

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Conference

(Formerly Known as Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder)

*Cultivating a Community Response to Opioid Use Disorder*



North Carolina Central University  
Student Center

500 Nelson St. Durham, North Carolina



**NC**Central  
UNIVERSITY



**May 9, 2024**

## About the Conference

The theme of this year's conference is *Cultivating a Community Response to Opioid Use Disorder*. The primary objective of the conference is to bring together activists, treatment providers, researchers, policymakers, and individuals personally affected by opioid use, to exchange insights, explore innovative strategies and solutions, and gain relevant training that contributes to improving MOUD treatment for the residents of North Carolina.

## About MOUD

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and other therapeutic approaches, to provide a "whole-patient" approach to the treatment of opioid use disorders. In contrast to the term medication assisted treatment (MAT), which implies that medications (e.g., methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone) should have a supplemental or temporary role in treatment, the term MOUD aligns with the way other psychiatric medications are understood (e.g., antidepressants), as critical tools that are central to a patient's treatment plan (see <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/addiction-science/words-matter-preferred-language-talking-about-addiction>). These medications work to normalize brain chemistry, block the euphoric effects of opioids, relieve cravings, and stabilize body functions, allowing the patient to focus on other aspects of recovery (e.g., learning effective coping strategies). Research has shown MOUD is a safe and effective way to treat opioid use disorder.

## PARTNERS

**North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA)**. NCCHCA was formed in 1978 by the leadership of community health centers. Its members include 38 Federally Qualified Health Center grantees (including one migrant voucher program) and five Look-Alike organizations. NCCHCA is singularly focused on the success of health centers throughout the state. As a non-profit consumer governed Federally Qualified Health Centers, NCCHCA provides integrated medical, dental, pharmacy, behavioral health, and enabling services to over one-half million patients in North Carolina.

**The Julius L. Chambers Biomedical and Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI)** at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) conducts multidisciplinary and inter-institutional research focused on health issues that disproportionately affect minority and underserved populations. In addition to engaging in cutting edge research, BBRI provides experiential learning opportunities to students pursuing careers in the biomedical sciences.

The North Carolina Collaboratory is a research entity that partners with academic institutions and state agencies to transform research into practical information for use by State and local government. Since its authorization in 2016 by the legislature (see 31a N.C.G.S. §1116-255), the Collaboratory has stewarded \$148 million in appropriations from the NC General Assembly, investing in over 400 research projects across all 17 UNC System campuses and numerous NC-based private colleges and universities. Initially focused on natural resources and environmental issues, the Collaboratory has since broadened its portfolio to include research on some of the State's most pressing challenges, including public health, education, clean energy, economic recovery, and technology development. The Collaboratory is committed to developing innovative, evidence-based solutions that serve the State and its constituents.

**Opioid Abatement Coordinating Center (OACC)** at NCCU BBRI is funded by the NC Collaboratory to build research capacity and relationships across UNC System institutions, partners, and community-based organizations to address the opioid epidemic impacting residents of North Carolina.

## AGENDA

- 8:00 am      Registration/Breakfast
- 8:45 am      **Opening Remarks** - Chris Shank, CEO and Justin Oyler, Interim VP of Clinical Affairs, NCCHCA
- 9:00 am      **Remarks** - Rep. Wayne Sasser, North Carolina House of Representatives
- 9:30 am      **Remarks** - Dr. Jeff Warren, Executive Director of the NC Collaboratory

BREAK 9:45 - 10:00 am

- 10:00 am      **Lived Experience Panel**
- Panelists:**
- Collin Miller, Community Liaison, UNC-Chapel Hill Drug Lab
  - Adam Truell, Peer Support Specialist, CRCHC, Inc.
  - Stephanie Almeida, CADC, CPS, Radical Love Heals
- 11:00 am      **Breakout Sessions**

**Speakers:**

- **NC Medication Assisted Therapy Bridge Programs** - Dr. Tripp Winslow, MD, MPH, Medical Director NC Office of EMS, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist  
Room 2128
- **Integrated Harm Reduction** - Charlton Roberson BA, CADAC, ICADC, QMHP, CPI Eastern Regional Coordinator and Greg Berry, Cumberland County Linkage to Care Coordinator, NCHRC  
Room 2127
- **Adolescent Substance Use: A Pediatric Disease** - Dr. Marty Wunsch, MD, FAAP, FASAM, Director of Addiction Medicine, Greater Southern Alameda Area, Kaiser Permanente  
Room 2211
- **Why Recovery Courts Matter: An Alternative Approach to Incarceration** - Judge Hamadani, Kamesha Falana and Nicole Singletary, Wake County Recovery Court  
Room 2300

LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00 pm

1:00 pm **Meaningful Work in the Midst of Heartbreak - Community Engagement in Overdose Prevention** – Dr. Nabarun Dasgupta, MPH, PhD, Senior Scientist, UNC Chapel Hill Injury Prevention Research Center

2:00 pm **Breakout Sessions**

**Speakers:**

- **Working with Jails and the Prison System to Provide Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD): Continuation and Initiation** - Dr. Evan Ashkin, MD, Professor of Family Medicine, UNC Chapel Hill  
Room 2300
- **Seeing the Unseen: Building an Integrated Community Response in High Risk Forgotten Communities** - Tim Nolan, ANP-BC, High Country Community Health, Mark Siler, LCSW/LCAS, Care-Net Counseling, Sarah Hensley, NC Peer Support Specialist and RCC Coordinator, & Julie McAllister NC Peer Support, Community Health Worker  
Room 2127
- **Preparing the Next Generation of Rural Health Care Providers for Clinically Competent and Culturally Sensitive Treatment for OUD** - Dr. Victoria Soltis- Jarrett, PhD, PMHNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, Carol Morde Ross Distinguished Professor of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing, Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, UNC Chapel Hill  
Room 2128
- **GCSTOP (Guilford County Solution to the Opioid Problem)** - Dr. Melissa Floyd-Pickard, PhD, LCSW, Professor of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
Room 2211

BREAK 3:00 - 3:15 pm

3:15 pm      **Panel Discussion - *Resolving the Opioid Crisis in Rural NC: The Importance of Local Government, CBOs, and Academic Partnerships***  
Room 2319 (Main Hall)

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Chandra Speight, PhD, RN, NP-C, CNE, Assistant Professor, East Carolina University
- Mayor Melissa Elliot of Henderson, North Carolina
- Ruby Gerald, Director of Rural Health Hub, Halifax County, North Carolina
- Georgina Couden, Social Work Supervisor Halifax County Social Services
- Ashley Love, MPA, Grant Administrator, Robeson County, North Carolina

Or

**Breakout Session - *Creating More Housing for People on MAT by Refuting the Myths*** - Kay Sanford, MPH  
Room 2300

4:00 pm      Closing remarks – Dr. Leah Floyd, NCCU

**SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Nabarun Dasgupta MPH, PhD** is a Senior Scientist in the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center at UNC Chapel Hill with two decades of experience in overdose epidemiology and prevention. His passion is telling true stories about health, with numbers. Centered in harm reduction, his multidisciplinary approach draws on large database analytics, qualitative field studies, laboratory investigations, randomized trials, and community-based interventions. Through his work he aims to amplify community and patient voices in public health.

**Dr. Evan Ashkin MD** is a professor of Family Medicine at UNC Chapel Hill. His work focuses on addressing health disparities and gaps in care for marginalized populations. Dr. Ashkin founded the North Carolina Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program in 2017 to help address the absence of linkages to care for people released from incarceration with chronic disease, mental illness and/or substance use disorder. The FIT Program now operates in seven counties across North Carolina. Dr. Ashkin also directs the North Carolina Technical Assistance Center, which provides support for people at risk for incarceration and overdose.

**Charlton Roberson BA, CADC, ICADC, QMHP, CPI** is the Eastern Regional Coordinator for the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC), Chief Operating Officer of Life Net

Services, LLC, and Chairperson of Life Net Recovery Foundation. A person 27 years in recovery, Charlton has worked in the mental health field in NC for 20 years. Charlton began his career working with at risk youth serving as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of six psychiatric residential treatment facilities around the State. He is a certified drug and alcohol counselor and a certified instructor in non-violent crisis Intervention. He has worked as a mobile crisis counselor for three years and is a harm reductionist. His tenure with NCHRC has been cathartic. Working at NCHRC has renewed Charlton's passion and provided him with a new platform to make a difference in his community.

**Greg Berry** is a certified peer support specialist and SMART Recovery facilitator, who is currently pursuing his degree in social work. Growing up in Fayetteville, NC, Greg spent more than 20 years going in and of the juvenile justice system, the State adult criminal justice system, and eventually the federal prison system. However, during his last incarceration he decided to take a new path. Currently, Greg serves as the Cumberland County Linkage to Care Coordinator, is a member of the Fayetteville Cumberland Opioid Response Team, the Post Overdose Response Team, and the Fayetteville Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program. You can reach out to Greg for community partner collaboration, overdose recognition and reversal training, harm reduction education, and training on harm reduction principles and cultural competence.

**Tim Nolan ANP-BC** has been a nurse practitioner for over 30 years with emphasis on HIV care, hepatitis C treatment, and substance use treatment in primary care settings and low barrier/outreach care. Currently, he provides hepatitis C treatment and substance use disorder treatment, including MOUD, in collaboration with Olive Branch Ministry.

**Victoria Soltis-Jarrett, PhD, PMHNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN** is the Carol Morde Ross Distinguished Professor of Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing at UNC Chapel Hill and is board certified by the ANCC as a Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Dr. Soltis-Jarrett has practiced psychiatric nursing for over 35 years and continues to focus her clinical practice, teaching, and scholarship on rural mental health care, integrating behavioral health into primary, acute, and long-term care settings, participatory research, and community engagement. She has been awarded over 16 million dollars in grant funding, which has directly impacted NC by increasing the healthcare workforce and thus, increasing access to mental health and substance use services in NC. Over the past 18 years she has been recruiting and educating nurses to be prepared to work as nurse practitioners in rural and underserved counties. She actively practices as a nurse practitioner and provides psychiatric-mental health consultation-liaison with a variety of agencies and organizations.

**Catherine (Kay) Sanford, MSPH (retired)** is an injury epidemiologist who identified the overdose epidemic in North Carolina in 2002 and began statewide initiatives to develop and implement new overdose prevention programs. Since retiring, she helped co-found Project Lazarus and continues to work on overdose prevention in prisons. Mrs. Sanford is a volunteer

instructor with the NC Harm Reduction Coalition. Additionally, she has led the TEACH Initiative and oversees a program to teach overdose and suicide prevention in high schools. Mrs. Sanders has expertise in substance use disorder curriculum design and communication.

**Martha J. Wunsch, MD, FAAP DFASAM** is Director of Addiction Medicine, Greater Southern Alameda Area, Kaiser Permanente and serves as a consultant to the North Carolina Institute on Substance Abuse. She is a board-certified pediatrician and addiction medicine specialist. She is also a member of the addiction medicine specialty board of the American Board of Preventive Medicine. Dr. Wunsch has held faculty positions at Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the University of Kentucky. As a Kaiser Permanente physician in the San Francisco Bay area, Dr. Wunsch founded Kaiser's first hospital-based addiction medicine consultation/liaison service and their addiction medicine fellowship. She has published research related to overdose deaths due to prescription medications, treatment of neonatal opioid withdrawal and co-authored addiction-related policy documents for the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Wunsch is the past president of the American College of Academic Addiction Medicine and served as an editor of the *Journal of Addiction Medicine*.

**James "Tripp" Winslow M.D** is a Professor of Emergency Medicine at Atrium Wake Forest Baptist in Winston-Salem. He completed his undergraduate studies at Davidson College and attended medical school at UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Winslow has worked at Atrium Wake Forest Baptist since 2003. He is currently the Medical Director at the NC Office of EMS and assists with providing leadership to 42,000 prehospital providers and 17 trauma centers. Dr. Winslow is dedicated to finding new and innovative ways to provide care in nontraditional environments.

**Dr. Jeff Warren, Ph.D.** is the Executive Director of the NC Collaboratory. In this position he oversees research activities coordinated by the NC Collaboratory across the UNC system, serves as a liaison between researchers and the NC General Assembly, and provides data-driven policy recommendations to the NC General Assembly based on this research. Formally trained as a marine geologist, Jeff has spent the past 15 years in state-level science policy positions, including the science advisor for the North Carolina Senate President Pro Tempore.

**Representative Wayne Sasser** is a Member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, representing District 67. He serves as Chairperson of the Appropriations and Health Committees and is a member of the House Select Committee on Substance Abuse. Trained as pharmacist with a career that spans 45 years, Representative Sasser is committed to ending the opioid crisis (driven by prescription drug misuse) in NC.

**Judge Sam Hamadani** was born in Iran, but her parents immigrated to the United States in search of a better life when she was fifteen months old. Sam grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and attended college at UNC Chapel Hill, where she studied psychology and

sociology. After graduating from college, Sam committed her life to public service. First, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked as a legislative correspondent for Senator Joe Biden. Then, after a few years in D.C., Sam returned to NC to attend the UNC Chapel Hill School of Law. Upon graduation, she served Wake County as an assistant public defender, representing thousands of indigent individuals in criminal court. In June 2017, Governor Roy Cooper appointed Sam to serve as a Wake County District Court Judge. Sam is the first Iranian American judge in North Carolina. Sam presides over the following courtrooms: traffic and criminal courts, DWI court, juvenile delinquency court, recovery court, civil and criminal domestic violence courts, family court, bond forfeiture court, and felony criminal district court. Sam ran unopposed in 2018 and 2022 to keep her seat on the District Court bench.

**Kamesha Falana** attended North Carolina Central University & Shaw University where she earned her undergraduate degree in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice. She also has a master's degree in public administration with a concentration in government management. Ms. Falana has over 25 years of experience working with justice involved individuals. She worked in the North Carolina prison system for 14 years and dedicated several years to working with at risk youth, the homeless, and veterans. She began working with Recovery Court Programs in 2012. Currently, Kamesha is the Program Supervisor for the Wake County Recovery Court Program, which serves justice involved adults diagnosed with substance use and mental health disorders. She works closely with treatment providers to ensure individuals receive quality treatment. Kamesha is very passionate about helping people navigate the criminal justice system, especially those who are often stigmatized by our community.

**Nicole Singletary** is a compassionate recovery advocate with extensive experience working with individuals diagnosed with substance use and mental health disorders. As an injury and drug prevention unit manager for Wake County, she provides program management for the Drug Overdose Initiative, a comprehensive program designed to prevent drug overdoses, support harm reduction efforts, and reduce risk taking behaviors. In addition, Nicole currently serves as chairperson for the Wake County Drug Overdose Prevention Coalition and provides guidance to the Wake County Recovery Court's supervisor. Nicole is married and has a sweet, rescued Chihuahua Rat Terrier and volunteers for the dog rescue. She is an active member of her church.

**Chandra Speight, PhD, RN, NP-C, CNE** is an assistant professor in the Department of Advanced Nursing Practice and Education in the College of Nursing at East Carolina University. Her research considers the overlapping topics of nurse practitioner capacity and healthcare access in rural areas, focusing on substance use disorder treatment. Currently, she is principal investigator/co-principal investigator on two funded studies. One project focuses on the integration of substance use disorder training into nurse practitioner curricula. The other project focus is on community delivered SBIRT for individuals living with opioid use disorder. Dr. Speight has shared her scholarly work in *Nursing Forum*, *The Journal for Nurse*



*Practitioners*, and *The Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners* as well as at numerous professional meetings, such as the International Academy of Addictions Nursing International Conference. Dr. Speight holds a Master of Arts in Political Science, a Master of Arts in English, a Master of Science in Nursing, and a PhD in Nursing. In addition to teaching health care policy, translational science, and clinical courses to advanced practice nursing students, Dr. Speight works as a family nurse practitioner at a health department in rural eastern North Carolina.

**Melissa Floyd Pickard, Ph.D., LCSW** is a professor of Social Work at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She completed her doctoral work at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2002. Throughout her career she has worked in direct service settings primarily with persons who have serious mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and intellectual disabilities. She has served as a consultant with agencies throughout the NC Triad. Dr. Floyd Pickard served for eight years as the department chairperson for the Department of Social Work at UNCG where she was instrumental in starting the Joint PhD program with NC A&T. She has received over four million dollars in research grants over the past five years. For example, she is currently the principal investigator on the Guilford County Solution to the Opioid Problem Programs. Her hobbies include writing fiction, gardening, and singing. She lives in Greensboro, North Carolina with her husband Walter and their two children, Elijah and Iris.

**Mark Siler LCSW/ LCAS** is a counselor at Care Net Counseling. Mark engages in clinical outreach with High Country Community Health and IMPACT in McDowell and Burke Counties as well as the Buncombe County Post Overdose Response Team.

## BOOTHS

Morse Clinic

Counseling Center, North Carolina Central University

North Carolina Collaboratory Research Project, North Carolina Central University

### Conference Committee

Heather Lockey, *NCCHCA*

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