



**Outstanding Efforts in the Field of Deflection and Pre-Arrest
Diversion, Out of State Award (Team)**
Southern Highlands, West Virginia – QRT, LEAD

Program Nominated: Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)
QRT and LEAD

Lead Organization: Southern Highlands, CMHC

- Southern Highlands partners with Community Connections, police, and fire departments from Mercer, McDowell, and Wyoming Counties.

Program Timeline: Southern Highlands started its deflection and pre-arrest diversion programming in 2018.

Operations, Services Provided: Southern Highlands and its partners provide services and resources to individuals and families suffering from the disease of addiction. Access to recovery services through highly trained Peer Recovery Support Specialists.

Pathways: Active Outreach; Naloxone Plus (QRT); First Responder Referral, formerly referred to as "Officer Prevention; Officer Intervention (i.e., LEAD).

The QRT and LEAD operations serve to impact the following positively:

- Reduce overdose deaths.
- Reduce overdose incidents.
- Respond to increases in overdose incidents.
- Reduce (relapse) reoccurrence of symptoms.
- Reduce/Eliminate Stigma.
- Increased access to Recovery Housing.
- Build or support comprehensive youth SUD/OD/AUD prevention, treatment, and

recovery.

- Transportation; persons in need.
- Homelessness.
- Connection of service/treatment for Veterans.
- Community Education – Harm Reduction Strategies and Prevention ;
- Family and youth support services
- Grief support services
- Faith-based connections
- Create understanding and connections for vulnerable populations, including ASD

Additional Comments, Services:

Jail and Re-entry Services: Southern Highlands QRT and LEAD programs partner with their Drug Courts and the local jail. Their collaboration with the local jails helps persons suffering from SUD, OUD, and/or AUD. This relationship allows them access to persons inside jail/prison facilities. They can coordinate an individual's release from the facility with their outreach teams to participate in or travel to treatment services. Their re-entry services include SUD Treatment connections before release; assistance with recovery housing; employment training and employment assistance services; transportation, and physical health-related needs.

Supporting Data: From Spring 2022 through October 31, 2022, Southern Highlands experienced more than 200 overdose incidents and received close to 100 referrals from friends and family members for resource and treatment connections. Their teams engaged more than 100 "at-risk" persons. This is not an overdose follow-up referral.

The teams engaged more than 100 SUS persons and referred almost 100 for treatment services, and another 30-40 persons were referred to resources and services.

Between 50-75 persons accepted and were connected to treatment services, and nearly 100% of the persons referred to resources and services accepted the connection. The teams also provide assistance and services for families and loved ones of persons in need. The number of families and loved ones engaged since the Spring of 2022 was 30-40.