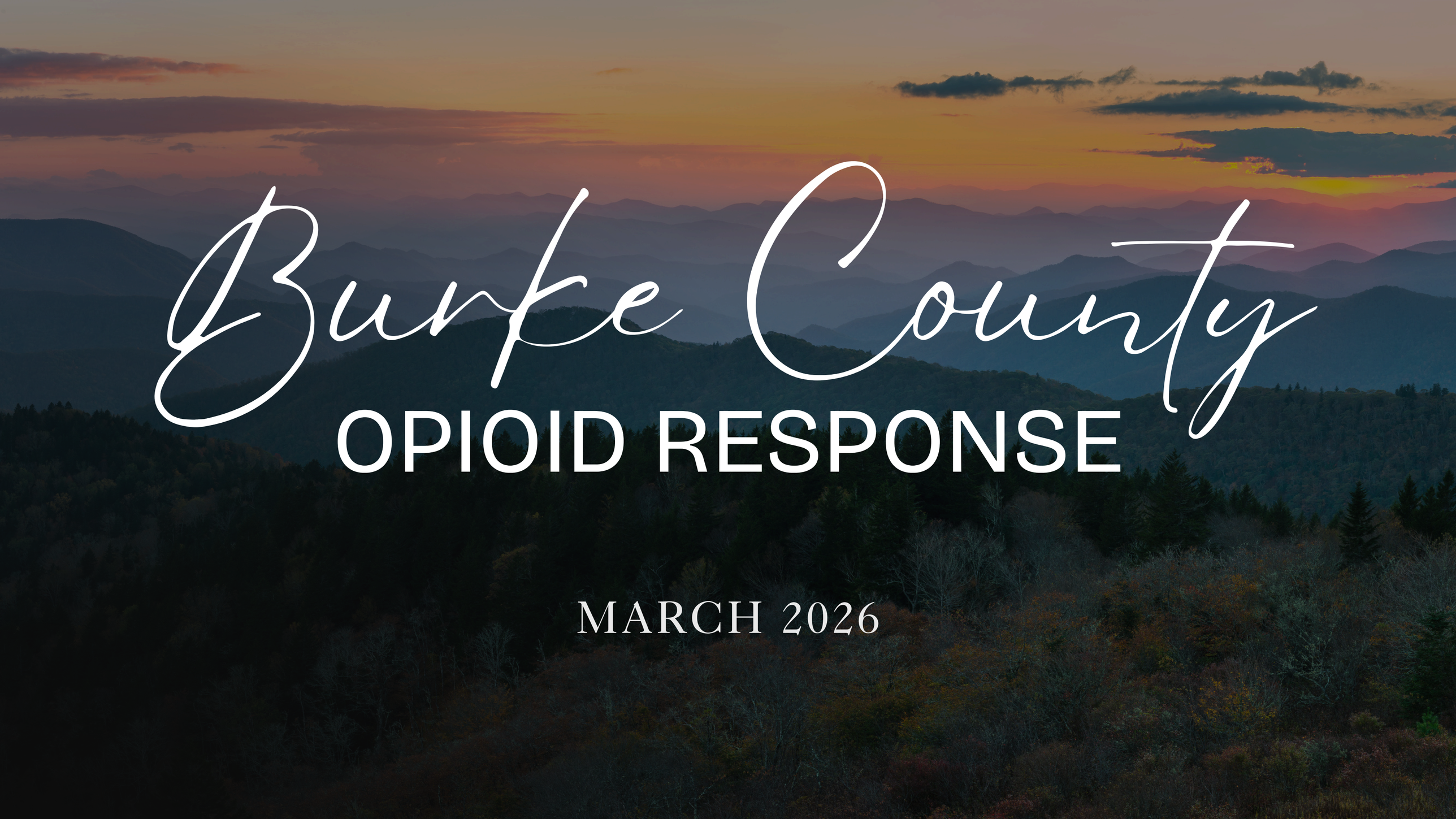

Burke County
OPIOID RESPONSE
MARCH 2026

THE PLAN

Current Landscape

A high-level review of local opioid impact indicators and an overview of settlement funds received, allocated, and remaining to guide strategic decision-making.

County-Led Strategy Updates

Update on department operations, BEAR Team activity, and system coordination efforts.

Provider-Led Strategy Updates

Highlights from funded partners on services delivered and early outcomes.

Moving Forward in FY26-27

Discussion of a proposed continuation plan to sustain current operations and provider contracts, while advancing new initiatives including the launch of the Facility-Based Crisis Center and other strategic investments.

PURPOSE & VALUES

Improving Lives in Burke County

SERVICE | SUPPORT | ENHANCEMENT

Empathy:
We treat all people with fairness, respect, and kindness; we encourage diverse perspectives.

Teamwork:
We prioritize shared goals and belive we can achieve more when we work together.

Accountability:
We can communicate openly and honestly with employees and stakeholders. We have integrity to do what is right.

Performance:
We are focused on innovation, efficiency, and measured outcomes. We strive for a high-quality customer experience.

Growth:
We support and invest in the advancement of our team and prioritize professional development.

Focus Area 3: Public Safety & Wellness

Focus Areas:

1. Reduce On-set of New Use
2. Enhance Pathways to Recovery
3. Reduce Fatalities

Burke County Overdose Trends Dashboard

Annual indicators, EMS data updated monthly

370
EMS Calls for Overdose (2025)

25
Certified Overdose Deaths (2025)

28
Pending Death Investigations (2025)

118
Kids in Foster Care Due to Parental Substance Use (2025)

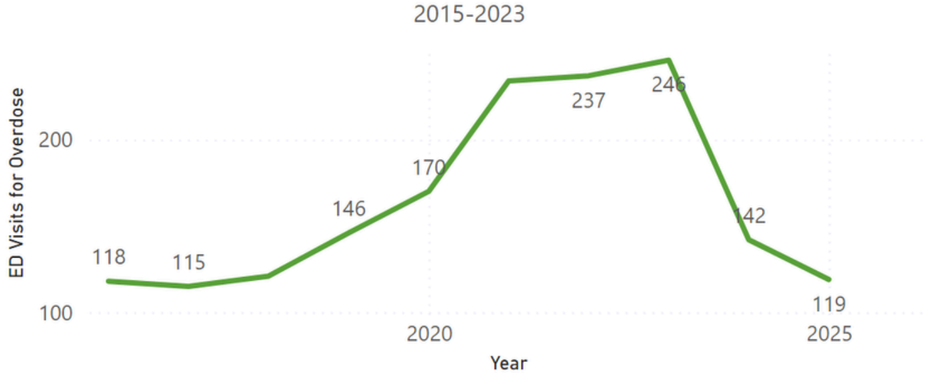
Annual Overdose Deaths

2011-2024 Official Counts



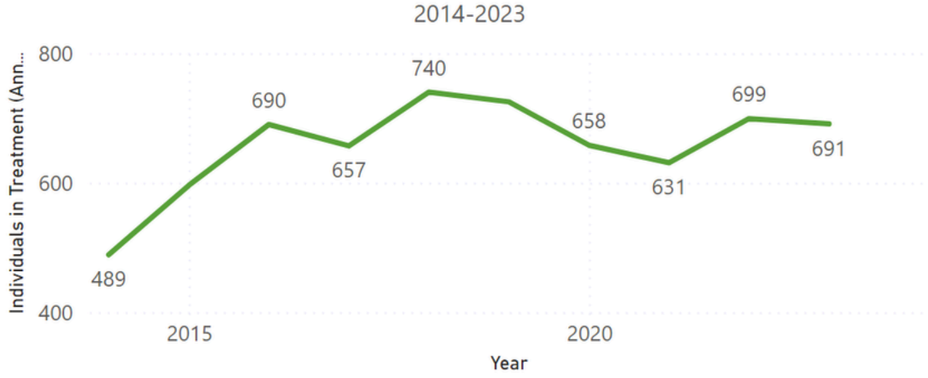
ED Visits for Overdose by Year

2015-2023



Individuals in Treatment (Annual) by Year

2014-2023



Sources:

- **ESO (Emergency Services Office)** incident and run data, Burke County EMS
- **North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Injury and Violence Prevention Branch**, North Carolina Overdose Epidemic Data
- https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data
- **NC DAVE (North Carolina Deaths Application for Vital Events)**, death certificate and certification status data accessed by Burke County Opioid Response

Burke County’s Approach

DEDICATED OPIOID RESPONSE DEPARTMENT

A specialized county team focused on overdose prevention, follow-up, and coordination of opioid response strategies.

COMMISSIONER-LED GOVERNANCE

Settlement funding decisions are guided by the Burke County Board of Commissioners to ensure alignment with county priorities and public accountability.

OPIOID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A commissioner-appoiinted advisory group reviews strategies, progress, and recommendations to support informed decision making.

DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

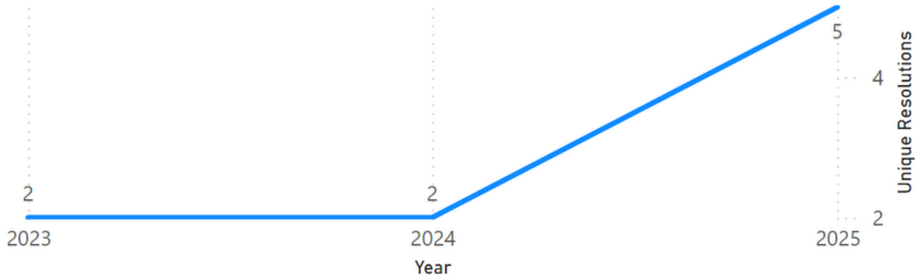
Local data, trends, and performance measures inform funding priorities, program design, and ongoing adjustments.

Burke County Opioid Response

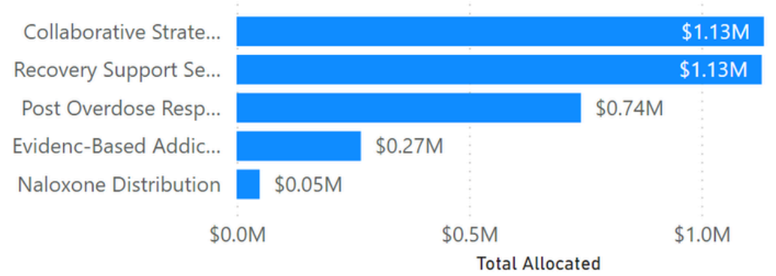
Settlement Overview

$25.24M	$9.53M	$3.32M	9
Total Disbursements (2022-2038)	Total Disbursements Received	Total Allocated	Active Programs

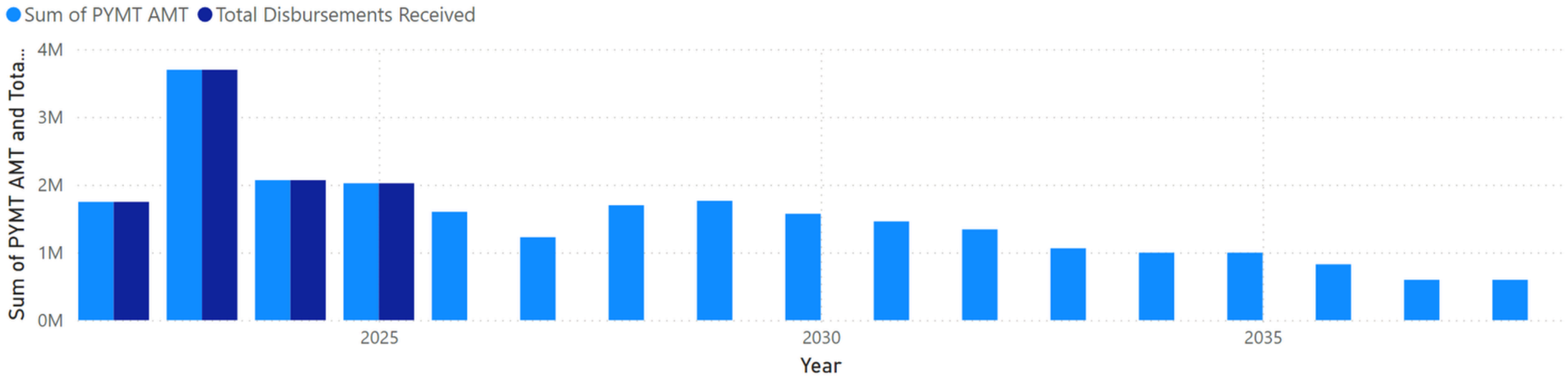
Approved Resolutions Over Time



Allocated Funding by MOA Strategy



Sum of PYMT AMT and Total Disbursements Received by Year



CURRENT PROGRAMS

There are currently 9 active programs funded through Opioid Settlement dollars.

OPIOID RESPONSE DEPARTMENT	NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION
BEAR TEAM	BURKE COUNTY RECOVERY COURT
LOW-BARRIER MAT	FAMILY CENTERED TREATMENT-RECOVERY (FCT-R)
SACOT/SAIOP	COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR

COUNTY-LED STRATEGIES

Opioid Response Department & Naloxone Distribution

The Opioid Response Department coordinates Burke County's overdose prevention and response efforts through the BEAR Team, Post-Overdose outreach, and countywide naloxone distribution. By managing settlement funds strategically and strengthening partnerships across public safety, healthcare, and community providers, the department ensures rapid response to overdoses, improved linkage to treatment, and expanded access to lifesaving resources.



Strategy Management & Reporting

Oversees opioid settlement funding, contract performance, and compliance with state requirements while providing transparent reporting to the Board of Commissioners and Advisory Committee. Ensures investments are data-driven, measurable, and aligned with long-term sustainability.



Community Engagement & Education

Builds partnerships across public safety, healthcare, schools, and community organizations to strengthen coordination and reduce stigma. Leads outreach efforts that connect residents to treatment, recovery resources, and prevention initiatives.



Naloxone Distribution

Coordinates countywide distribution of naloxone and overdose prevention training to expand community-level response capacity. Ensures lifesaving medication is accessible in high-risk settings to reduce overdose fatalities.

BEAR Team

Established

- Funded in Fall 2025 through Opioid Settlement dollars
- Officially launched January 1, 2026 as a 24/7 field-based response initiative

Funding Parameters

- Must directly address opioid use disorder and related harms
- Requires measurable outcomes and documented linkage to care

Funding Source

- Supported under Option A of the North Carolina Memorandum of Agreement
- Focused on overdose response and improving access to treatment

Strategic Design

- Combines community paramedicine and peer support
- Supports post-overdose follow-up and detox coordination
- Structured to align with additional allowable strategies as approved



Current Activity

- 19 active cases
- 39 substance use treatment referrals, including inpatient and residential
- 10 mental health referrals
- 18 primary care referrals
- Full 24/7 coverage operational

Year-to-Date Highlights

- Fully launched 24/7 field-based overdose and crisis response (January 1, 2026)
- Embedded peer support directly into field response and post-overdose follow-up
- Implementing Goldie case management platform to strengthen tracking, documentation, and outcome reporting (launch expected this month)
- Optimized fleet resources to preserve frontline EMS capacity while maintaining dedicated BEAR response operations

PROVIDER-LED STRATEGIES

FAMILY CENTERED TREATMENT-R

SPARC

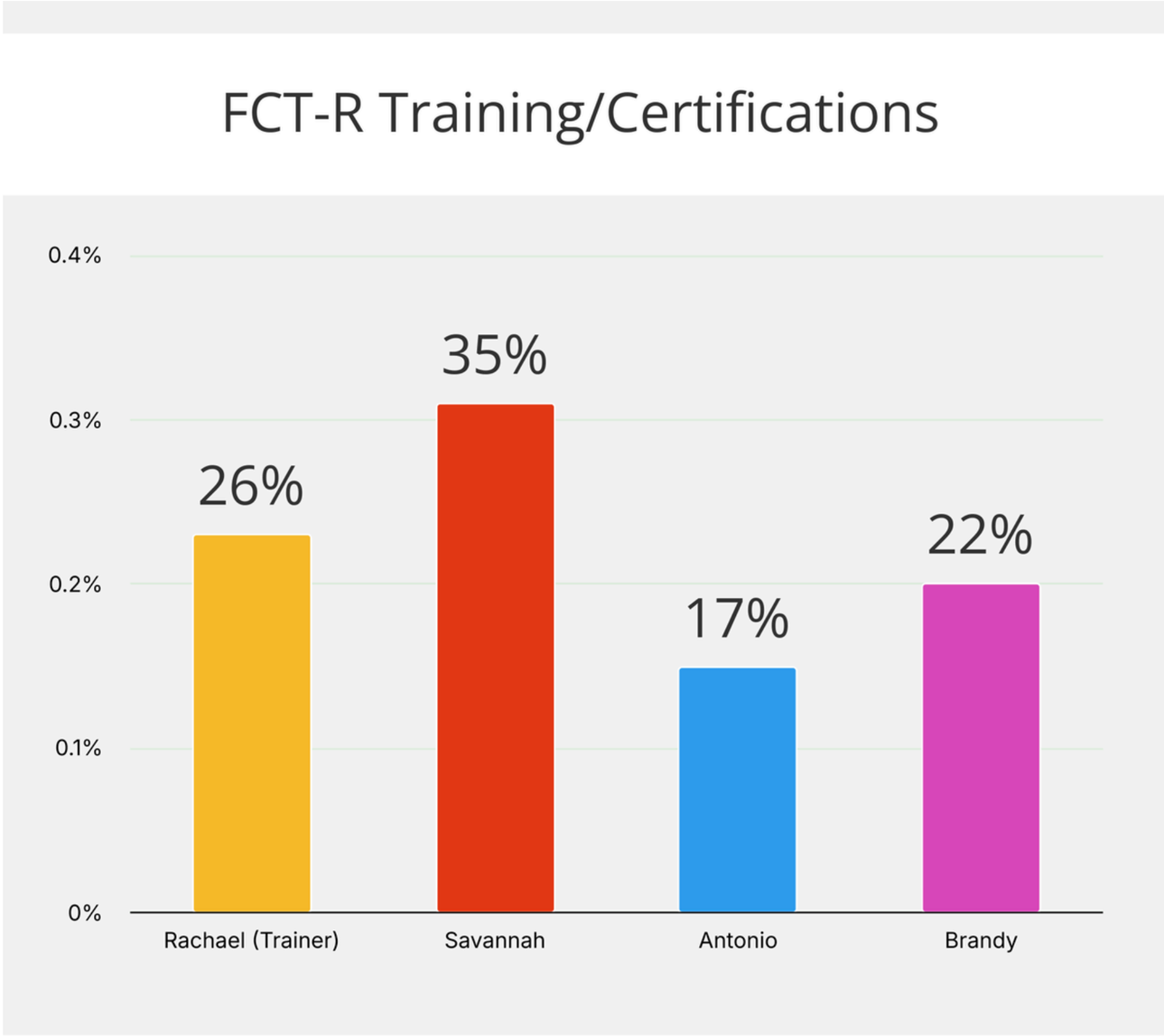
SPARC
Services & Programs

Family Centered Treatment-Recovery (FCT-R)

Presentation to Burke County
Opioid Advisory Committee
March 5, 2026

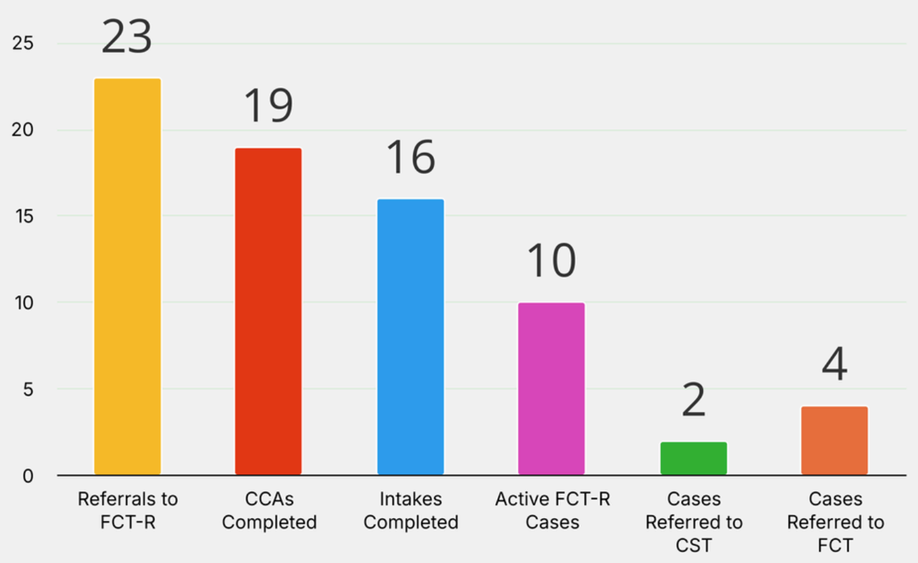
FCT-R Program Update

- **Implementation Milestone:** FCT-R Readiness Assessment with FCT Foundation
  - Completed Aug 22nd with 90% of Best Practice Implementation Drivers as in place/partially in place prior to program launch
- **Implementation Milestone:** Service Delivery
  - 1st referral received October 3, 2025
  - 23 total referrals to FCT-R received to date

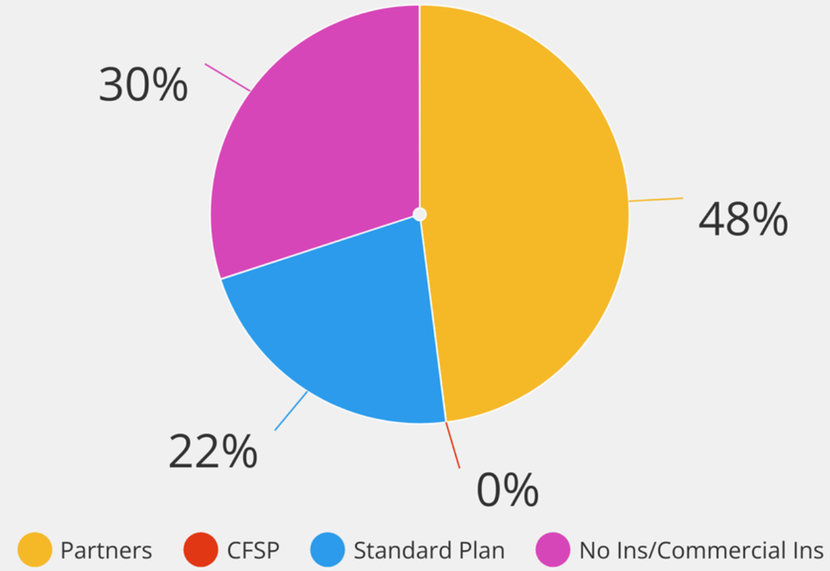


Family Centered Treatment- Recovery (FCT-R)

FCT-R Referral Outcomes



Insurance Benefits for FCT-R Referrals



Family Engagement in FCT-R



37

Family members engaged in FCT-R



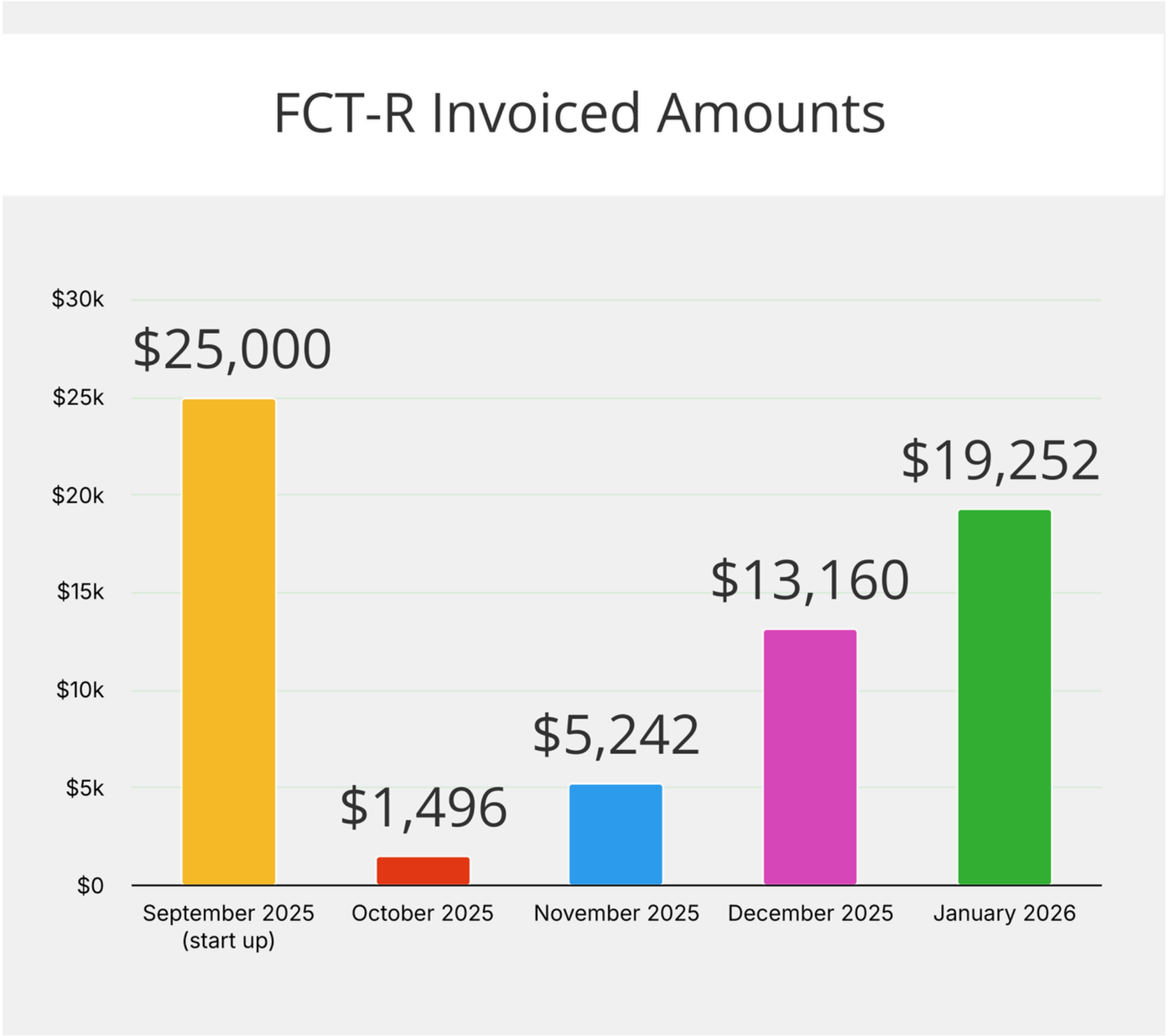
of individuals with current or previous opioid use

67%

Negative Drug Screens



FCT-R Expenditures



SPARC
Services & Programs

Teri Herrmann, MA
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704-453-1878

Shanda Woody, LCMHC
VP of Operations - Mountain Region
swoody@thesparcnetwork.net
828-448-1615

Faren Tillery, CADC-R
FCT/FCT-R Supervisor
ftillery@thesparcnetwork.net
828-493-1773

LOW-BARRIER MOUD

HIGH COUNTRY COMMUNITY HEALTH

High Country Community Health
Low-Barrier MOUD Program Update

- Status: Actively serving participants (launched Jan. 5, 2026)
- Staffing:
  - Filled: LCSW, MOUD Medical Provider, Medical Assistant
  - In progress: Clinical Pharmacist, PMHNP (positions relisted, interviews underway)
  - 100% of current staff trained in trauma-informed, harm reduction care
- Operational Highlights:
  - EMS handoffs and mobile outreach active
  - Field inductions have begun
- Participant Impact (December):
  - 51 participants served (100% with OUD)
  - 9 MOUD inductions
  - 51 outreach participants linked to treatment
- Early Retention Data:
  - 46 participants retained at 30 days
  - 37 retained at 90 days
  - 58% engaged in MOUD beyond 3 months

BURKE COUNTY RECOVERY COURT

THE COGNITIVE CONNECTION

Burke County Recovery Court

Provider: The Cognitive Connection

Program Report

Program Status

Active

Total Active Participants

January 2026

23

Total New Intakes

October 2025-Present

5

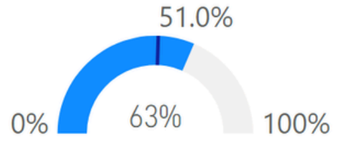
Total Graduates

October 2025-Present

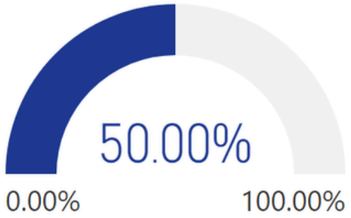
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Opioid-Eligible Participants

(Since July 1, 2025)

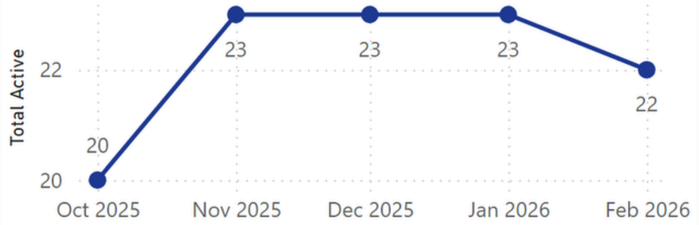


% Participants Employed at the Time of Graduation



Total Active Over TIme

FY25-26

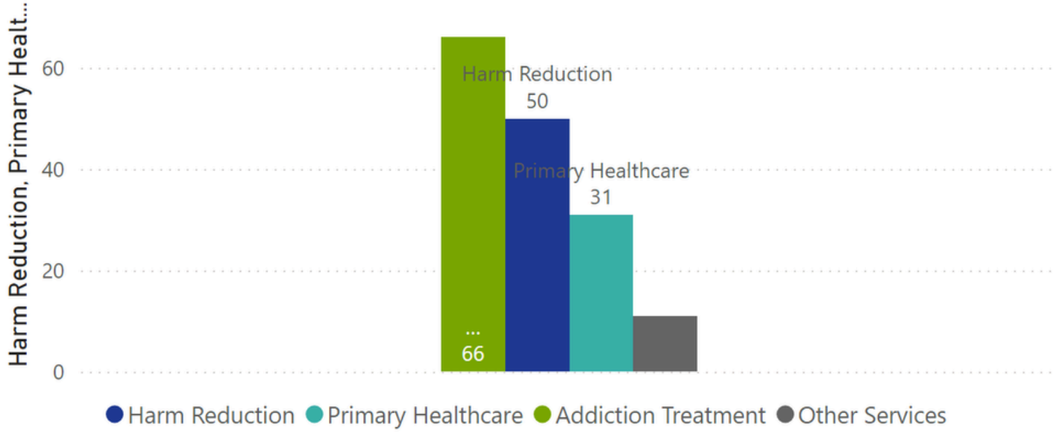


% Participants Reporting Sobriety at 6 Months Post Discharge



Total Outgoing Referrals Made

Oct. 2025-Present



Peer Engagement, Outreach, & Training

Oct. 2025-Current

105
Total Peer Contacts

7
Total Outreach Contacts

18
Total Trainings Attended

A CARING ALTERNATIVE



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SA Services in Burke County

Burke Opioid Update March 5, 2026

Facility

301 EAST MEETING ST
MORGANTON
suite 102
(OFFICE)828-608-3644
(CRISIS)828-807-4691

- Location secured
- Location operationally ready for services

- License obtained from the state review
- Awaiting MCO approval
- Expected in 2 weeks

MARKETING

TASC
Recovery Court
BEAR
PORT
Burke Recovery
community sa/mh providers
community hospitals
High county community health (referrals and Mat)
millenium labs
burke county custody and prison

STAFFING

TEAM LEAD (LCAS)
ADMINISTRATIVE (PEER SUPPORT)
PEER SUPPORT (2)
CAD-C (2)

FULLY STAFFED TO BEGIN OFFERING MORNING SAIOP AND SACOT GROUPS.
FULLY STAFFED TO BEGIN OFFERING PEER SUPPORT SERVICES.





Training

Matrix Model – Evidence Based Model for SA Treatment

All staff trained

Materials for SAIOP and SACOT Groups purchased

REFERRALS

SAIOP 15
SACOT 6

FY26-27 DIRECTION

Facility Based Crisis (FBC) Center

What It Is

A 16-bed, short-term crisis stabilization and detoxification facility with an average length of stay of 7–14 days. The center will provide medical monitoring, comprehensive assessment, and enhanced care coordination to support transition into long-term treatment and recovery services.

Project Status

- County-owned building, provider managed (selected through RFQ process)
- Planning and partnership development underway
- Site preparation and operational coordination in progress
- Anticipated launch later this year

Community Impact

- Expands local short-term detox capacity
- Provides structured intake and evaluation prior to long-term placement
- Serves as a first evaluation site for IVC cases, reducing emergency department burden
- Improves care coordination and continuity of treatment
- Strengthens system efficiency across EMS, hospitals, and behavioral health providers



Facility-Based Crisis Center: Diversion Model



Goal: Redirect appropriate individuals to a structured stabilization setting that improves outcomes while reducing strain on hospitals, law enforcement, and emergency services.

FY26-27 Spending Plan

$6.2M

Available Balance

$2.83M

Total Estimated Budget FY26-27

Category	Amount
Opioid Response Department Operations	$514,137.00
BEAR Team Operations	$737,524.00
Naloxone Distribution	$40,000.00
Burke County Recovery Court	$150,000
Low-Barrier MAT	$242,304
Family Centered Treatment-R	$365,000
SACOT/SAIOP	$240,000
RFP Opportunity for Additional Programs	$550,000
Total	$2,838,965

Thank You!

Because of your leadership and direction, Burke County now has:

- A 24/7 field-based overdose response team
- Expanded access to treatment and detox services
- Strengthened coordination across public safety and healthcare
- A growing, sustainable response system