

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and
Substance Use Services

Side by Side with DMH/DD/SUS

Improving our system together.

Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW

Director

NC DHHS Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services

December 1, 2025

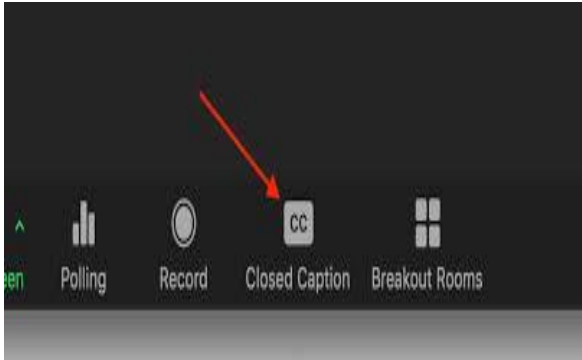


Housekeeping

- Reminders about the webinar technology:
 - Please make sure you are using a computer or smart phone connected to the internet, and the audio function is on, and the volume is turned up.
 - Please make sure your microphone is muted for the duration of the call.
 - Questions can be submitted any time during the presentation using the “Q&A” box located on your control panel.



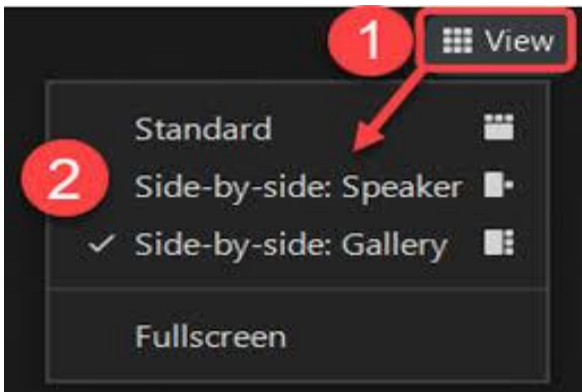
Housekeeping



- American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and Closed-Captioning
 - ASL Interpreters and Closed-Captioning options will be available for today's event.
 - For closed-captioning options select the "Closed Caption" feature located on your control panel.

Intérpretes en lengua de signos americana (ASL) y subtítulos:

Habrán intérpretes de ASL y opciones de subtítulos disponibles para el evento de hoy. Para opciones de subtítulos, seleccione la función "Subtítulos" ubicada en su panel de control.



- Adjusting Video Layout and Screen View
 - Select the "View" feature located in the top-right hand corner of your screen.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. MH/SU/IDD/TBI System Announcements & Updates
3. Focus: Profiles in Courage: A Year of Courage and Hope after Hurricane Helene
4. Panel Discussion: Reflections on Hurricane Helene and Profiles in Courage
5. Panel Discussion: Hope4NC: Overview of the Hope4NC program, its accomplishments and its future

Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW, DMH/DD/SUS Director



- 30 years in MH/SU/IDD Field
- 13 years in DHHS
- DMHDDDSUS since Dec 2022
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Person with lived experience

MH/SU/IDD/TBI System Announcements & Updates

NCDHHS Seeks Public Input on New Substance Use Disorder Service Definitions Through December 29

Public Comment Open Through December 29

NCDHHS has released **seven proposed State-funded Service Definitions** for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen access, quality, and outcomes for individuals and families impacted by substance use.

We Want to Hear From You

Providers, stakeholders, advocates, and community members are invited to review the proposed definitions and submit feedback by **December 29, 2025**.

Your input is essential to shaping a more responsive, effective, and equitable system of **mental health, I/DD, and substance use services**—and supporting recovery for all North Carolinians.

RFA Now Open: Specialty Courses for Certified Peer Support Specialists

Applications Due: Dec. 15, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

The **North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist (NCCPSS) Program**, in partnership with **DMH/DD/SUS**, is launching a new funding opportunity to strengthen the peer support workforce statewide.

Seeking Proposals for Two New Specialty Courses

- **Justice-Involved Peer Support**
- **Crisis Response Peer Support**

These courses will equip Certified Peer Support Specialists with advanced skills to support people navigating the justice system and those experiencing mental health or substance use crises.

Who Should Apply

Organizations with experience in:

- Curriculum development
- Peer support training
- Behavioral health, crisis response, or justice-involved services

Visit the [NCCPSS Program website](#) for the full RFA, eligibility criteria, and application materials.

Meet Tarang: A Community-Driven Movement for AAPI Mental Health

Saturday, Dec. 6 | 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Join DMH/DD/SUS for a webinar introducing **Tarang** (pronounced *TUH-rung*), a new pilot initiative created **by and for** Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

About Tarang:

- A culturally rooted, community-led effort to address mental health, substance use, and suicide in AAPI communities
- Responds to rising suicide and overdose rates and historically low service utilization
- Focused on reducing stigma and increasing access to culturally responsive care

What Tarang Does:

- Creates safe, community-centered spaces for healing and dialogue
- Partners with trusted AAPI leaders to co-design education and support
- Elevates lived experience and ensures AAPI needs are included in statewide systems of care

Join Us:

Hear from Tarang's first cohort of community leaders, learn how the initiative was built, and explore opportunities to get involved.

[Register Today](#)

Join a Brain Injury Advisory Council Subcommittee

The Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) is seeking individuals to serve on its subcommittees. This is an opportunity to help shape policy, guide service delivery, and strengthen support for people with brain injuries across North Carolina.

Who can participate:

- People with lived brain injury experience
- Family members and caregivers
- Providers and advocates
- Community members

You do **not** have to be a BIAC member to join a subcommittee.

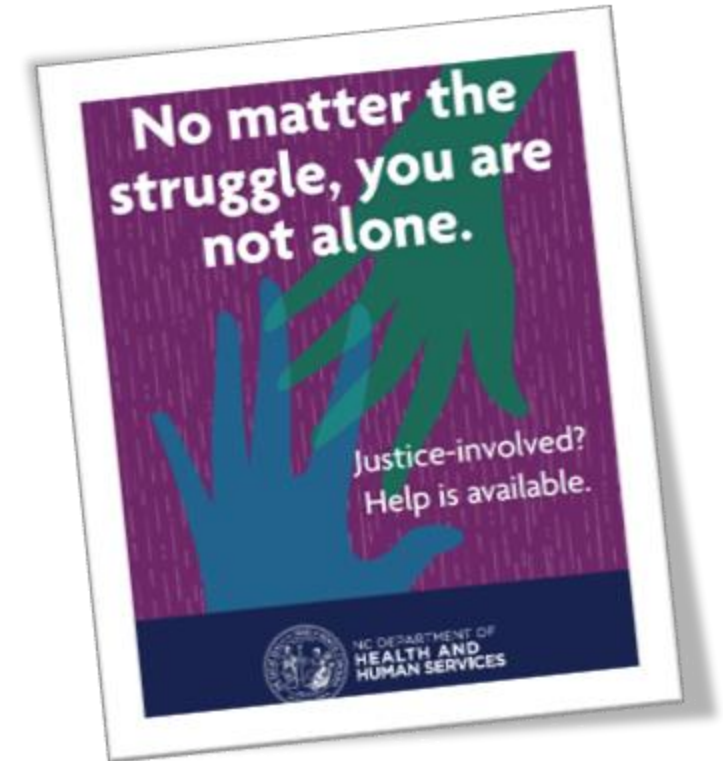
Interested? Complete [the brief interest form](#) to get involved.

Now Available: North Carolina Justice Reentry & Recovery Pocket Guides

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is offering free *Justice Reentry & Recovery Pocket Guides* to support law enforcement, courts, probation officers, LEAD/CIT teams, and providers in connecting people leaving the justice system to care.

These pocket-sized guides include quick links to:

- Mental health services
- Substance use treatment
- IDD and TBI supports
- Housing and reentry resources



[Download printable pocket guides in English and Spanish](#)

North Carolina's Rural Health Transformation Plan

Update & Next Steps

Application Submitted to CMS

North Carolina has officially submitted its \$200M Rural Health Transformation Plan to CMS. Awards are expected by **Dec. 31, 2025**.

Built with Community Input

More than 420 stakeholders helped shape the plan, including rural hospitals, health departments, Tribal partners, community organizations and residents.

Program Goal

Ensure people across 85 rural counties have reliable access to high-quality, integrated medical, mental health, substance use and social support services.

Learn More:

Visit the [Rural Health Transformation Program webpage](#) for the application narrative, summary, FAQs, and ways to stay involved.

Key Focus Areas

- Community-Rooted Care Networks (NC ROOTS Hubs)
- Expanded prevention & chronic disease supports
- Strengthened behavioral health & substance use services
- Workforce development and rural provider retention
- Financial sustainability for rural hospitals & practices
- Technology & innovation to support care delivery

HOPE 4 NC

Find the most up-to-date information on disaster recovery safety, flexibilities for Medicaid recipients, mental health and disability-related resources on the [DMHDDSUS Weathering the Storm](#) webpage.

Weathering the Storm

Get Help



Crisis Services

Resources include 988 Lifeline, Peer Warmline, Mobile Crisis Teams, and Behavioral Health Urgent Care.



Disaster Distress Helpline

National helpline for disaster crisis support 24/7. Call or text 800-985-5990.



Disability Disaster Helpline

Helpline for disability-related disaster response 24/7. Call or text 800-626-4959.



Hope4NC Helpline

Help for Helpers. Call the Hope4NC Helpline, 855-587-3463. Support is available 24/7.



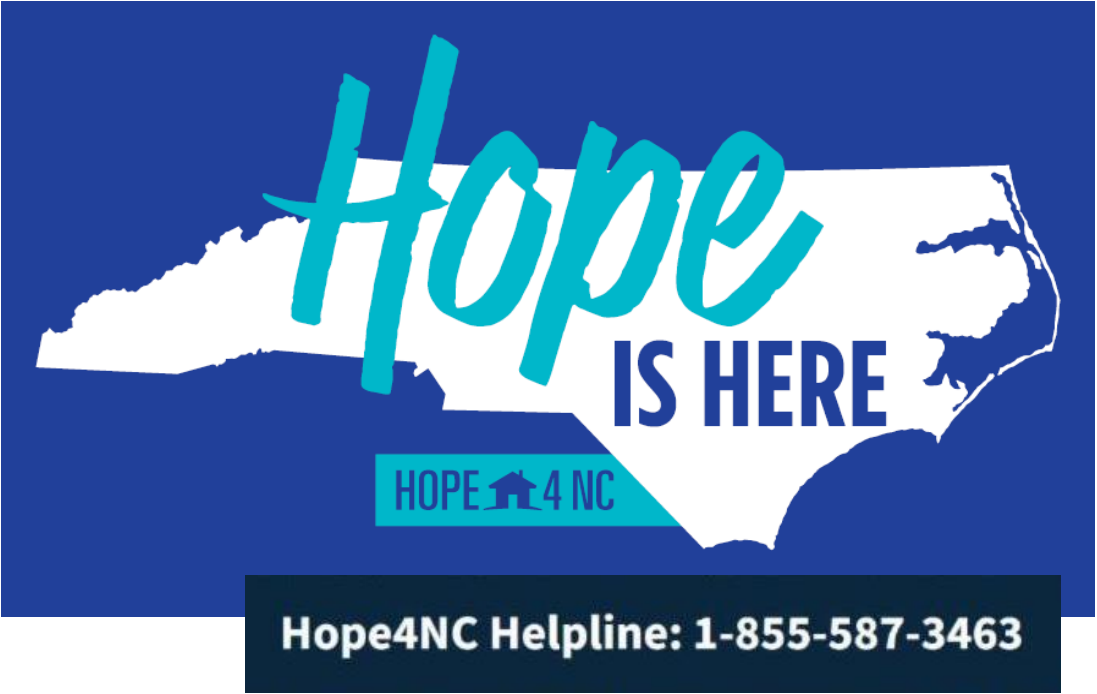
Hope4NC offers the following help :

- Individual Crisis Outreach and Support
- Group Crisis Outreach
- Public Education
- Community Networking and Support
- Assessment, Referral and Resource Connection
- *Meeting people where it's most convenient for them*
- *The program is free and anonymous*

Crisis Community Workers BEGAN outreach the week of November 25, 2024

Hope 4 NC Highlights (As of 10/04/25)

- **3,829** Individual Crisis Counselling
- **22,109** Group Crisis Counseling / Public Education
- **28,259** Brief Educational / Supportive Contacts
- **11,599** Hope4NC Helpline Calls



Hurricane Helene Legislative Funds

Overall NCGA Appropriations: \$1.42 billion
DMH/DD/SUS NC General Assembly Allocation: \$16.5 million



Substance Use Services

Expansion of mobile OTP clinics in rural counties, prisons, and long-term care settings

NARCAN and overdose prevention distribution in impacted areas



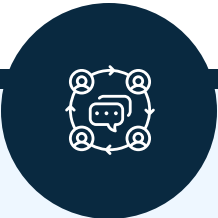
Services for Underserved Populations

Counseling for Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Housing, employment, and MH/SU supports for homeless veterans

Enhanced services at FQHCs & behavioral health centers for children, uninsured individuals, Latino and migrant families

Disaster supply distribution for special populations



Engagement & Outreach

Peer support staffing

Regional healing circles

Hurricane Helene Legislative Funds:

Key DMH/DD/SUS Initiatives (cont.)



Disaster Relief & Housing

Immediate disaster relief, rental assistance, and housing supports for local nonprofits



Resilience & Recovery

Training for first responders, public health, LME/MCOs, and providers

Summer recovery camps for children and families



Public Awareness & Education

Educational materials (English & Spanish)

Development of additional community education resources



Crisis Response

Co-Responder model (local partnerships)

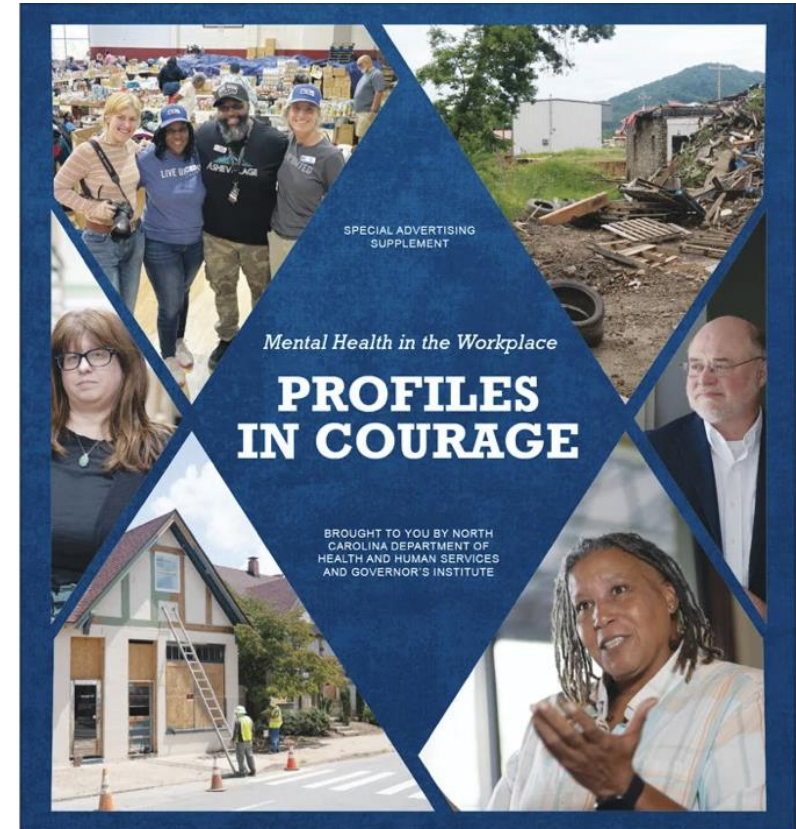
Expansion of mobile crisis and MORES teams in impacted counties

Triangle Business Journal's Profiles in Courage: Faces from Hurricane Helene Recovery

Almost no one living in western North Carolina was spared from the wrath of Hurricane Helene.

But from all the devastation emerged some individuals whose work to help communities will be remembered for decades.

[Watch Profiles in Courage](#)



Panel Discussion 1

*Reflections on Hurricane Helene + Profiles in
Courage*

Moderator: Candice Sanford

Panelists



Ray Hemachandra
Golden Moon Circles Consulting



Stephanie Johnson
Rebuilding the Hollars



Tracy Hayes (she/her)
CEO, Vaya Health

Panel Discussion 2

Hope4NC: An Overview of the Hope4NC program, its Accomplishments, and its Future

Moderator: Akila Charles



Lisa DeCiantis

NC DMH/DD/SUS



Tracy Kennedy

REAL Crisis Center



Teagan Brown

Partners



Kristen Watson

Mountain Aid Project



Jason Seidel

Project Your Home



Erin Cotter

Vaya



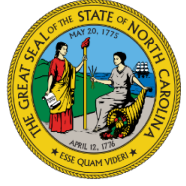
Stacey Sorrells

Vaya



Kim Watson-Pitts

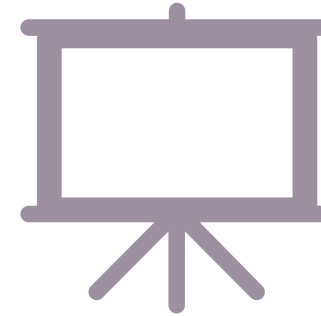
Heroes Among Us



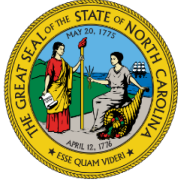
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Questions and feedback are welcome at
BHIDD.HelpCenter@dhhs.nc.gov.



The recording and presentation slides for this
webinar will be posted to the [Community
Engagement & Training](#) webpage.



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by Side Webinars**



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Mailing List

GreenTree Opens

DMH/DD/SUS joined GreenTree staff, peer leaders, and local officials on **October 31** to celebrate the opening of GreenTree's new site at **1025 West First Street in Winston-Salem**.

Highlights

- GreenTree's new location expands **peer-led recovery and crisis support services** in the region.
- Director Crosbie emphasized the state's commitment to **recovery-oriented, community-based alternatives** for individuals experiencing mental health crises.
- The new space continues to support key programs, including:
 - Peer support
 - Recovery services
 - Refuge House
 - Crisis support services

DMHDDSDSUS is proud to partner with GreenTree as we continue strengthening person-centered care and recovery supports across North Carolina.



DMH/DD/SUS Supports Youth Empowerment at WYLD Annual Dinner

November 6, 2025

DMH/DD/SUS participated in the [Wilkes Youth Life Development \(WYLD\)](#) Annual Dinner, where **Jessica Dicken**, Assistant Director for Prevention, delivered the keynote address for this year's theme: *"Our WYLD Story: Chapter 4 – Foundation for the Future."*

Highlights:

- Jessica emphasized the importance of prevention, recovery, and community-based programs in strengthening youth resilience and leadership.
- WYLD's Teen Action Council shared powerful testimonies on advocacy, mentorship, and personal growth.
- The event celebrated key milestones, including:
 - Delivery of the 100th bed through the [Sweet Dreams of Wilkes initiative](#)
 - Expansion of the [Change Wagon](#) "pay as you can" food truck
 - Continued success of youth leadership programs, including [Lead Appalachia](#)

DMH/DD/SUS is grateful to WYLD for its partnership and remains committed to supporting programs that empower youth and build healthier communities across North Carolina.



New NC Program Supports People with Mental Illness Leaving the Justice System

North Carolina is launching a **\$9.5M pilot program** to help people with serious mental health needs successfully return to their communities after involvement with the justice system.

FACT (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment) teams will begin operating in late 2025/early 2026 in:

Pitt, New Hanover, Wake/Durham, Buncombe and Mecklenburg counties.

Teams will provide coordinated support, including:

- Mental health and substance use treatment
- Housing and daily living support
- Job/education assistance

Providers: Strategic Interventions, Carolina Outreach and RHA Health Services.



New Reentry Home Opens in Durham to Support Women After Incarceration

First Lady Anna Stein and DMH/DD/SUS Director Kelly Crosbie joined community partners to celebrate the opening of [Jubilee Home for women](#) in Durham. The new home provides safe housing and comprehensive reentry support for women leaving prison or jail.

Jubilee Home offers:

- Stable transitional housing for up to four women
- Mental health and substance use support
- Employment and life-skills assistance
- On-site Peer Navigators with lived justice-system experience

Jubilee Home is **one of 11 organizations** awarded NCDHHS funding to support justice-involved individuals with mental health or substance use needs.



Director Kelly Crosbie Presents Above & Beyond Award to Congresswoman Deborah Ross at 2025 NAMI NC Conference

DMH/DD/SUS Director **Kelly Crosbie** joined mental health advocates from across North Carolina at the **2025 NAMI NC Annual Conference** on Nov. 7–8, where she presented the **Kelly Crosbie Above & Beyond Award** to **Congresswoman Deborah Ross**.

About the Award

- Named in honor of Director Crosbie for her decades of leadership in expanding mental health support statewide
- Recognizes exceptional advocacy and commitment to improving the lives of people affected by mental illness

2025 Honoree: Congresswoman Deborah Ross

- Recognized for her steadfast support of mental health initiatives
- Honored for legislative leadership expanding access to care and strengthening mental health systems

The Awards Banquet celebrated individuals and organizations making a meaningful impact across North Carolina, continuing NAMI NC's tradition of uplifting community champions.



Stay Connected with Hot Topics!

We can't fit everything into today's presentation, but you can catch all the latest updates **every Tuesday and Thursday** through our **Hot Topics Newsletter** and **webpage**.

- New programs and initiatives
- Community success stories
- Upcoming events and funding opportunities
- Resources you can share with your networks

Sign up for the [Hot Topics Newsletter](#)

Visit the [Hot Topics page](#)

