

Awareness to Action

Awareness to Action: A 4-Part Lecture Series to mobilize community change towards opioid access, overdose response and new emerging trends.



Course Description:

A 4-part lecture series to mobilize community change towards opioid access, overdose response and new emerging trends. Week 1 will introduce participants to the South Carolina Prescription Monitoring Program, SCRIPTS. Week 2 will educate participants on Narcan. Week 3 discusses the EMS perspective on overdoses. Week 4 will close out the series to explore if stimulants are opioids 2.0. Each week has its own link to register, and has been approved for 1 credit hour per session.

Fee: Free



Target Audience

Anyone interested in the topic, social workers, therapist, prevention specialist, counselors, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy techs, CNAs, law enforcement, public health, community health care workers



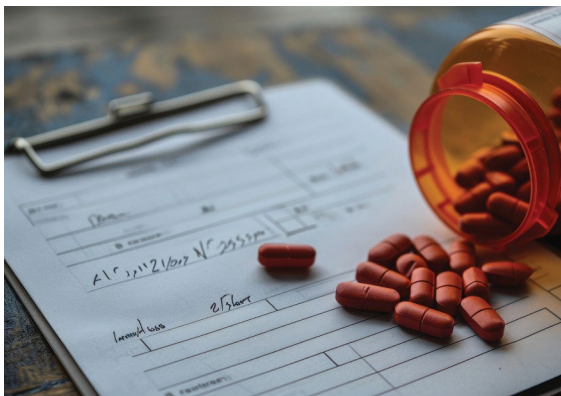
Schedule + Registration:

Week 1: SCRIPTS-SC Reporting and Identification Prescription Tracking System - 8/7
<https://www.scahec.net/learn/programs/4350>

Week 2: Simple, Safe and Legal: Narcan and the Law - 8/14
<https://www.scahec.net/learn/programs/4351>

Week 3: An EMS Perspective of Overdose - 8/21
<https://www.scahec.net/learn/programs/4352>

Week 4: Stimulants, Is It Opioids 2.0? - 8/28
<https://www.scahec.net/learn/programs/4353>



Week 1: SCRIPTS - South Carolina Reporting & Identification Prescription Tracking System

August 7, 2025 / 10:00-11:00 a.m. via virtual Webex

Goal: Increase basic knowledge of what data the SC PMP houses, SC PMP mandatory use Statutes, and interpreting patient reports.

Objective: Achieve an increased awareness of the monitoring and analyzing of data with controlled substance prescriptions and dispensing and help to identify potential problems like doctor shopping and high-risk prescribing.

Instructor: Dr. Chelsa Townsend, PhD, CRC

Dr. Chelsea Townsend is the Director of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) for South Carolina. Dr. Townsend graduated from the South Carolina College of Pharmacy in 2015 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Upon graduation, she began working for Rite Aid, and subsequently Walgreens. In the community pharmacy setting, Dr. Townsend focused on direct patient outcomes through Medicare MTM, various immunization initiatives, and assisting in naloxone protocol procedures. In 2021, she onboarded with the SC Department of Public Health's Bureau of Drug Control to start her current role. Dr. Townsend is a member of multiple national organizations involving prescription monitoring programs and chairs or co-chairs multiple national committees and subcommittees. Additionally, she is a member of the South Carolina Opioid Emergency Response Team (OERT) and the OERT Data Subcommittee.



Week 2: Simple, Safe, Legal: Narcan® and the Law

August 14, 2025 / 10:00-11:00 a.m. via virtual Webex

Goal: Session 2 will cover information on how to respond to a potential overdose in the community, and the laws protecting bystanders who take action to save a life.

Objective: Participants will increase knowledge on where to get Narcan and the law regarding Narcan.

Instructors: Jessica Owens, MA LAC AADC MAC, Chief Operating Officer and Kristy Abd-El-Malak, Assistant Solicitor

Jessica Owens is a Licensed Addictions Counselor, Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and Master Addictions Counselor who serves as Chief Operating Officer at the Phoenix Center. Jessica has a Masters in Human Services with a focus in Marriage and Family Counseling from Liberty University and a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Clemson University. She has a vast knowledge of substance use disorder treatment throughout the treatment continuum. Jessica has experience working in multiple settings such as traditional adult/adolescent outpatient treatment, office-based opioid treatment, residential treatment, withdrawal management, and community harm reduction work. Jessica is a strong believer in person-centered and trauma-informed approaches in helping individuals meet their goals.

Kristy Abd-El-Malak is a first-generation lawyer practicing in Greenville County. She graduated from The College of Charleston with a BA in English and Political Science. After graduating, she took a year off to work at the 13th Circuit Solicitor's office. She then graduated from Wake Forest University School of Law where she obtained her JD law degree. Kristy currently works at the 13th Circuit Solicitor's office as an Assistant Solicitor where she primarily prosecutes drug crimes ranging from minor possessions to trafficking charges. She is the chair of the Drug Court program committee for the Solicitor's office, member of the ECHO Community Action Team, and is currently working on a project to help deflect high school students from paths of criminality. Kristy is passionate about the law, justice, and rehabilitation for drug-users.



Week 3: An EMS Perspective of Overdose

August 21, 2025 / 10:00-11:00 a.m. via virtual Webex

Goal: Increase knowledge specific to EMS and overdoses.

Objective: Participants will increase knowledge around Emergency Medical Services in Greenville County and understand how Emergency Medical Services respond and document overdoses.

Instructors: Phil Head III, MS, NRP, FP-C, CP-C, Director of Clinical Services with Greenville County EMS, and Jonathan Peebles

Phil Head III is currently serving as the Director of Clinical Services with Greenville County EMS and is responsible for many divisions to include all primary and continuing education, quality review and assurance, the community paramedic program, clinical investigations, and hospital relationships as well as serving a senior leader of the organization driving positive culture and changes. Previously, Phil served as the Manager of EMS Education for Prisma Health and was responsible for the EMT education training and certification for all the incoming medical school students. Phil also assisted with a variety of simulation experiences and prehospital education training as needed. Prior to coming to Prisma Health, Phil served as the Department Head/Academic Program Director for the EMT/Paramedic program at Greenville Technical College. Phil has a variety of EMS experience to include rural and urban 911, field training and preceptor training. Phil worked as a flight paramedic for 7 years with GHS Med-Trans here in Greenville South Carolina. Phil has a bachelor's degree in health science from the Medical University of South Carolina and a Master of Science in Health Administration from Liberty University. Phil has served at Columbia College for the last three years and is currently teaching the Psychological and Social Dimensions of Disasters.

Awareness to Action: A 4-Part Lecture Series

Jonathan Peoples NRP, CP-C Jonathan is a Nationally Certified Paramedic and Certified Community Paramedic with over 20 years of experience. He has worked at Greenville County EMS since 2007. After many years on the ambulance, Jonathan has now been in the role of Community Paramedic since 2019 and has primarily worked with underserved populations. Over the past few years he has helped develop and implement several programs for EMS to engage with vulnerable populations and provide linkage to care. He has a passion for harm reduction and stigma reduction and is always looking for ways to help those in need.



Week 4: Stimulants, is it Opioids 2.0?

August 28, 2025 / 10:00-11:00 a.m. via virtual Webex

Goal: Better understanding of the controlled substance prescribing system.

Objective: Participants will increase their knowledge of the SC substance prescribing system and increase knowledge of the current increase in stimulant use.

Instructors: Dr. Walker, M.D., FASA, Medical Director for Division of Pain Medicine, Department of Anesthesiology

Dr. Kevin B. Walker is currently the Medical Director for the Division of Pain Medicine with Prisma Health—Upstate Affiliate. Dr. Walker, a native of South Carolina, completed his undergraduate studies at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, where he majored in Biology. From there, Dr. Walker attended the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC, where he obtained his medical degree and completed a residency in Anesthesiology. After residency, Dr. Walker continued his training at Vanderbilt University, earning his fellowship in Interventional Pain Management. Upon completion of the fellowship, Dr. Walker returned to upstate South Carolina and began private practice in anesthesia and pain management. After nearly 6 years in private practice, Dr. Walker joined Prisma Health, where he has developed a Pain Division within the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine.

ANCC Disclosure Statement:

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Continuing Education Credit

Licensed Nurses: This nursing continuing education activity awards **1.0** contact hours upon successful completion of each session. Upstate AHEC is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. www.nursecredentialing.org/accreditation.aspx

Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists: This program has been approved for **1.0** hours of continuing education of each session by SC AHEC under its accreditation by the SC Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-Educational Specialists.

Social Workers: This program has been approved for **1.0** clock hours per course of non-social work continuing education by Upstate AHEC, as part of the SC AHEC system, under its accreditation by the SC Board of Social Work Examiners.

Others: This program is approved for **0.1 (1.0 clock hours)** of each session by Upstate AHEC and meets SC AHEC Best Practice Standards.

NOTE: Licensees should verify with their state licensing board for acceptance of continuing education units. Upstate AHEC does not assist with individual filing requirements.

Successful completion of the program requires attendance for 90 percent of the program and a completed online evaluation by the participant within 10 calendar days of the program date. A certificate of completion will not be made available for you if the evaluation is not completed within this time-frame. No partial credit available.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Upstate AHEC is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or veteran's status. If you require reasonable accommodations for a disability in order to participate fully in a continuing education activity, call 864-349-1160 no later than one week before the date of the activity.

Cancellation and Refund Policy: Cancellations must be made prior to each program's cancellation deadline date as listed on its program details page in order to be eligible for a refund. If you paid a registration fee for your in-person or webinar program and cancel via the registration system by the cancellation refund deadline, you are eligible for a full refund (minus any material fee, if applicable) and our staff will be in touch with refund details — refunds are typically processed within 10-15 business days after that. Registrations for online modules and on-demand video programs are not eligible for refunds.