Burke County Opioid Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025 | 3:30 PM
Burke County Commissioners Chambers | 110 N. Green Street, Morganton, NC
Livestream Link: https://www.youtube.com/live/nWLdhF-MSPY?si=fjG7S4sKYW02dlO6

Committee Members Present: Dr. Anthony Frank; Sheriff Banks Hinceman; Katie Olsen; Karen Russell; Dr. Paul Holden; Jerry Duckworth; Johnnie Carswell; Hannah Houston; Dr. Rivers Woodward; Dr. Joel Welch

Committee Members Not Present: Jeff Brittain;

Staff Present: Dr. Katie V. Samuels, Brandi Greer, Hugh Sandoe

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Dr. Katie V. Samuels.

II. Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Joel Welch, seconded by Katie Olsen, and approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the August 12, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Dr. Paul Holden, seconded by Dr. Joel Welch, and approved unanimously.

IV. Presentations

a) Additional opioid Settlement Funding Update

- **i)** Dr. Samuels reviewed the SAAF-3 and Purdue/Sackler settlements.
- **ii)** Burke County is set to receive approx. $2.5M from the Purdue bankruptcy and $413K from SAAF-3.
- **iii)** Board of Commissioners approved resolutions to sign on and submit necessary documentation.

b) Strategy Implementation Updates

i) County-led strategies
   (1) Naloxone Distribution: New vendor identified at lower cost; vending machine distributed 95+ boxes in 6 weeks.
   (2) Community Navigator**:** Job posted; interviews underway.
   (3) PORT Team: Weekly implementation meetings; interviews underway for peer and paramedic roles.

ii) Provider-led strategies
   (1) Contracts executed with ACA, High Country, and SPARC.
   (2) Programs are hiring and initiating startup activities.

c) FY24-25 Annual Report

- **i)** Submitted to the state; only includes strategies where funds were drawn down.
- **ii)** Highlights include 1,000+ naloxone kits distributed, 315 unique individuals engaged, and expanded recovery court.

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d) **Videography Project Preview**
   i) Committee viewed a 4-minute clip from a qualitative data project showcasing lived/living experience stories.
   ii) Videos will be used for strategic planning and public education.
e) **PPE and Community Engagement Report – Brandi Greer**
   i) Overview of PPE impact, workforce pipeline development, and the peer-led awareness campaign.
   ii) PPE posters and naloxone training have directly supported community members in accessing recovery resources.
   iii) Naloxone distribution/training has expanded to jails, schools, public events, and during emergencies.

V. Informal Public Comment

No public comments were received.

VI. Items for Decision

a) **Motion 1 made by Katie Olsen:** Reinstate PPE funding at the amount previously allocated but unspent ($22,000).
   i) **Passed unanimously.**
   ii) Staff will return with a budget and resolution for Board of Commissioners approval.
b) **Motion 2 made by Karen Russell:** Allocate $8,400 for 24 peer certification training slots (2 classes x 12 people, $350/slot).
   i) **Passed unanimously.**
   ii) Will be pursued as a separate resolution under Employment-Related Services.

VII. Reports & Comments

a) Recovery Court Presentation – The Cognitive Connection
   i) Provided program overview, success metrics, and participant testimonials.
   ii) 122 participants served since 2019; 40 graduates; over $9M in estimated cost savings.
   iii) Highlighted partnerships and peer support success stories.

VIII. Other Business

a) Interest in visiting TROSA raised; Dr. Samuels will share a summary at a future meeting.

IX. Adjournment

a) Motion made by Dr. Anthony Frank to adjourn. Meeting adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Katie V. Samuels
Secretary, Burke County Opioid Advisory Committee

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BURKECOUNTY
ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

OPIOID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

SEPT. 16, 2025

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

01

NEW SETTLEMENT SIGN-ONS

02

COUNTY-LED STRATEGY UPDATES

03

PROVIDER-LED STRATEGY UPDATES

04

ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

06

LOOKING AHEAD

SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK & BACKGROUND

01

2021 MOA

Framework for NC distribution, accountability, remediation

02

2023 SAAF

Added Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, Teva, Allergan

03

2024 SAAF-2

Added Kroger settlement

SAAF-3 (SECONDARY OPIOID MANUFACTURER SETTLEMENTS)

- Extends NC’s existing MOA/SAAF framework to new settlements with Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Sun, Viatris, and Zydus.
- Distribution per payment:
  - 15% State
  - 84.62% Local Governments
  - 0.38% Local Counsel Fee Fund (reverts to locals if unused)
- Funds must be deposited into the local special revenue fund and used only for MOA-approved remediation strategies.
- Takes effect once enough NC subdivisions sign to qualify as a State-Subdivision Agreement.
- **Local action required:** adopt resolution and sign SAAF-3 + settlement documents.

PURDUE/SACKLER BANKRUPTCY SETTLEMENT

- $7.4B national settlement; all 55 AGs signed on (June 2025).
- NC projected share: ~$150M over 15 years.
- Two actions for local governments by Sept 30, 2025:
  a. Vote on the Chapter 11 Plan (creditor ballot due by 4:00 p.m. ET).
  b. Submit the GESA Participation & Release Form to receive funds.

Payments begin early 2026 with $2.4B initial distribution, followed by installments over 3 years.

BURKE COUNTY PURDUE PAYMENTS

$2,584,360.84

BURKE COUNTY SAAF-3 PAYMENTS

$413,010.81

TARGET DATES/DEADLINES

Action	Deadline	Purpose
Approve Resolution	Sept. 2, 2025	Authorize County Manager to Vote & Sign-on
Vote on Purdue Bankruptcy Plan	Sept. 30, 2025	Approve Chapter 11 Plan
Submit GESA Participation Form	Sept. 30, 2025	Access Purdue/Sackler funds
Adopt & Sign SAAF-3	Oct 8, 2025	Qualify NC for Secondary Manufacturer Settlement



STRATEGY UPDATES

COUNTY-LED STRATEGY UPDATE

Updates on the three county-led strategies approved in FY25–26 and their current implementation status.

01

NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION

Purchasing has begun, with a new supplier identified that allows the County to obtain kits at a reduced cost of $22 per box.

02

COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR

The position has been posted and two applications have been received. Interviews are scheduled to begin on September 17.

03

PORT TEAM

Implementation meetings are being held weekly. The team is drafting operating procedures and field induction protocols, evaluating software options, and participating in site visits and PORT summits. Community Paramedic and Peer Support Specialist positions are posted, with interviews beginning on September 19.

PROVIDER-LED STRATEGY UPDATE

Updates on the three provider-led strategies approved in FY25–26 and their current implementation status.

01

SACOT/SAIOP

Program launch is underway. The contract has been finalized, and startup funding is being disbursed.

02

LOW-BARRIER MAT

The expanded low-barrier MAT program has been approved and contracted.

03

FCT-R

The FCT-R program contract has been executed, and SPARC has initiated staff training.



FY24-25 OSF ANNUAL REPORT



STRATEGIES FUNDED IN FY24–25

Strategy 1: Collaborative Strategic Planning

- Opioid Settlement Coordinator
- Program Coordinator
- Peers Partnering for Excellence (PPE)
- Qualitative Data Project (Videography)
- Public Health & Safety Team
- Strategic Plan (Not included in Annual Report)

Strategy 3: Recovery Support Services

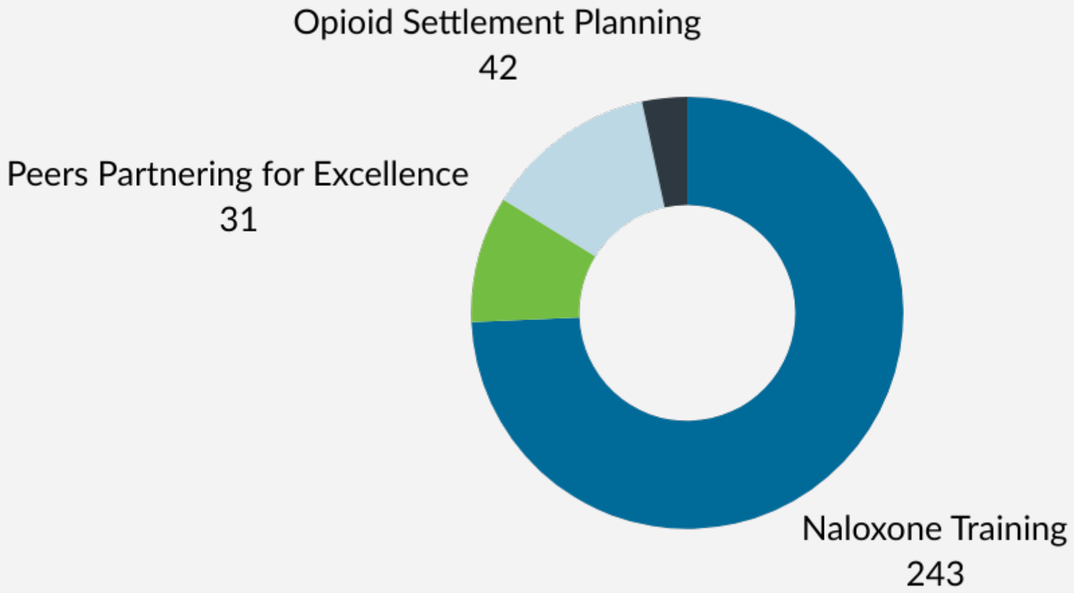
- Recovery Court

YEAR IN REVIEW

- Established independent Opioid Settlement Department
- Distributed 1,000+ naloxone kits across county
- Launched county-wide education and engagement campaigns
- Coordinated Peers Partnering for Excellence (PPE) to elevate peer leadership
- Developed videography project documenting lived experience
- Sustained and expanded Recovery Court as an alternative to incarceration

COLLABORATION IN ACTION

In FY24-25, the Opioid Response Team engaged 315 unique individuals in strategic planning, naloxone training, and recovery court.



34%

Of individuals reported living experience In mental health, substance use, or taking care of a loved one.

BURKE COUNTY RECOVERY COURT

Recovery Support Services

- 15 participants served; 1,592 staff contacts documented
- 100% referral and linkage to treatment, harm reduction, and healthcare
- 86% treatment adherence after 6 months
- 73% housing retention; 53% employment
- 87% connected to other services; 60% engaged in harm reduction supports
- 100% received naloxone kits; 2 community overdose reversals reported

LOOKING AHEAD (FY25–26)

- Finalize countywide Collaborative Strategic Plan
- Launch Post-Overdose Response Team (PORT)
- Implement Peer Community Navigator program
- Continue PPE leadership and Recovery Court support
- Focus on expanding access to treatment and treatment retention.

THANK YOU

Next Meeting: Nov. 18, 2025

Burke County Recovery Court

Who we serve

- *High Risk/High Need* adult *nonviolent* offenders with felony and/or misdemeanor drug convictions.
- Other felony and/or misdemeanors accepted *only* if alcohol or drugs were a contributing factor
- We accept H & I felonies, and Level I and II DWIs
- *NO Violent or Drug Trafficking Charges Accepted.*
- Must be on active probation
- Identified as having a substance use disorder
- Willing to commit to treatment, community support, and a 1 to 2 year program length
- *Nondiscriminatory:* all racial and ethnic backgrounds, genders, and expecting mothers welcome.

***Referrals may come through the Court System, Probation, TASC, a Treatment Provider, or an Attorney.**



BCRC 2022 Graduate with son

Meet the BCRC team

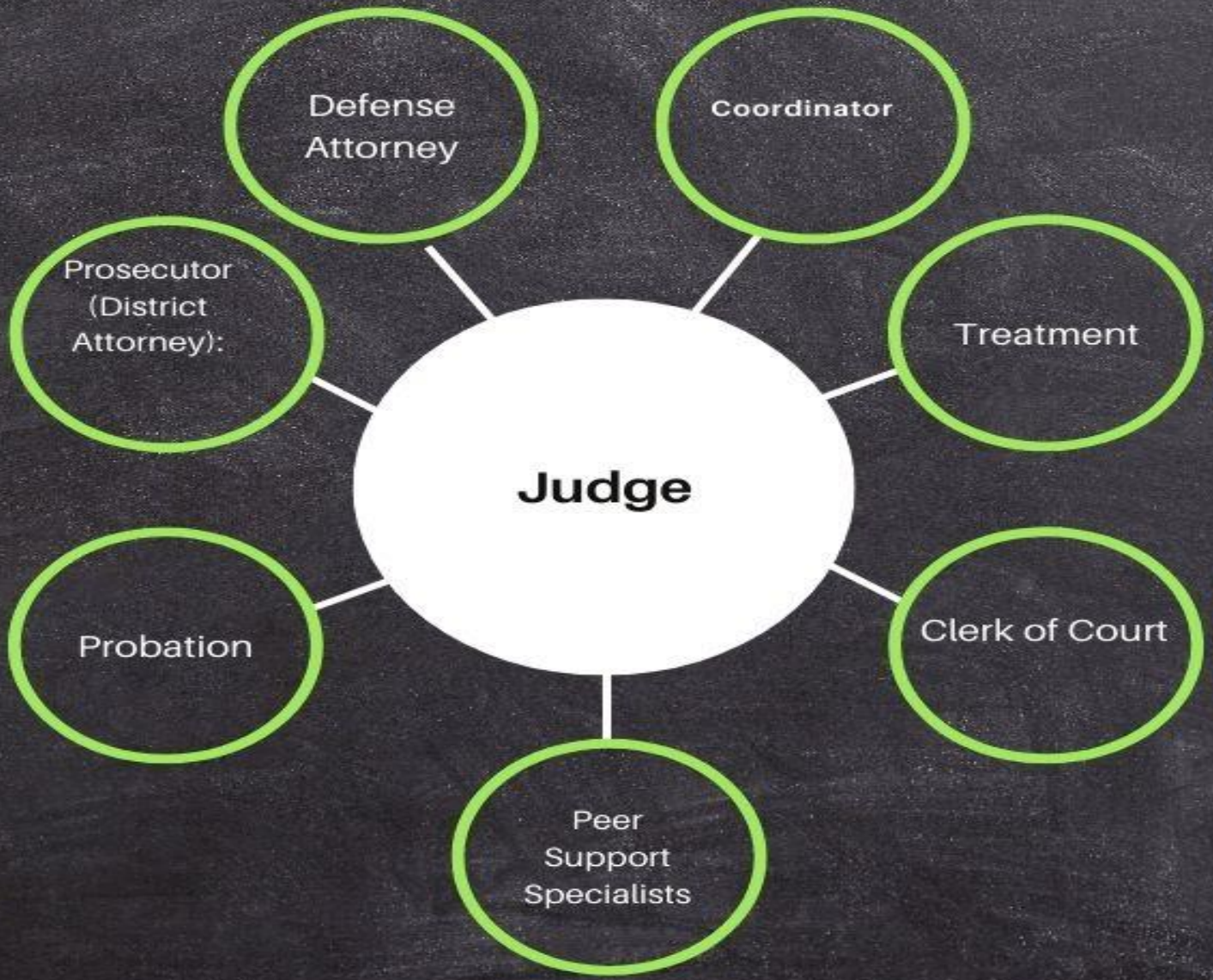
- **The Judge**: presides over the Recovery Court sessions to review and applaud their progress and immediately address any obstacles.
- **The District Attorney**: represents the community and its concerns.
- **The Probation Officers**: oversees participant community supervision, drug testing, curfew compliance, and will help them stay accountable to their probation terms and conditions.
- **The Recovery Court Coordinator**: meets with participants on a regular basis to motivate and support them with their case plan goals and will provide the team with reports on their progress and/or challenges.
- **The Treatment Provider**: provides the appropriate level of treatment, and will report participants' progress and participation to the team.
- **The Treatment Provider's contracted laboratory**: provides *confirmed* urine drug tests.
- **The Defense Attorney**: represents the participants' legal interests.
- **The Peer Support Specialists**: shares lived experience and helps encourage and motivate the participants through their recovery.





Pictured: (Above) BCRC team at a 2023 graduation

(Left) BCRC Team at the NADCP 2021 Conference in Washington DC



Pre-court Staffing

Before court, the team meets a discusses each participant. Each team member participates in the discussion and offers the Judge their thoughts, ideas, and opinions on what incentives and sanctions the participant should receive. In the end, the Judge makes the final decision.



Incentives



Incentives for Recovery Court compliance may include, but are not limited to:

- Praise from the Judge
- Applause from the courtroom
- Ringing of the bell by the team
- Certificates of Achievement
- Gift certificates to local stores and restaurants
- Excused absence from a Recovery Court session
- Recovery medallions and Sobriety Chips
- Prize box drawing (gift card, food or drink, coffee mug, stress ball, etc.)
- Spinning the wheel to reduce probation fees by the dollar amount the wheel lands on
- Promotion to the next Phase in the program and Recovery Court Graduation



Sanctions



Sanctions for Recovery Court non-compliance may include, but are not limited to:

- Speech/presentation to the Court
- Community service hours
- Curfew
- Electronic Monitoring
- House arrest
- Increased duration of a program Phase
- Increased drug screens
- Jail time



Benefits of the Program to Participants

- Person centered treatment, counseling, and peer support services.
- Help with finding resources for *Housing, Employment, Education, Childcare, Health, Transportation*, etc.
- ***Accountability*** through sanctions such as curfew, house arrest, essays, increased random drug and alcohol testing, higher level of treatment, and increased duration in current phase.
- ***Motivation*** through incentives such as certificates of achievement, reduced probation fees, and prize box drawings.
- Financial assistance for ***Medication-Assisted Treatment*** available to those who qualify based on need.



2024 graduates

Recovery Courts and Community Benefits

- According to ALLRISE, several meta-analyses of adult drug courts found that they reduce re-arrest or reconviction rates by an average of 8% to 26%, with most estimates falling between 9% and 15%. BCRC recidivism rate is 15%.
- BCRC success rate is 33%.
- Each year, recovery courts serve 150,000 people nationally. BCRC has served 122 different participants over the last 6 years.
- According to NADCP (National Association of Drug Court Professionals), on average, every person that is in Recovery Court saves their community $6,000.
- BCRC has saved $9813252 since 2019.



Winners of the 2023 Recovery Court Kickball Tournament

Winners of the 2025 Recovery Court Kickball Tournament



The current

- There are currently 15 participants in the program.
  - 9 participants are in Phase 1
  - 4 participants are in Phase 2
  - 3 participants are in Phase 3
  - 1 participants are in Phase 4
- 40 participants have completed the BCRC program.
- There are 8 pending referrals waiting to sign their contracts.



BCRC Graduate 2025



BCRC Graduate 2022

Success Stories- Ashley Phillips

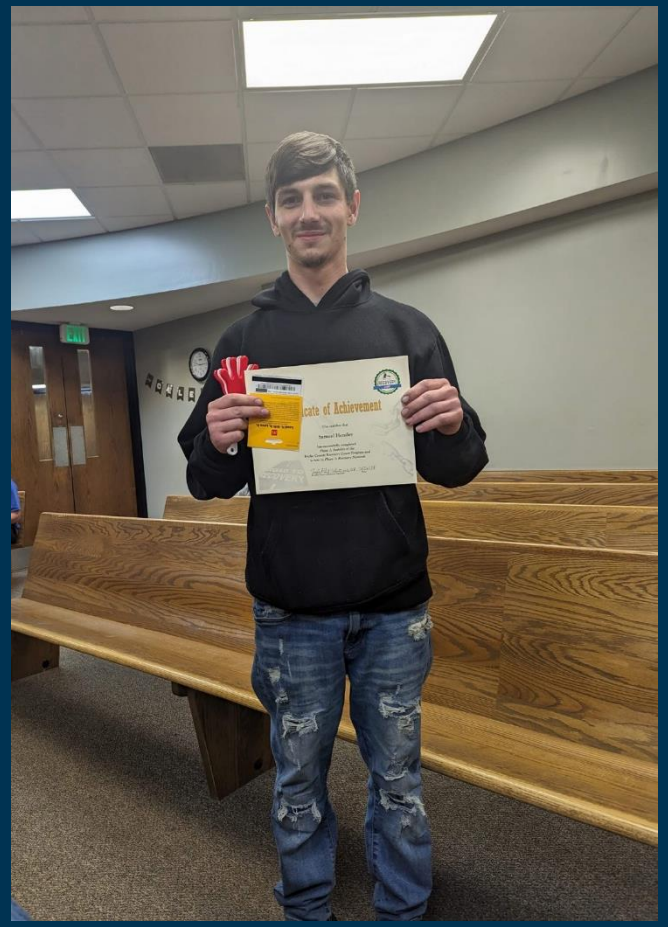


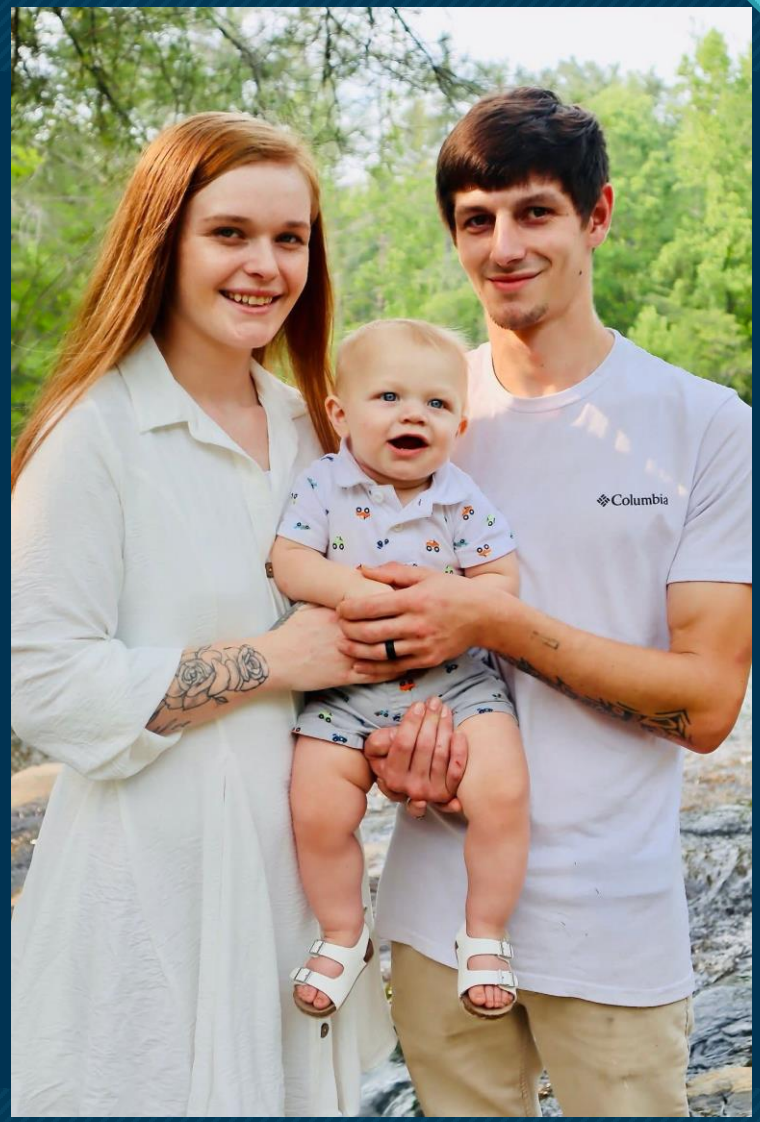




BCRC Graduate 2021

Success Stories- Samuel Hensley







Success Stories- Kristin Fox





Success Stories- Chris Otstott









Thank you

Like us on Facebook:
Recovery Courts of Burke and Catawba