



North Carolina Training
& Technical Assistance Center



WELCOME

Hello!

The holiday season is upon us! This month's newsletter is stuffed with resources and information for you and the communities you serve. The newsletter includes upcoming trainings, an evidence-based training survey, an introduction to our newest NCTTA Center team member, and the "Ask an Expert" post from our friends at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE). Make sure to take time to treat yourself this winter!

Introducing Gretchen

Gretchen Summerville is a public health prevention professional with experience in HIV, STI, substance use, and behavioral health prevention, early intervention, treatment, and community well-being. She has served in nonprofit and government roles across North Carolina and Nevada for over 20 years, including health education, disease intervention, substance use disorder counseling, and statewide leadership. Gretchen is especially passionate about supporting the people and systems that care for communities and helping build sustainable approaches to prevention work. Outside of work, she centers her time on connection with family and friends, travel, and an active outdoor life – paddling, hiking, and skiing in her mountain community.



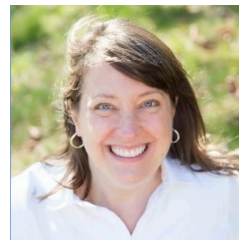
Gretchen joins the NCTTA Center team as the Director of Programs alongside Felicia Roberson, Director of Administration. The NCTTA Center team will continue to offer collaborative training, support, and technical assistance to prevention professionals statewide. By supporting local preventionists in applying best practices and evidence-based strategies through the Strategic Prevention Framework, the NCTTA Center helps providers build strong prevention systems, reduce substance use, and promote mental and behavioral health across North Carolina.

Ask an Expert

Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) provides evaluation services for North Carolina's Prevention Block Grant and the SPF Rx, PDO, and PFS projects. Our NC evaluation team, based in Chapel Hill, includes Jessica Edwards, Dave Currey, Lei Zhang, Martha Waller, and Shane Hartman. In our role, we utilize data to monitor and enhance implementation activities, as well as assess impacts. Examples of our areas of focus and assistance for the DMH/DD/SUS prevention system include the following:

- Supporting strategy implementation fidelity monitoring
- Analyzing ECCO data to assist with strategy implementation monitoring
- Assisting with planning for the collection of YPE pre/post survey data and leading the analysis and report preparation of those data
- Conducting statewide surveys to assess awareness of and reactions to DMH/DD/SUS communication campaigns, as well as attitudes and behaviors relevant to the campaigns
- Assisting with evaluation planning based on local needs and interests, including collecting and using data for ongoing implementation improvement and documentation of impacts

PIRE is available and looks forward to collaborating with you on your evaluation needs and interests. To coordinate with the team, please contact Jessica Edwards at jedwards@pire.org or 919-265-2636.



FROM THE DESK OF DMH/DD/SUS

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR!!! That's right...mid-year compliance report season. This is a reminder that mid-year SUPTRS Compliance Reports are due in January. Please get in touch with your LME/MCO representative for submission details and deadlines. The template and instructions are forthcoming in a separate email from Felicia Roberson, Director of NCTTA Center Administration (froberson@apnc.org).



PARTNER UPDATES

Message from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

Statewide Survey Reports Related to the *Lock Your Meds* and *Talk It Up. Lock It Up!*TM (TIU LIU) Campaigns are Available to Support Your Prevention Efforts

Several survey reports prepared by the PIRE evaluation team are available to support your prevention efforts. These survey findings have been shared previously through presentations, and direct email to SUS Block Grant providers. However, these reports are also available via [Tovuti](#) in the media library.

- **2024 NC Secure Medication Storage Statewide Survey Report.** This report includes 2024 survey results related to secure medication storage behaviors, safe medication disposal behaviors, and awareness of and reactions to the Lock Your Meds media campaign.
- The **Comparison Report** examines data across multiple years of the NC Secure Medication Storage Survey pertaining to key survey items relevant to the Lock Your Meds campaign.
- The **NC Secure Medication Storage Survey Brief** provides key highlights from the 2024 survey that can be shared with prevention partners and community members.
- **2024 NC Alcohol Storage Statewide Survey Report.** This report includes 2024 survey results related to the storage of alcohol in the home and awareness of and reactions to the *Talk It Up. Lock It Up!*TM media campaign.
- The **Provider Version of the TIU LIU Survey Brief** can be used to share the 2024 survey highlights with prevention partners.
- The **Community Version of the TIU LIU Survey Brief** can be used to share the 2024 survey highlights and associated information about securely storing alcohol in the home with community members.

Jessica Edwards at PIRE, jedwards@pire.org, is available to discuss any questions related to the reports. Additionally, Holly Carter, holly@impactcarolina.org, and Mina Cook, mjcook2@uncg.edu, can assist with using the survey briefs to support your *Lock Your Meds* and *Talk It Up. Lock It Up!*TM campaign activities. For access to Tovuti, contact Robert Greer, rgreer@apnc.org.



UPCOMING SUPTRS MEETINGS, TRAININGS, & CONFERENCES

Do You or Your Staff Need Evidence-Based Strategy Training?

We must say that the most recent evidence-based facilitator training courses offered were a success! We now have newly trained facilitators of the top two YPE programs offered within the communities of the North Carolina SUS BG system.

- Too Good For Drugs - 22 new SUS BG providers were trained on the Elementary and Middle school grades
- Botvins LifeSkills – 11 providers received training on the Elementary and Middle school levels, of which six were trained on the H.S. level

We aim to continue offering evidence-based strategy training that meets your needs and fosters a highly qualified workforce in North Carolina’s substance use prevention field. [Please take a moment to complete our Approved Prevention Education Strategies Training Survey using this link.](#) This survey will help us to determine the next facilitator training to offer, possibly in your area soon! *Note: the survey will close on December 23rd.*

We hope to see you at one of our trainings next year!

Save The Date LME Meeting

LME-MCO/Provider Meetings

Please mark your calendars!

The annual LME-MCO/Provider meetings have been scheduled. Each meeting will be held in-person from 10 am to 4 pm each day, with a lunch break (on your own). The details of the meeting location, along with the agenda and hotel information, will be provided soon.

The dates are as follows:

Date	LME	Location
Monday, 1/26/2026	Trillium	Greenville
Tuesday, 1/27/2026	Alliance	Morrisville
Thursday, 1/29/2026	Partners	Hickory
Friday, 1/30/2026	Vaya	Asheville

At least one BG-funded agency staff member is expected to attend. The details of the meeting location, along with the agenda and hotel information, will be provided soon.

NC’s Required Youth Prevention Education (YPE) Training will be held on January 12-13, 2026 @ 9 am – 1 pm

North Carolina Foundations of Youth Prevention Education (YPE) prepares direct service prevention providers to implement evidence-based and/or standards-based YPE programs. North Carolina Foundations of Youth Prevention Education provides a basic understanding of the components and best practices for implementing any YPE program. This training will increase participants’ knowledge and skills in planning, managing, facilitating, evaluating, and monitoring a Youth Prevention Education program. The training is divided into self-paced pre-requisites and two days of content with engaging activities that allow participants to meet the previously stated objectives by directly applying the material. The training will be interactive, with breakout rooms and group discussion. [Register for YPE by using this link!](#)

Start preparing now by completing the YPE prerequisite, available on [Tovuti](#). The prerequisite must be completed to attend the training. **Need an account? Reach out to Rgreer@apnc.org**

NC’s Required SUMPST will be held on April 1-3, 2026 @ 9 am – 3 pm

SUMPST (Substance Use and Misuse Prevention Skills Training) prepares direct service providers to implement evidence-based substance use prevention programs and learn about the prevention system in North Carolina. SUMPST provides a basic understanding of the components and best practices related to effective prevention practices.

All Block Grant providers who are new to the North Carolina prevention system are required to complete all components of this training at least once. Block Grant providers receive priority registration. If space is available, others can register. The training will consist of a prerequisite course and an interactive 2-day virtual workshop.

Start preparing now by completing the SUMPST prerequisite, available on [Tovuti](#). The prerequisite must be completed to attend the training. **Need an account? Reach out to Rgreer@apnc.org.**

Registration will open soon!



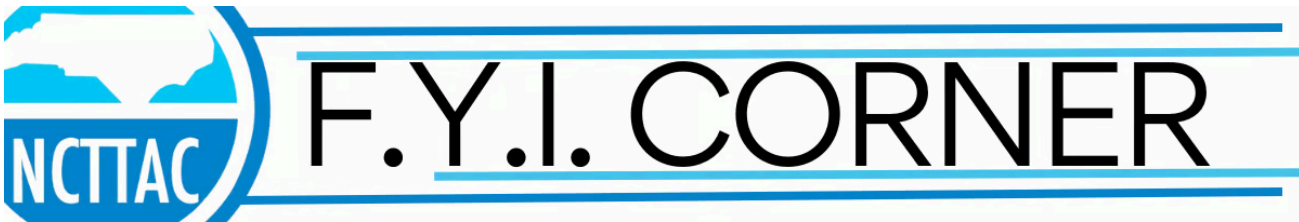
North
Carolina
**Prevention
Conference**

Presented by



**JUNE 15 - 16,
2026**

**McKimmon Center
Raleigh, NC**



NCTTAC **F.Y.I. CORNER**

Information shared in the "FYI Corner" is not endorsed by the NCTTA Center or DMH/DD/SUS and may have costs associated with the event.



SAVE THE DATE
**APNC 2026 SPRING
CONFERENCE**
APNC Addiction Professionals of North Carolina
APRIL 14-16, 2026

Botvin LifeSkills Free Webinar Series

Botvin LifeSkills will be offering a series of webinars that provide best practices for prevention education, including time-saving tips, strategies for aligning priorities, and more. Check out these [upcoming topics and dates!](#)

Duke-UNC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program: The Rising Wave of State Bans on Disposable Vapes: What's the Actual Impact?

E-cigarette regulation in the US is entering a new stage. An increasing number of states are working to ban or heavily restrict disposable vapes that have not been approved for sale by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Currently, [the FDA has approved the sale of tobacco- and menthol-flavored e-cigarettes](#) from only four companies – Vuse, NJOY, Logic, JUUL. This means most e-cigarettes sold in stores are not legal, and most of these are flavored disposable devices. State regulations focus on removing these unregulated products from store shelves.

[Read more!](#)

“Opioid Response Network” - December Webinars Link

CADCA Blog Post

The following blog highlights an alcohol outlet store assessment session during the CADCA 2025 Mid-Year Training Institute. [Conducting Store Assessments in Alcohol Outlets | CADCA](#)

Calls to Reassess Cannabis Risks: New Research Reported

Learn more about consensus data on the consequences of marijuana use in youth and young adults, [click here!](#)

CDC Foundation - Overdose Measures Matter

This new website is designed to help communities strengthen their overdose prevention efforts through practical data collection and evaluation tools. Explore the site by clicking here: www.OverdoseMeasuresMatter.org

DEA Releases 2024 Edition of Drugs of Abuse Resource Guide

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has released the 2024 edition of [Drugs of Abuse, A DEA Resource Guide](#), which is designed to be a reliable resource on the most commonly used and misused drugs in the United States. [Read Here!](#)

Are you interested in hearing more from the NC TTA Center and staying current on NC's Substance Use Prevention Services? Use the link below to visit our website, and you will automatically be subscribed to our mailing list! To join, click here:

[Mailing List](#)



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Addiction Professionals of North Carolina, 3725 National Drive Suite 222, Raleigh, NC 27612, United States