

Rural Community Opioid Response Program-East Tennessee Consortium (RCORP-ETC) Meeting Evaluation

July 23, 2021



Summer RCORP-ETC Meeting

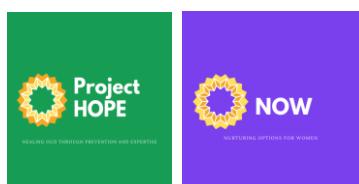
On July 23, 2021, Project HOPE (Healing Opioid Use Disorder Through Prevention and Expertise) and NOW (Nurturing Options for Women) hosted an online event for professionals who serve in the RCORP-ETC 10-county area. The 2-hour event, "You gotta have faith: Pathways from prevention to recovery", included an introduction by Eric Landry of the TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and two panel discussion sessions on faith-based organizations' substance use disorder (SUD) initiatives and recovery congregations. The panelists of faith leaders with varying involvement in SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery included: Kyle Prichard, Marta Cogburn, Debra Shultz; and the panelists of persons in SUD recovery with varying degrees of support from faith-based organizations included Elora Prichard, Dawn Radics, and Ron Stephens.

Attendees

The RCORP-ETC region includes 10 counties in East Tennessee: Roane, Morgan, Union, Grainger, Hamblen, Scott, Claiborne, Cocke, Jefferson, and Campbell (see Figure 1). The consortium is co-led by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and has almost 100 members. The meeting flyer was posted on the project website. Invitations for the RCORP-ETC Consortium Meeting were emailed to all consortium members, who were also invited to share the invitation with interested colleagues and community members. Although 55 people registered for the training, 35 professionals actually attended.

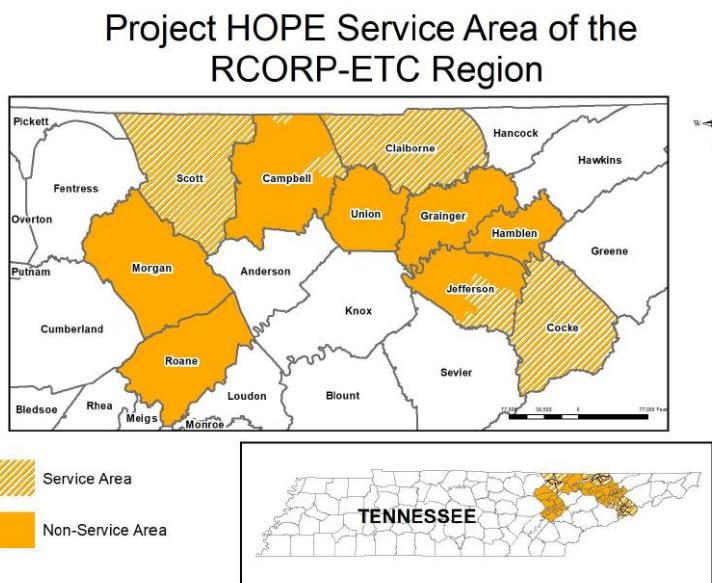
Evaluation

Of the 35 attendees, 13 (37%) completed the evaluation survey. Attendees included pastors, doctors, social workers, non-profit professionals, community-based nurses, certified peer-recovery specialists, public health professionals, and educators. The attending professionals work or serve in 20 counties: Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Union, Knox, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Hamblen, Greene, Hawkins, and Hancock.



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Figure1.



Evaluation of Training

The overall experience of the meeting was well regarded among attendees, as all participants would recommend the meeting to a colleague.

Attendees indicated how satisfied they were with the meeting, possible answers ranged from *very dissatisfied* (1) to *very satisfied* (5). On average, participants' answers ranged between *satisfied* (4) and *very satisfied* (5) on every question. Attendees were very satisfied with the knowledge of the presenters (4.85), training content (4.77), engagement of the training (4.69), and relevance of the training to their needs (4.69).

Attendees retrospectively indicated how much they knew before and after the training session for a series of learning objectives. Possible answers ranged from *nothing at all* (1) to *a whole lot* (4). On average, attendees reported knowing between *a little bit* to *a lot* before the training (grand mean= 2.33) and between *a lot* to *a whole lot* after the training (grand mean=3.54, p<0.001). Significant increases in knowledge emerged for most learning objectives (Table 1). The largest increases were in clarifying the opportunities and challenges associated with faith-based organizations' efforts to reduce SUD (p<0.001), knowing current faith-based efforts to impact SUD (p<0.001), and clarifying faith-based efforts preferred by persons who are actively using drugs or in recovery (p<0.001).

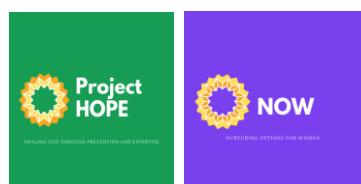
Attendees rated how effective each program component was in gaining a deeper understanding of the important of faith-based organizations on SUD initiatives. Possible answers ranged from *not at all effective* (1) to *extremely effective* (5). On average, attendees' answers ranged between very effective and extremely effective on every question. Attendees reported that two panel discussions were extremely effective in developing a deeper understanding of the important of faith-based organizations on SUD initiatives (mean 4.50 and 4.67).

Table 1.

Learning Objectives	Pre-Score	Post-Score	Mean Difference	p-value
The opportunities and challenges associated with faith-based organizations' efforts to reduce substance use disorder	2.54	3.69	1.15	<0.001
Current faith-based efforts to impact substance use disorder	2.46	3.69	1.23	<0.001
Faith-based efforts preferred by persons who are actively using drugs or in recovery	2.00	3.23	1.23	<0.001

Suggestions from Attendees

Attendees were asked to provide insight on how future meetings may be improved. Most attendees had no recommendations. Of the few responses, some preferred in-person meetings, more interactions during the meeting, and allowing for questions to be asked after each panelist's presentation.



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