

# CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG DRUG FREE COALITION

*"The success of this coalition will benefit all citizens, and can have a positive influence on the reduction of criminal activity in our community. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is proud to be a partner in this effort."  
Darrel W. Stephens, Chief of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department*

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CMDFC

Although the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Drug Free Coalition is relatively new to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community, its concept is not. The Coalition's roots can be traced to Mecklenburg Healthy Carolinians, which is a grassroots coalition of citizens from the community and government health agencies. In 2001 this group identified Substance Abuse as a priority issue facing Mecklenburg County and subsequently formed the Mecklenburg Healthy Carolinians Substance Abuse Task Force. At the same time, the Mecklenburg Human Services Council requested that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopt a public policy that recognized substance abuse as a public health issue. The BOCC adopted the policy and subsequently made the reduction of substance abuse a 2015 priority. Also in 2001, District Attorney Peter Gilchrist convened the Substance Abuse Indicators Task Force with a mission to compile local data on the extent and impact of substance abuse to serve as a community decision-making tool.

The campaign to raise awareness regarding the detrimental impacts of substance abuse on our community did not stop there, as the aforementioned groups strived to be proactive. In early 2003, the Mecklenburg Healthy Carolinians Substance Abuse Task Force established a Substance Abuse Advocacy Planning Committee and invited interested individuals and community organizations to begin developing a strategic plan to establish an advocacy presence in Mecklenburg County. In September of 2003, the Mecklenburg Healthy Carolinians Substance Abuse Task Force and Advocacy Planning Committee joined forces with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Vice and Narcotics Division and Police Chief Darryl Stephens to develop a Community Substance Abuse Plan.

Finally, in 2004, the combined Community Substance Abuse Planning Committee adopted the Drug Free Community Model promoted by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and in March the Committee adopted the name Charlotte-Mecklenburg Drug Free Coalition.

## CMDFC MISSION & VISION

**The mission of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Drug Free Coalition is to collaboratively promote data-driven awareness, knowledge-based action and purposeful advocacy to reduce the harmful impacts of alcohol & other drug abuse and addiction on youth, families and the community.**

**The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Drug Free Coalition envisions Charlotte-Mecklenburg as an active, vibrant, diverse community that promotes collective and individual responsibility for wellness and fosters safe, healthy, and substance abuse free lifestyles for children and adults.**



# WHAT PROSPECTIVE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG DRUG FREE COALITION MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW...

## 1. Who are the current Coalition Members?

The CMDFC is broad based and is comprised of a variety of community members who work or volunteer in areas such as law enforcement, government, grass roots organizations, and corporate environments. Our members include (but are not limited to) individuals such as Assistant District Attorney Bruce Lillie; UNC-Charlotte Professor Dr. Paul Friday; Fighting Back Executive Director Winona Chestnut; Substance Abuse Prevention Services Executive Director Karen Simon; Assistant Public Defender Bob Ward; Susan Long-Marin of the Mecklenburg County Health Department; Cindy Murphy of the Chemical Dependency Center; Piper Charles of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and Judge Yvonne Mims-Evans of the N.C. Superior Court. There are over 50 organizations and 90 individual members who are either active or interested parties.

## 2. Who are the leaders of the Coalition?

Dr. Mary Howerton, a human management consultant with Mary Howerton Consulting, Inc., has been serving as the Coalition's chairperson since August of 2004. Dr. Paul Friday with UNC-Charlotte, Research and Training serves as the Coalition's vice-chairperson. The Executive Committee of the Coalition consists of Tony Beatty (Area Mental Health), Piper Charles (Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department), Winona Chestnut (Fighting Back), Sandy DuPuy (Mecklenburg Consumer & Family Advisory Committee), Susan Long-Marin (Mecklenburg County Health Dept.), Carlos Martinez (Mecklenburg County Area Mental Health Authority), Cindy Murphy (Chemical Dependency Center), Steve Newman (Mecklenburg County Health Department), Charles Odell (Dilworth Center for Chemical Dependency), Kristi Roe (Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools), Karen Simon (Substance Abuse Prevention Services), Jan Thompson (Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office), and Bob Ward (Public Defender's Office). Andie Anselmi serves as the Coalition's coordinator and works under the direction of the Coalition and direct supervision of Karen Simon, Substance Abuse Prevention Services, which is the Coalition's fiscal agent.

## 3. What is a Coalition Member's job description?

The Coalition consists of core members and affiliate members. Core members meet on a monthly basis (meetings are held 10-12 times per year) and take an active, "hands-on," approach to the work of the Coalition. Core members have voting rights. Associate members are those individuals who are not able to participate in monthly coalition meetings or actively participate in committees or events. These interested individuals will be kept informed of Coalition initiatives and activities through correspondence, are welcome at regular Coalition meetings, and are invited to participate in an annual planning event.

Youth members of the Coalition, represented by members of the Coalition's Youth Council (SPIDA-Students Preventing & Informing on Drugs & Alcohol), are considered core members. Youth Council members meet monthly at area high school/libraries or other public places to establish programs and priorities. Periodically, they meet with the Coalition core members at a regular meeting.

All coalition members are asked to bring their individual insight and unique perspective to the Coalition based on his or her background and affiliation.



## WHAT PROSPECTIVE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG DRUG FREE COALITION MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW...

**4. How long is a Coalition member's term and how much time should I expect to devote to the Coalition?**

It is our hope that you will make a long-term commitment to the Coalition. Members of the Membership and Executive Committees feel that individuals are typically most productive during and/or after their second year on a board. The bylaws do not set a limit on the number of years core and affiliate members can serve on the Coalition. The Coalition meets once each month for approximately 1½ hours. Aside from these meetings, Coalition members are asked to actively participate on a committee. Committees typically meet on an as needed basis; some Committees will require more time than others depending on the Coalition's undertakings.

**5. What type of Fiscal Support is Requested from Coalition Members?**

All members are asked to make an annual cash contribution to be used to support the Charlotte Mecklenburg Drug Free Coalition.

**6. Who do I contact for more information?**

Call Andie Anselmi at 704-375-37847 ext 12. Or email her at [Anselmi@preventionservices.org](mailto:Anselmi@preventionservices.org).  
The Web address is [www.drugfreecharlotte.org](http://www.drugfreecharlotte.org).

### **Current Coalition Committees:**

Best Practices Committee  
Executive Committee  
Evaluation Committee  
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Committee  
Funding Committee  
Membership, Public Relations and Marketing Committee  
Newsletter Committee  
Parent Centered Prevention Committee  
Prevent Underage Drinking Committee  
Public Policy Committee  
Training/Events Committee  
Youth Committee/SPIDA



# WHAT PROSPECTIVE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG DRUG FREE COALITION MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW...

## COALITION MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ARC Mecklenburg County  
Area Mental Health  
Area Mental Health / SA Provided Services  
Behavioral Health, Carolinas HealthCare System  
Bethlehem Center  
CASCADE Program  
Catholic Social Services  
Charlotte AHEC  
Charlotte Housing Authority  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Drug Free Coalition  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools  
Chemical Dependency Center  
CMC Mercy  
CMC Mercy Horizons  
Counseling Insights  
Dilworth Center for Chemical Dependency  
District Attorney's Office  
Drug Treatment Court  
Family Treatment Court  
Fighting Back  
Girl Scouts Hornets' Nest Council  
Greater Faith Temple Ministries  
H.U.G.S. Program  
Harris Teeter  
Hope Haven  
Human Services Council  
Human Services Council/  
Guardian Ad-Litem  
Leading to Change Consulting  
Mary Howerton Consulting, Inc  
McLeod Addictive Disease Center  
Mecklenburg Consumer & Family-  
Advisory Committee  
Mecklenburg County Area Support Child &  
Adolescent Community Support  
Mecklenburg County Health Dept  
Mecklenburg Co Planning and Evaluation  
Mecklenburg County ABC Board  
Mecklenburg County Area Mental Health-  
Authority  
Mecklenburg County Health Department  
Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office  
Mental Health Association  
Metrolina Native American Association  
NC Providers of Abuser Treatment  
NC Air National Guard  
Public Defender's Office  
Regional HIV/AIDS Consortium  
Safe Communities / CCIPC  
SAIL  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church  
Substance Abuse Prevention Services  
Superior Court Judge  
Thomasboro Community of Shalom (TCOS)  
TransAmerica Reinsurance Co  
Trinity Counseling Services, LLC  
UNCC Counseling Center  
UNCC Criminal Justice Department  
UNCC Health Psychology Program  
UNCC Research & Training Specialists  
United Way of Central Carolinas

