with 10 slots available and opened with four clients, increased to eight, then lost two so the average is six. The patient must be at the center. Without any of these three components, treatment cannot be successful.

**Women's Treatment Facility:** The women's 10-Bed treatment facility as currently proposed includes clients that have been detoxed at a hospital or crisis unit before beginning treatment at the facility. The project had been delayed due to the challenge of finding, available land outside of the flood plain, clearance of land etc. As the project progresses, details will follow.

**Other Resources:** The McDowell County FACES Resource Directory has a section on Drugs. This information includes a directory of options for treatment of substance use and abuse. The directory is available online at [www.facesfrn.com](http://www.facesfrn.com). Printed copies are available at a limited supply for service providers. A brochure of Southern WV Resources is available at the McDowell County FACES Office, 25 Bank Street, Welch, WV.

## RECOVERY: Success Stories

Recovery programs are greatly needed in our county as well as the rest of the country. They are minimal at best and include AA/NA. Available in the War area at the **Crist the King Catholic Church** on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. This is one of two programs still in operation in the county that we are aware of. Contact is Bubby

McGhee at 304-875-3708 and leave a message for him.

The **McDowell Alternative Sentencing Program** offers AA/NA on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. to males only. They hope to expand their program at a later time. Contact Erin Bailey at 304-436-9008 for additional information.

Additional recovery programs are needed including step-down facilities. To truly complete the continuum of care for substance abuse you must include recovery. This is one of the least funded efforts in the substance use and abuse system of care.



# MCDOWELL EXPO: REMINDER



**What: McDowell EXPO**

**When: October 4-5, 2013**

**Where: Welch Armory**

For a long time, McDowell County has struggled with economic devastations, high unemployment, poverty, poor statistics, and loss of people. There are 22,000 citizens of McDowell County that have not left, quit, or lost hope.

Agencies and government have consistently worked on improving the County and it is time that we **show off what we have** in the Wonderful County of McDowell.

On October 4-5, government, quasi-government, agencies, organizations, nonprofits, providers, companies, etc., are coming together to showcase the County.

On October 4-5, the EXPO will provide county residents an opportunity to come in, look around, participate in activities.

Everything is in the planning stages, however we know we will have a jobs fair, health screenings, information booths, entertainment, and other activities.

Plan to attend, get to know your County, get involved in the future

of the County, and enjoy the event.

Early bird registration will save you some money and hopefully reserve a good spot. Electricity, tables with skirts, chairs, and drapes will be provided.

**If you are interested in obtaining a booth or need a contract or information, contact Peni Adams at the EDA at 304-436-3833.**



## RESOURCE DIRECTORIES ARE HERE

### McDowell County Resource Directory 2013



From:

McDowell County Families, Agencies,  
Children Enhancing Services  
(F.A.C.E.S.)

*The Consumer's Voice of McDowell County*

P.O. Box 426  
25 Bank Street  
Welch, WV 24801  
304-436-5255  
304-436-5256 - fax  
facesfrn@yahoo.com  
website: facesfrn.com

As promised, the new 2013 McDowell County Resource Directories have arrived in our office.

We ordered 500 of these directories so that we can offer agencies and service providers a complete quick listing of resources available to families in McDowell. Supplies will be limited.

If your agency would like to stop by our office and pick up a directory (larger agencies may have several), please feel free to do so.

The directory is also located on our website [www.facesfrn.com](http://www.facesfrn.com).

Funding for the printing of this directory comes from WV DHHR; WV Bureau of Health and Health Facilities; Prevention Without Borders (Community Connections), Kanawha Charleston Health Department.

If you have any questions, comments, or needs, contact Kathie Whitt at 304-436-5255.

**McDowell County FACES**  
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**Web: facesfrn.com**

FACES Meeting: 2nd  
Thursday of each month at  
noon —open to the public.

HOPE Meeting: 4th  
Monday at 10:30 a.m.—  
open to the public.

**Location: FACES Office**

This newsletter  
brought to you by  
funds from the WV  
DHHR.

## **Change The Future, WV**

### **Making Healthy Changes in**

### **McDowell County**



Visiting Linda McKinney at the Five Loaves and Two Fishes, McDowell County's Food Bank, I find they have provided food and products for six outlying pantries, infant and children's pantry, a year round toy pantry for displaced children, a disaster pantry for those suffering through housing loss and also serves as a POINT OF DISTRIBUTION for Homeland Security during Emergency Disasters. Physical fitness programs are available at the site as well. Partnering with Change the Future WV, Linda has a good supply of reusable grocery bags that she fills with as much food items as the bags can hold. Helping families with food, nutrition, and exercise is just a few things Linda is doing to change her community. Recently she held an event for grandparents raising their grandchildren. Spending the day talking with Linda and exploring the facility left me feeling exhausted and encouraged at the same time. Changing communities will take more people like the McKinney's and lots of hard work and dedication.

## **Verbalee's Experience: Cross Training**

### **A Coordinated Community Response to Elder Abuse**

**September 26, 2013 at the Tamarack, Beckley**

This free training will provide education and awareness about building a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) that is victim-centered, promotes victim safety, and increases offender accountability. (An afternoon planning meeting includes those participating in an ongoing CCR in Greenbrier and McDowell Counties).

Continuing Education: SW 4 hours (Provider #490098); DVAC 4 hours (Cultural Accountability and Awareness); Law Enforcement—Pending; CLE—Pending; Nursing (Provider #WV2001-0385RN).

Intended Audience: Law Enforcement, Prosecution, DV, sexual assault & system based victim advocates, APS workers, Aging Services, Health Care, Long Term Care, Mental Health, Ombudsmen and community providers working with people in later life.

Sponsored by the Division of Community Services and the WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

**Registration Deadline—September 5, 2013**

**For registration form or more information contact: 304-965-3552**