

From: [Richard Hall](#)
To: daisy@columbusnc.com
Subject: Fwd: August News from ncIMPACT Initiative
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:52:39 PM

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From: **ncIMPACT Initiative** <ncimpact@unc.edu>
Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2023 at 1:03 PM
Subject: August News from ncIMPACT Initiative
To: Richard <hallclan1@gmail.com>



The ncIMPACT Initiative offers this monthly newsletter to help local leaders and community collaborators connect with data analysis, resources, events, and publications related to their work to improve their communities.

August 2023

ncIMPACT News

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ncIMPACT News



Few Seats Remain for ncIMPACT Town Halls on Mental Health

The U.S. today faces unprecedented challenges in mental health. More than 90% of adults believe that mental health in America has become a crisis, and policymakers and health leaders at every level are recognizing the need to respond.

Beginning in August, ncIMPACT and PBS NC will host a series of live

town hall events to explore how the mental health crisis is affecting North Carolina. State and local leaders will join host Anita Brown-Graham to discuss mental health challenges, with a focus on at-risk groups. These discussions will take place in the PBS NC studios in Research Triangle Park. Each event will be recorded and air on PBS NC in the fall.

Register for Mental Health Town Hall Events:

- **Monday, August 21: Youth and Young Adults** - Panelists include Anthony Jackson (Superintendent, [Chatham County Schools](#)), Suzie Baker (Director of Student Affairs, [UNC System](#)), and Marcus Metcalf (Executive Director, [HIGHTS](#))
- **Monday, August 28: Veterans** - Panelists include Chris Ford (CEO, [Stop Soldier Suicide](#)), Andrea Allard (Director of Transition Services, [NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs](#)), and Scott Doak (Chief Human Resources Officer, [UNC Health](#))
- **Wednesday, August 30: Older Adults** - Panelists include Kelly Crosbie (Director, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services, [NCDHHS](#)), Joyce Massey-Smith (Director, [NC Division of Aging and Adult Services](#)), and Amber Smith (Director, [New Hanover County Senior Resource Center](#))
- **Tuesday, September 5: People Impacted by Justice System** - Panelists include Sheriff Darren Campbell (President, [NC Sheriff's Association](#)), Judge Mario Perez (District Court Judge, [Pitt County](#)), and Latoya Powell (Deputy General Counsel, [NC Department of Public Safety](#))

A very limited number of seats remain. If you're interested in attending, please complete the interest form below as soon as possible and you'll be contacted by the ncIMPACT team if seats remain.

Let us know if you're interested:

[Town Hall Interest Form](#)



Applications Are Being Reviewed for "Our State, Our Wellbeing"

Thank you to the more than two dozen teams who applied to participate in our newest program Our State, Our Wellbeing: Partnering to Prevent

Suicide in NC. A total of 130 community leaders collaborated to submit 26 applications representing more than 35 counties across North Carolina. Carolina Across 100 and the UNC Suicide Prevention Institute have convened a committee to review applications over the first two weeks of August. Selected collaboratives will be announced the week of August 14. We look forward to hosting a kickoff webinar with participating teams on August 31 and welcoming them to Chapel Hill for our first forum on October 24 and 25.

Stay connected:

"Our State, Our Wellbeing"



The Hidden Fallout: Addressing the Impact of Suicide on Survivors and Communities in NC

"In March 2016, I became a suicide loss survivor." New from Carolina Across 100, a personal perspective about navigating the challenges of getting connected with support and resources as a suicide loss survivor. Natalie O'Brien ([CHAAMP](#)) hopes to shed light on the experiences of suicide loss survivors and highlight the critical importance of establishing coordinated and comprehensive prevention and postvention responses across the communities in our state. Read her story.

Carolina Across 100 Stories:

The Hidden Fallout



August Episodes - ncIMPACT

You can find all the Season Five episodes of ncIMPACT on our [Episode Feed](#). You can also tune in on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. on PBS NC and on the [PBS Video App](#). Support for Season Five is provided by [UNC Health](#).

Episodes Re-Airing This Month:

August 4 - [The Need for STEM in Rural Communities](#) - Craven, Greene and Gates

August 11 – [Engaging Disconnected Young Adults](#) - Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick, and Person counties

August 18 – [The Arts as an Economic Engine](#) – Stokes and Montgomery counties

August 25 – [Conserving the Landscape in the Face of Growth](#) – Lincoln and Jones counties

Watch

Watch: ncIMPACT Episode Feed

ncIMPACT on PBS NC



Facts That Matter - "Engaging Disconnected Young Adults" Blog

“Disconnected Youth” and “Opportunity Youth” are terms used to describe young adults between 16 and 24 who are not enrolled in school or participating in the labor force. This population faces significant challenges, including high poverty, unemployment, and social isolation. “Disconnected Youth” are also at a higher risk of experiencing homelessness, substance abuse, and involvement in the criminal justice system. Learn how communities in Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick, and Person counties are helping turn opportunities into careers.

Read our Facts That Matter Blog:

Engaging Disconnected Young Adults



"Hybrid" Forum Four Take-Aways From "Our State, Our Work"

Eighty-nine collaborative members gathered in local clusters in their communities on July 19 to attend the first “Our State, Our Work” (OSOW) hybrid forum - “Driving to 2025: Achieving Our Goal of

Reaching 6,400 Youth.”

With less than six months left in the official program, teams considered plans for sustainability in terms of funding, capacity, data and reporting practices, working groups, and more.

[Mecklenburg County Substance Use Disorder Taskforce](#) provided an energizing look into the potential of collaboratives to sustain long-term impacts in their communities. Mecklenburg participated in ncIMPACT's [Opioid Response Project](#) in 2018-20 and the effort continues to make remarkable gains.

The OSOW collaboratives are similarly doing big things across the state! Check out the recent report from Abacus Evaluation that summarizes their work from August 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023.

Learn More:

Abacus Evaluation



Save the Date: Statewide Summit on Re-engaging Opportunity Youth in NC - Nov. 29

Mark your calendars to join us on Wednesday, November 29 at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. The "Our State, Our Work" teams are hosting "Stories Brought to Life: A Statewide Summit on NC Opportunity Youth." Learn about the research, the work, the progress, and the lived experiences of Opportunity Youth in North Carolina. The impact of improving outcomes for these young people reaches across communities and affects economic development, workforce readiness, health, and more.

Save the Date - November 29 in Chapel Hill



ncIMPACT In the News

This just in! Read recent news stories about the impact of our work in communities across the state.

Catch up on our latest coverage:

WUNC



WCCB - Charlotte

Winston-Salem Journal

WECT - Wilmington

Partner Updates



Youth Councils: Harnessing the Power of Engaged Youth

From the National Civic League, watch this webinar with speakers discussing the traits that effective youth councils share and what cities are doing to make their youth councils an authentic part of the decision-making process.

Start Watching:

[Harnessing the Power of Engaged Youth](#)



Community College Transfer: Increasing Postsecondary Attainment in Anson and Union Counties

"Back in 2019, we asked each other: What would it look like to create a transfer model that addresses all of these factors from the start of a student's community college experience? How can we build on what the state has already accomplished? We responded with [Road2Wingate](#), a program designed to meet the needs of students in our home counties. In practice, we've built welcoming campus communities poised to ensure that students realize the benefit of bachelor's degrees." Read

more in this perspective piece from leaders at Wingate University and Southern Piedmont Community College.

Keep Reading:

[Community College Transfer](#)



UNC Water & Health Conference - October 23-27

The 2023 UNC Water and Health Conference: Science, Policy, and

Practice will be held **October 23-27, 2023** in a hybrid format, [in person at The Friday Center](#) and [virtually on the Zoom platform](#). The Conference will explore drinking water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and water resources in both developing and developed countries with a strong public health emphasis.

Register to Attend:

[UNC Water & Health Conference](#)

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