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Williams

June 26, 2024

On behalf of the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board, I am pleased to provide the following 2023 Annual Report for the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund and the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board pursuant to SC Code Ann. § 11-58-10, *et seq.*

At the beginning of 2023, counties and municipalities across the state received the first opioid recovery funds to implement opioid abatement strategies in South Carolina. By year's end, the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board had distributed \$11,580,107.05 to 34 counties, towns and cities that requested funds to help combat the opioid epidemic. As a result, more than 175,000 citizens benefited from programs and resources funded by the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund. According to 2023 reports from political subdivisions, 32,701 adults and 6,854 children received connections to treatment services; 17,644 adults engaged in harm reduction efforts; and more than 5,800 naloxone kits were distributed into our communities. Prevention efforts reached more than 100,000 South Carolinians in 2023, and 3,909 law enforcement and first responders were supported thanks to programs and resources funded by the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund.

Later in the year, the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board awarded the first discretionary funds to entities seeking money for efforts to address the opioid crisis. The Board awarded twenty-one entities discretionary funding in the amount of \$7,421,013.54.

An old proverb states, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." While the State still faces tremendous hurdles to overcome the opioid crisis, the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board will continue to encourage our partners in the communities of South Carolina to utilize these critical funds to plant seeds of prevention, treatment, and recovery that will grow into a future where the crisis is abated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Bedingfield", written over a horizontal line.

Eric M. Bedingfield, Chair

South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board
1201 Main Street, Suite 420 Columbia, SC 29201
contact@scorf.sc.gov



ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

In February 2022, the National Prescription Opiate Litigation Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee began to finalize settlements of claims against opioid distributors and opioid manufacturers as part of the multistate National Prescription Opiate Litigation.

In South Carolina, all 46 counties and all 43 eligible municipalities, as well as the Health Services District of Kershaw County and Medical University of South Carolina, signed a state-subdivision agreement, *In re SC Opioid Litigation*, adopting the national settlements. As a result, South Carolina expects to receive approximately \$361 million through 2038 to help address and combat the ongoing opioid crisis through education and prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery efforts.

On May 23, 2022, Governor Henry McMaster signed the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Act, SC Code §11-58-10 *et seq.*, into law. This Act ratifies and implements the necessary terms of the opioid-related settlements by creating the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund, establishing the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board and barring future claims by state and local government entities against certain companies involved in opioid-related settlements.

THE GOVERNING BOARD

The South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board (“SCORF Board”) administers and distributes the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund in accordance with the terms of opioid-related national and state settlement agreements.

The South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board is comprised of the following nine members and their respective appointing authority:

Eric Bedingfield, (Chair) Appointed by the Governor, Gov. Henry McMaster

Aditi Bussells, Ph.D., (Vice-Chair) Appointee from Municipal Association of South Carolina, by Gov. Henry McMaster

Toby Chappell, Appointee from South Carolina Assoc. of Counties Upstate Region., by Gov. Henry McMaster

Steven Donaldson, Appointee from South Carolina Assoc. of Counties Low Country Region, by Gov. Henry McMaster

Mayes DuBose, MD Appointed by Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives, Rep. Tommy Pope

Martine Helou-Allen, Appointee from South Carolina Assoc. of Counties, by Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives, Rep. Tommy Pope

Gary Mixon, Appointee from South Carolina Assoc. of Counties, by President of the Senate, Sen. Thomas Alexander

Lisa Montgomery, Appointed by President of the Senate, Sen. Thomas Alexander

Hon. H. Bruce Williams, Appointee from South Carolina Assoc. of Counties Midlands Region, by Gov. Henry McMaster

In 2023, the SCORF Board held eight meetings — January 5th and 19th, March 15th, April 11th, May 22nd, July 12th, September 22nd, and December 15, 2023. Six meetings were held in person and two were held virtually. The public is invited to attend all meetings and details are published on the SCORF Board website at scorf.sc.gov.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA OPIOID RECOVERY FUND

The South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund is divided into three subfunds: the Guaranteed Political Subdivision Subfund (GPS), the Discretionary Subfund (DSF), and the administrative subfund. All funds in the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund must be spent on approved abatement strategies listed in the national and state settlement agreements, except the funds set aside as administrative funds.

The GPS Subfund is allocated to South Carolina counties and municipalities who participated in opioid-related settlements (“Participating Political Subdivisions”). Participating political subdivisions must submit requests seeking funding for approved abatement strategies from their available allocation of the GPS Subfund. The GPS Subfund is divided between the participating political subdivisions pursuant to a formula incorporating opioid harm metrics that is set forth in “Exhibit B” of the state-subdivision agreement.

The DSF Subfund includes money that can be requested by application made by nonprofits, educational providers, state agencies, medical and mental health treatment providers, local governments, or others helping to address the opioid epidemic. Currently 1/3 of South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund settlement funds are placed in the DSF Subfund.

In 2023, the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund received the following payments that were apportioned to the three Subfunds as set forth below:

SOUTH CAROLINA OPIOID RECOVERY FUNDS RECEIVED - 2023						
Date	Payment	Opioid Recovery	GPS Subfund	Disc Subfund	Adm Subfund	Other*
1/31/2023	\$2,355,141.78	\$2,166,961.34	\$1,711,899.46	\$411,722.65	\$21,669.61	\$21,669.62
6/16/2023	\$554,894.21	\$554,894.21	\$110,978.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$443,915.37
8/2/2023	\$13,190,226.89	\$11,592,890.41	\$9,158,383.42	\$2,202,649.18	\$231,857.81	\$0.00
9/12/2023	\$0.00	\$188,180.44	\$592,577.92	\$35,754.28	\$650,375.11	(\$1,090,526.87)
11/9/2023	\$2,770,755.04	\$2,770,755.04	\$2,188,896.48	\$526,443.46	\$55,415.10	\$0.00
Total	\$18,871,017.92	\$17,273,681.44	\$13,762,736.12	\$3,176,569.57	\$959,317.63	(\$624,941.88)

* “Other” refers to funds held, temporarily pending revisions to the agreement between the State and its political subdivisions.

- The State received a payment of \$13,190,226.89 on August 2, 2023. This amount represents the 2023 payment from Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen under the national settlement.
- In September 2023, the State and its political subdivisions also executed an amended opioid settlement agreement, under the terms of which \$646,611.50 held in the Opioid Recovery Fund has been transferred to the Administrative Subfund, and \$443,915.37 has been transferred to the Guaranteed Political Subdivision Subfund for use by the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). In addition, \$188,180.44 from the Mallinckrodt settlement is transferred from the Opioid Fee Fund to the Opioid Recovery Fund.
- On November 9, 2023, the State received a payment of \$2,770,55.04 which represents the second and final payment from Mallinckrodt under the terms of the approved bankruptcy plan.
- All interest in the Opioid Recovery Fund has been transferred to the Discretionary Subfund.

2023 DISBURSEMENTS

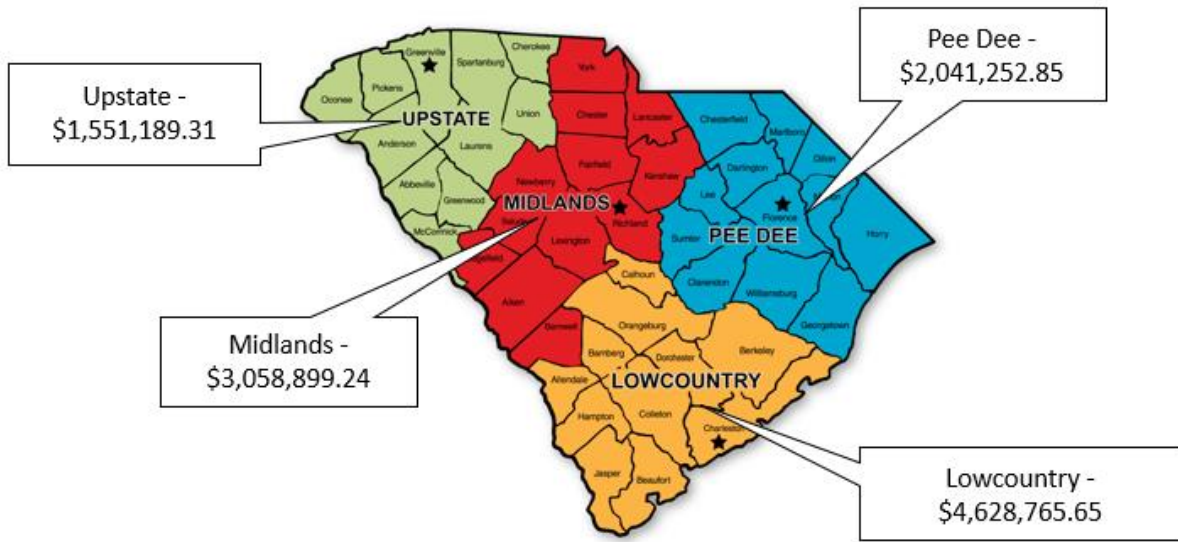
Guaranteed Political Subdivision Subfund Disbursements

In 2023, the SCORF Board reviewed and approved 34 GPS requests for opioid recovery funds. As a result, \$11,580,107.05 was distributed to participating political subdivisions to address the opioid crisis in communities throughout the state.

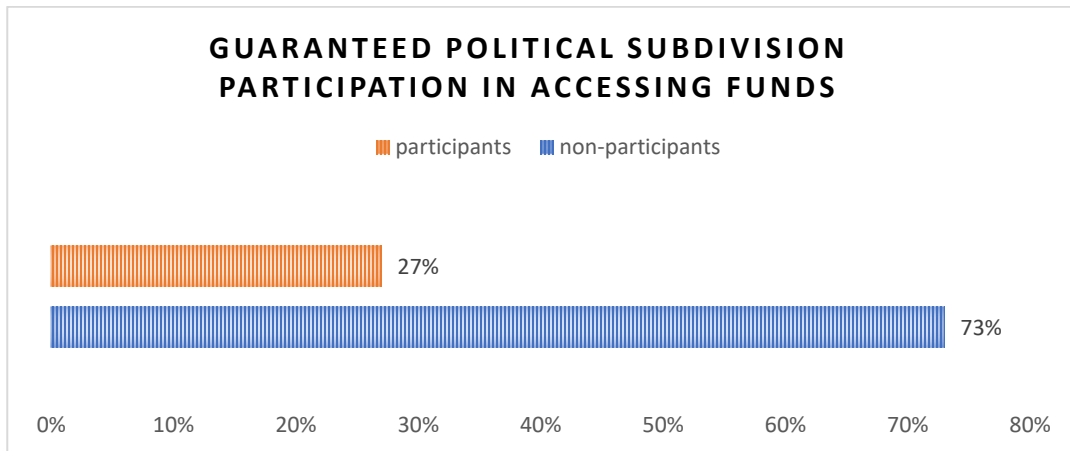
Recipients of GPS funds and their reported expenditure amounts for 2023 are set forth below:

GPS	DISBURSEMENT	EXPENDED
	\$11,580,107.05	\$5,050,944.03
AIKEN COUNTY	\$108,191.00	\$0.00
BARNWELL COUNTY	\$242,235.99	\$46,902.60
BEAUFORT COUNTY	912,109.00	\$249,201.13
BERKELEY COUNTY	\$1,078,403.00	\$628,029.59
CHARLESTON COUNTY	\$985,136.00	\$340,406.70
CITY OF CAYCE	\$86,931.00	\$36,657.93
CITY OF CHARLESTON	\$554,360.67	\$163,832.75
CITY OF COLUMBIA	\$719,942.00	\$6,515.12
CITY OF GOOSE CREEK	\$140,000.00	\$74,734.40
CITY OF GREENVILLE	\$525,437.00	\$246,638.11
CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH	\$458,870.63	\$390,260.18
CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON	\$347,050.00	\$294,709.57
CITY OF ROCK HILL	683,000.30	\$68,679.98
CITY OF SPARTANBURG	\$263,984.00	\$110,490.59
CITY OF TEGA CAY	\$22,559.27	\$22,559.27
CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA	\$205,308.02	\$182,177.42
CLARENDON COUNTY	\$100,000.00	\$72,546.06
DORCHESTER COUNTY	\$135,000.00	\$48,869.73
EDGEFIELD COUNTY	\$164,000.00	\$131,930.79
FAIRFIELD COUNTY	\$62,179.61	\$60,830.55
GEORGETOWN COUNTY	\$449,083.00	\$51,658.77
HAMPTON COUNTY	\$60,666.71	\$59,976.45
HORRY COUNTY	\$1,047,728.22	\$459,974.48
KERSHAW COUNTY	\$339,499.00	\$79,498.15
KERSHAW HEALTH	\$63,416.48	\$54,334.85
OCONEE COUNTY	\$178,174.00	\$52,503.24
PICKENS COUNTY	\$583,594.31	\$267,444.22
SALUDA COUNTY	45,799.28	\$18,031.50
TOWN OF IRMO	\$50,000.00	\$34,450.00
TOWN OF LEXINGTON	\$121,924.45	\$51,684.48
TOWN OF MONCK'S CORNER	\$16,667.00	\$4,959.90
TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT	\$299,373.27	\$293,779.73
WILLIAMSBURG CNTY	\$85,571.00	\$68,177.39
YORK COUNTY	\$443,912.84	\$378,498.40

GUARANTEED POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SUBFUND DISBURSEMENTS BY REGION CY2023



The Guaranteed Political Subdivisions are comprised of ninety-one municipalities and counties. While thirty-four counties and municipalities submitted requests to the SCORF Board for opioid recovery funds during 2023, the SCORF Board looks forward to the nonparticipating subdivisions accessing funds in 2024. SCORF Board staff will target outreach to these nonparticipating subdivisions.



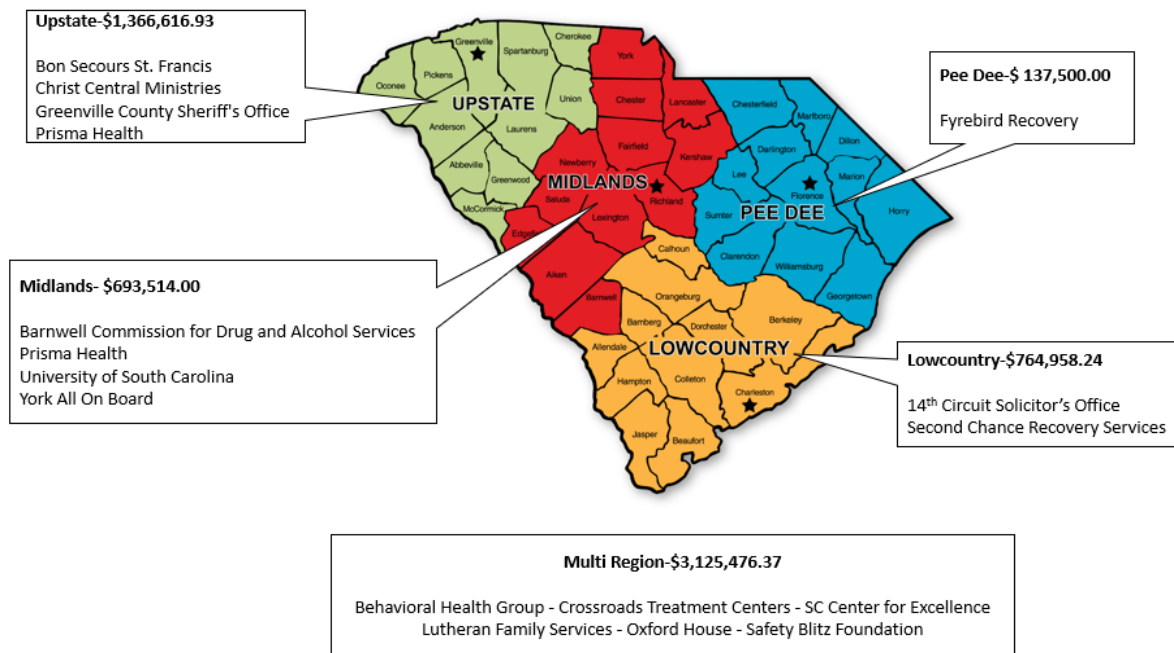
In May 2023, the SCORF Board introduced the opportunity for political subdivisions to submit a Letter of Intent to plan, rather than an application, to develop comprehensive long-term opioid remediation plans that encourage political subdivisions to engage community stakeholders and strategically consider the optimal use of the funds. The SCORF Board implemented a process for a GPS to request up to \$25,000.00 to develop a plan for the settlement funds specific to their community. In 2023, seven subdivisions took advantage of this opportunity.

Discretionary Subfund Disbursements

The SCORF Board reviewed sixty-three applications for discretionary funding in September 2023 for the project period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. The SCORF Board awarded twenty-one organizations discretionary funding in the total amount of \$7,421,013.54.

Sixteen organizations had funds disbursed in 2023 totaling \$6,088,065.54. Due to protracted contract negotiations, three organizations received funds in 2024 totaling \$1,332,948.00.

DISCRETIONARY SUBFUND DISBURSEMENTS BY REGION CY2023



Recipients of DSF funds report the following expenditures for 2023:

DSF RECIPIENT	AWARD 10/01/2023	EXPENDED BY 12/31/2023
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 184,826.00	\$6,487.98
DEPT OF ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG	\$ 1,052,140.00	\$182,830.02
AXIS I CENTER OF BARNWELL	\$ 92,652.00	\$14,210.49
GREENVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT	\$ 561,953.93	\$92,529.39
FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT SOLICITORS' OFFICE	\$ 221,896.00	\$20,459.64
LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES	\$ 629,608.07	\$60,636.32
ST FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM	\$ 283,991.00	\$38,625.04
OXFORD HOUSE INC	\$ 300,000.00	\$71,111.20
CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	\$ 139,554.00	\$30,000.00
PRISMA HEALTH - UPSTATE	\$ 442,972.00	\$84,680.76
A SECOND CHANCE RESOURCE CENTER	\$ 543,062.24	\$134,654.14
PRISMA HEALTH-MIDLANDS	\$ 376,867.00	\$18,524.18
CROSSROADS TREATMENT CENTER	\$ 698,236.80	\$69,771.61
YORK COUNTY ALL ON BOARD INC	\$ 39,169.00	\$15,870.22
CHRIST CENTRAL MINISTRIES-OCONEE	\$ 77,700.00	\$16,900.00
SAFETY BLITZ FOUNDATION INC	\$ 305,937.50	\$305,937.50
FYREBIRD RECOVERY	\$ 137,500.00	\$43,982.72
TOTAL	\$ 6,088,065.54	\$ 1,207,211.21

Administrative Subfund

From the Administrative Subfund, the SCORF Board reports the following expenditures, including accruals, as of December 2023:

Expenses	Amount
Per Diem	\$1,400.00
Contractual Services	\$34,446.14
Supplies	\$18,453.83
Travel	\$4,839.55
Administrative Support	\$233,600.00
Total Expenses	\$292,739.52

By legislative action of the State of South Carolina, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA) provides administrative support to the SCORF Board. SFAA provides operational support through a strategic leader and program manager, as well as administrative, information technology and finance services, including preparation of the SCORF Board financial statements for audit. SFAA also coordinates with the Office of the State Auditor on behalf of the SCORF Board to conduct an annual audit of the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund pursuant to SC Code Ann. §11-58-30 (D).

2023 PROGRAM METRICS

The SCORF Board collected performance metrics from fund recipients to gauge the impact of the funded abatement strategies across the state. There are seventy-eight metrics addressing prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and training. The table below represents a selection of information collected from GPS recipients.

Prevention/Education/Awareness Efforts	
No. of children, middle school age, participating in prevention/education programming	7,490
No. of children, high school age, participating in prevention/education programming	15,142
No. of law enforcement officers participating in prevention/education programming	763
No. of first responders participating in prevention/education programming	1,376
Efforts Directed Toward Pregnant /post-partum Women with Substance Use Disorders	
No. of pregnant / postpartum women connected to MOUD	54
No. of pregnant / postpartum women connected to peer supports/recovery services	105
Efforts Directed Toward Children up to 18 with Substance Use Disorders	
No. of children (up to age 18) connected to therapeutic counseling services	3,008
No. of children (up to age 18) connected to peer supports/recovery services	1,886
Efforts Directed Toward Individuals with SUD who are Criminal Justice Involved	
No. of individuals connected to peer supports/recovery services while incarcerated	791
No. of individuals diverted from incarceration to treatment	135
No. of drug court participants enrolled	431
No. of drug court participants graduated	227
Efforts Directed Toward Adults with SUD who are not incarcerated or pregnant/nursing	
No. of adults connected to MOUD	2,429
No. of adults connected to a job / employment	246
Harm Reduction Efforts	
No. of persons educated on how to respond to an overdose	10,982
No. of Naloxone kits distributed to at-risk individuals	5,856
Training	
No. of staff trained to improve the capability of government, community, and not-for-profit entities to abate the opioid crisis.	526
No. of law enforcement or other first responders trained regarding appropriate practices and precautions when dealing with fentanyl or other drugs.	1,385

SC OPIOID RECOVERY FUND 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

SCORF Board Highlights

The SCORF Board continues to update the SCORF website which provides critical and timely information about the SCORF Board, the processes for allowing the entities to apply for the funds and the technical requirements for applicants, opioid fund uses, allocation amounts, SCORF Board meeting minutes and agendas, accountability and reporting information, and links to helpful references. The SCORF Board website address is scorf.sc.gov.

In 2023, the SCORF Board Staff began hosting a monthly ‘Coffee Chat’ — a virtual meeting open to the public on the first Friday of each month with announcements and a variety of educational presentations. In 2023, topics presented included community planning, overdose maps, recovery housing, and support services. The ‘Coffee Chat’ will also host presentations from community members who have received opioid settlement funds to share their projects with the statewide audience.

Funding Highlights

South Carolina political subdivisions receiving funds have launched many new programs and partnerships in their communities to address the opioid crisis. Read their stories below:

Town of Mt. Pleasant:

WakeUp Carolina has formed a valuable partnership with the Mount Pleasant Police Department to provide support and resources to individuals and families impacted by substance use. The Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) has proven to be effective in assisting those in need, such as in the case of John Doe. After a suicide attempt, John was loaded into CIMS, and follow-ups were initiated with his sister, Jane Doe. Jane was provided with resources to the Department of Mental Health, but unfortunately, John passed away from an overdose. Despite the tragic loss, Jane has found support and healing through WakeUp Carolina's weekly Living with Loss support group. She sees a therapist and regularly attends the support group, finding comfort and understanding in the community. The partnership between WakeUp Carolina and the Mount Pleasant Police Department continues to positively impact individuals and families struggling with substance use.

Beaufort County:

Thanks to the Opioid Abatement Program Funding, Good Neighbor Medical Clinic (GNMC) has successfully launched a new initiative to combat the opioid crisis in our community. Our program focuses on implementing SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) protocols for all patients, designed to provide early intervention, education, medication assistance and clinical next steps

through a seamless hand-off to local specialty providers for additional services and care.

In September 2023, following comprehensive training for our staff and volunteers, GNMC integrated SBIRT into our protocols for both new and current patients. Initially, our volunteer clinicians were hesitant to start these challenging conversations. However, as a trusted medical home, GNMC was the ideal place to begin this crucial process of education, identification, and referral to treatment. Our volunteers have been thanked by patients for asking questions and providing resources, with some patients even sharing their journey to recovery with us.

Since the program's inception, we have screened over 450 patients. Currently, eight patients are actively in the recovery process, working closely with our partners in Beaufort County. This program's success is largely due to our collaboration with Beaufort County Alcohol and Drug, The Addiction Clinic, and Coastal Empire Mental Health. Together, we provide a seamless transition to treatment for patients who often struggle to find access to these specialized resources.

GNMC is proud to play a vital role in the fight against opioid addiction in our community, ensuring that those in need receive the support and care they deserve.

City of Cayce:

Cayce Fire Department partnered with the Courage Center (recovery organization) to place opioid overdose reversal kits (two doses nasal naloxone, instruction, and resource card) at high-risk locations. We obtained permission from a local motel to place overdose reversal kits at exterior fire extinguishers and trained employees how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. A few months later, one employee recognized a guest was overdosing, called 911, and administered naloxone before first responders arrived. The guest was transported by EMS and later released from the hospital.



LOOKING AHEAD

The SCORF Board continues to accept applications and award money from the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund to provide resources around the state to combat the opioid crisis. The SCORF Board also encourages local, regional, and statewide collaboration among those committed to fighting the opioid epidemic. The SCORF Board is committed to serving the citizens of the state of South Carolina by overseeing the appropriate use of these critical funds.