

annual report

2023

settling in & stepping up

On the backside of COVID and the start of new grant projects, 2023 was a time of both **settling in** and **stepping up**.

New project coordinators Jermois Morris and Celia Richmond **settled in** to the team this year, becoming cross-trained on prevention and recovery related efforts.

Finally fully staffed, the Coalition **stepped up** its direct prevention services. We strengthened community ties and more meaningfully participated in shared efforts around addressing root causes and consequences of substance misuse—behavioral health, criminal justice reentry, and youth wellbeing.

CARE was also charged with **stepping up** to develop recommendations for the local use of national opioid settlement funds. Coalition staff took the lead on helping community members understand the process for using those funds and managing

compliance with state reporting requirements.

Meanwhile, CARE's jail-based program, in partnership with Transylvania County Sheriff's Office, **settled in** to a compassionate, yet efficient, rhythm. Staff integrated their processes, referral methods, and community contacts into an effective workflow. Meeting daily with detainees, CARE's jail-based staff not only changed lives, but made waves and turned heads—receiving lots of positive media coverage and attention from decision makers at the local, regional, and state level.

They **stepped up** by lending technical assistance to other communities, taking on leadership positions with a revitalized reentry council, and advocating for resources that protect the health and lives of their justice-involved clients.

CARE Coalition is also honored to have walked alongside several new organizations **stepping up** around social determinants of health,



mental wellbeing, and community capacity in Transylvania County. The collaborative capabilities of our community are more robust than ever. The coalition is part and parcel of these organizations—with many shared members and stakeholders. Indeed, the coalition relies on its partners to champion solutions and stay the course.

We now look to the future, with a focus on both sustainability and expansion of our work. Together, we are again **stepping up**, ready to face new challenges and imagine new solutions.

working
together
to reduce
substance misuse

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

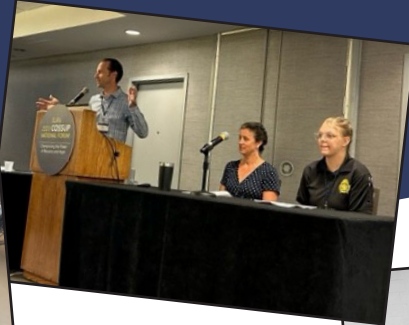
96,528 media impressions

925 total hours of service

1,019 people served

\$475,000 operating budget

\$300,000 in-kind support
from community partners



staffing updates

CARE is thrilled to have hired two new project coordinators in May 2023. Celia Richmond and Jermois Morris have been an integral part of expanding CARE's work in prevention and recovery initiatives.

Celia grew up in Transylvania County and returned home to work with CARE after completing her bachelor of science degree in Public Health at Appalachian State University.

In this role, she has enjoyed many opportunities to be immersed in her community in new capacities and further explore the continuum of prevention through recovery work. When she is not at work, Celia enjoys spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, and eating good food.



Jermois is from Ridge Spring, SC. Growing up in a rural, underserved area in South Carolina, Jermois gained a passion for community health, which led him to the North Carolina mountains to earn his bachelor



of science in Integrated Health Sciences from Western Carolina University in 2022. He has worked at the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority and volunteered with Vecinos before joining CARE. Jermois loves being a part of this team and working to reduce substance misuse in Transylvania County. In his free time, Jermois

enjoys spending time with family and friends, exploring the backroads of Western North Carolina, and being somewhere outside—when it's warm of course.

Celia and Jermois manage coalition activities, provide education to community members, identify and pursue creative ways to improve access to treatment and recovery, teach evidence-based prevention curricula to students, and support collaborative efforts such as TC STRONG and Voice of the Students.

featured program

NC OPIOID SETTLEMENT ALLOCATION PROCESS

Transylvania County will be receiving \$5.8 million from the national opioid settlements over the next 18 years. CARE Coalition was recognized by Transylvania County government to lead the process for determining how to best allocate this funding.

Having led a county-wide needs assessment and strategic planning process, CARE staff worked to develop specific, evidence-based interventions that could meaningfully impact people's lives and create population-level change. We worked with a consultant to investigate interventions in similar communities, estimate cost-benefits and individual impact, and calculate sample budgets for seven different interventions.

CARE hosted a "Community Information Session" in November 2023 to share these recommendations with the public and then presented official recommendations to the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners in December 2023. The commissioners will decide which strategies to fund, and CARE will assist with developing a spending plan and reporting outcomes to the state.

our vision:

A thriving Transylvania County supported by programs and services that reduce substance misuse

accomplishments

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- Developed and delivered educational training about substance use disorder to:
 - Transylvania County Sheriff's Office patrol and detention officers
 - SAFE, Inc. staff
 - RYSC summer program participants
 - Faith Missionary Baptist youth group
 - Non-profit roundtable
- Coalition Vice-Chair Jim Hardy developed and delivered an educational presentation on trauma and the brain.
- Partnered with TC STRONG to host a viewing of Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age followed by a discussion to explore the impact of screens on families and youth.
- Partnered with TC STRONG and SparkPoint to contribute self-care bags to the Brevard College Psi Chi chapter's self-care event.
- Partnered with Transylvania County Schools to collect data on youth behavioral health and substance use.
- Sponsored 6 Behavioral Health Corner articles in the Transylvania Times. These articles aim to address cutting-edge topics in behavioral health, with a particular focus on substance misuse.
- Presented a Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit at National Night Out, which provides information to parents about signs of teen drug use.

TREATMENT & HARM REDUCTION

- Distributed 110 lockboxes and 188 disposal bags to community members and partner organizations.
- The jail-based reentry program submitted 64 applications for in-patient SUD treatment.
- Delivered educational training on Narcan administration and overdose prevention to Sharing House staff.
- Facilitated partnership between Blue Ridge Health, Sharing House, and DJ's Wish for Narcan distribution.
- Developed and distributed Law Enforcement Resource cards with information on recovery services to officers at the Brevard Police Department and Transylvania County Sheriff's Office.

YOUTH RESILIENCE

- Continued partnering with TC STRONG and SparkPoint to advise and support 8 chapters of our **Voice of the Students** youth coalition.
- Sponsored 13 teens to attend the Teen Health Connection's Leadership Summit in Charlotte, designed to help teens "find their power" and connect with other drug-free youth who are making a difference in their communities.
- Trained 2 staff in YMHFA (Youth Mental Health First Aid) and 1 staff in ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training).
- Sponsored 2 community youth events to engage Voice of the Student members.

NICOTINE

- Delivered the "Catch My Breath" curriculum to all Rosman Middle School health classes.
- Sponsored "Vape Educate" licenses for Transylvania County middle and high schools.
- Trained 2 staff in a nicotine prevention program and alternative to suspension program and 1 staff in a nicotine cessation program.
- In partnership with MountainWise and Healthy Communities, advocated for a Tobacco 21 resolution adopted by the Transylvania County Board of Health and the Transylvania County Board of Education.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

- Supported Brevard Police Department in completing compliance checks and follow-up support for businesses.
- Provided recommendations to Brevard City Council about best practices regarding the proposed social district.
- Distributed 94 bottle locks at community events.
- Provided education to parents via social media about keeping alcohol out of reach and how to have conversations about alcohol and underage drinking.

about the coalition

Our mission: Empower collaborative partnerships in Transylvania County to reduce substance misuse by promoting prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts among youth and adults for a vibrant, healthful community.

The CARE Coalition of Transylvania County works to change community norms, reduce access and availability of drugs and alcohol, promote recovery, and reduce harm. The coalition convenes interested community members, facilitates collaboration, and coordinates efforts between coalition members and existing local resources. Supported by paid staff, coalition membership includes representatives from 12 community sectors including healthcare, law enforcement, social services, education, faith, and business, as well as parents, people in recovery, and other concerned citizens.

The “real work” of the coalition is done in project teams that focus on access to care and services, policy and enforcement, community outreach, and education. These project teams focus on implementing evidence-based strategies to raise awareness of substance misuse, build protective factors for youth, and change policies and environments in Transylvania County.

CARE is funded through 2 federal grants: the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program of the President’s Office of National Drug Control and Policy administered by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, as well as a Saving Lives from Opioid Misuse grant from the Dogwood Health Trust. In addition, Brevard ABC Board provides funds to support youth and family outreach. The value of in-kind support from our community partners and volunteers is valued at over \$300,000 annually. Transylvania Public Health serves as the coalition’s fiscal agent.

OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Chairman: Steve Pulliam, Rotary International (civic/volunteer organization)
- Vice-chair: Jim Hardy, THReCon (civic/volunteer organization)
- Secretary: Beth Hyatt, Healthy Communities (local government)
- Joe Cohen, MD, emergency physician (healthcare)
- Beth Ford, TC STRONG (youth-serving organization)
- Tom Jordan, Brevard Police Department (law enforcement)
- Julie Queen, Transylvania County Schools (education)
- Tara Rybka, MPH, Transylvania Public Health (local government, media)

GET INVOLVED!

- **Attend a CARE Coalition meeting**
Second Wednesday of each month, 1:00pm
Email carecoalition@tconc.org to receive a link to join the meeting on Zoom
- **Subscribe to our mailing list**
Email carecoalition@tconc.org
- **Learn more about the coalition online**
Visit www.transylvaniacares.org
- **Join one of CARE’s project teams**
Contact us for dates, times, and more info



CONTACT US

(828) 884-1750
106 East Morgan Street
Suite 105
Brevard, NC 28712
carecoalition@tconc.org
www.transylvaniacares.org

-  @transylvaniacare
-  transylvaniacare_coalition
-  tccarecoalition

2023 PARTNERS

- ARC Inspire
- Blue Ridge Community College
- Blue Ridge Health / Meridian Behavioral Health Services
- Brevard ABC Board
- Brevard City Council
- Brevard College
- Brevard First United Methodist Church
- Brevard Police Department
- Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce
- Children’s Advocacy Center
- The Children’s Center of Transylvania County
- Cindy Platt Boys & Girls Club
- Co-Ed Cinema
- Dogwood Health Trust
- El Centro
- The Family Place
- Get Set Transylvania
- Gordon Family Pharmacy
- The Haven of Transylvania County
- Hope Coalition
- Henderson County Health Department
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- The Mediation Center
- Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC)
- Mountain Sun Community School
- MountainWise
- Pisgah Health Foundation
- RHA Prevention Resource Centers
- Rise & Shine/Neighbors in Ministry
- SAFE, Inc. of Transylvania County
- Sharing House
- SparkPoint
- Teen Health Connection
- Town of Rosman
- TC STRONG
- Roundtable
- Transylvania County Administration
- Transylvania County Department of Social Services
- Transylvania County EMS
- Transylvania County Library
- Transylvania County Parks and Recreation
- THReCon
- Transylvania County Schools
- Transylvania County Sheriff’s Office
- Transylvania Narcotics Task Force
- Transylvania Public Health
- Transylvania Regional Hospital
- The Transylvania Times
- VAYA Health
- Voices of Affrilachia
- WSQL Radio