



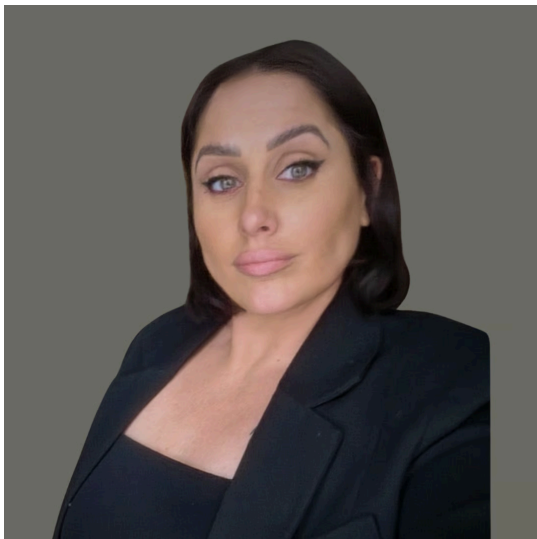
## North Carolina Training & Technical Assistance Center



# WELCOME

Hello! We're almost through the first quarter of the new year, and the NC TTA Center hopes you're feeling **green** with excitement and **lucky** to have a great community that you tirelessly support!

The NC TTA Center would like to welcome Janine Brignola to the team! Janine will serve as the new Prevention Training Specialist for NC TTA Center.



Janine Brignola began her advocacy journey at fifteen when a high school teacher introduced her to the intersection of social challenges, public health, and community resilience. Janine obtained a Bachelor of Science in Communication, focusing on Organizational Communication and Leadership from Nebraska Wesleyan University. Over the past two decades, she has worked to advance public health initiatives, mental health awareness, and HIV prevention. Janine has developed and facilitated training across multiple states—including Texas, Alabama, Oregon, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Washington, D.C.—and has led strategic collaborations that support

effective, trauma-informed approaches to addressing substance use and community health disparities.

In her 20s, she was invited to join her first board of directors in Washington, D.C., where she gained critical insight into how policy, funding, and access to resources shape public health outcomes. She has since served on multiple boards and contributed to organizations such as AmeriCorps, Duke Literacy Corps, and various coalitions, driving initiatives that expand access to education, mental health services, and community-driven solutions. Her advocacy is rooted in sustainable, evidence-based practices, fostering opportunities for individuals and communities to thrive.

Feel free to welcome Janine to the field and contact her if you have any training-related questions at [jbrignola@apnc.org](mailto:jbrignola@apnc.org).

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## Coming Soon: "Ask an Expert!"

The NC TTA Center is launching a brand-new resource just for you!

Have you ever had a question about your work in prevention but didn't know who to ask? Now, you can submit your questions, and an expert in the field will provide answers. Think of it as an advice column tailored to preventionists across North Carolina.

Whether you need insight, guidance, or just reassurance, this is your chance to get expert advice—or even find answers to questions you didn't know you had. Stay tuned for the official launch in an upcoming newsletter. We can't wait to see how this new resource supports you and your work!

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## Prevention Fellowship Placement Site Opportunity!

The NC TTA Center at APNC is excited to announce the second cohort of our Prevention Fellowship program! This program spans two semesters and is specifically tailored for students who are passionate about entering the substance use prevention field. Through this program, students get to attend engaging virtual workshops to develop essential general prevention skills, working hand-in-hand with communities to reduce substance use challenges. Fellows spend the second half of their time in the program placed with a community partner. Here, they work with their supervisor to create a project based on SAMHSA's Prevention Core Competencies.

***Our team is currently looking for FIVE new placement sites for this upcoming cohort. Students will begin in the Spring and be placed with agencies August - November.***

Interested in hosting a Fellow? Please fill out [this form](#).

Questions? Reach out to [eknowles@apnc.org](mailto:eknowles@apnc.org)

### **On the fence? Take a look at what sites from last year said about our Fellows.**

*"Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in this program and for all of your hard work to make it a positive experience for everyone. I'm really looking forward to working with another fellow and applying what I learned in the future. It makes me so happy and excited to think of all of these students who will be entering the workforce with this type of professional experience!"*

*"I so enjoyed having [FELLOW] with us over these last few months, and as we reviewed everything I was blown away by how much we were able to accomplish. We felt this [the evaluation] covered most of what we accomplished throughout this process, however, there was so many rich conversations that happened throughout our time together that was difficult to capture within this document. Thank you for the opportunity to host for this fellowship placement."*

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## Be Part of a Growing Network of Internship Opportunities!

We're building an ever-growing list of substance use prevention agencies interested in hosting student interns. This list will be shared with professors in public health, social work, and related disciplines, giving your agency visibility as a potential partner for internship placements.

By participating, your agency will:

- Gain exposure to professors seeking internship sites
- Welcome fresh perspectives from passionate students
- Boost your capacity for innovative prevention projects

### Ready to join?

Complete our [Interest Form](#) today! While professors and students determine final placements, this is your chance to showcase your agency and make valuable connections!

Have questions? Contact us at [jgarza@apnc.org](mailto:jgarza@apnc.org).



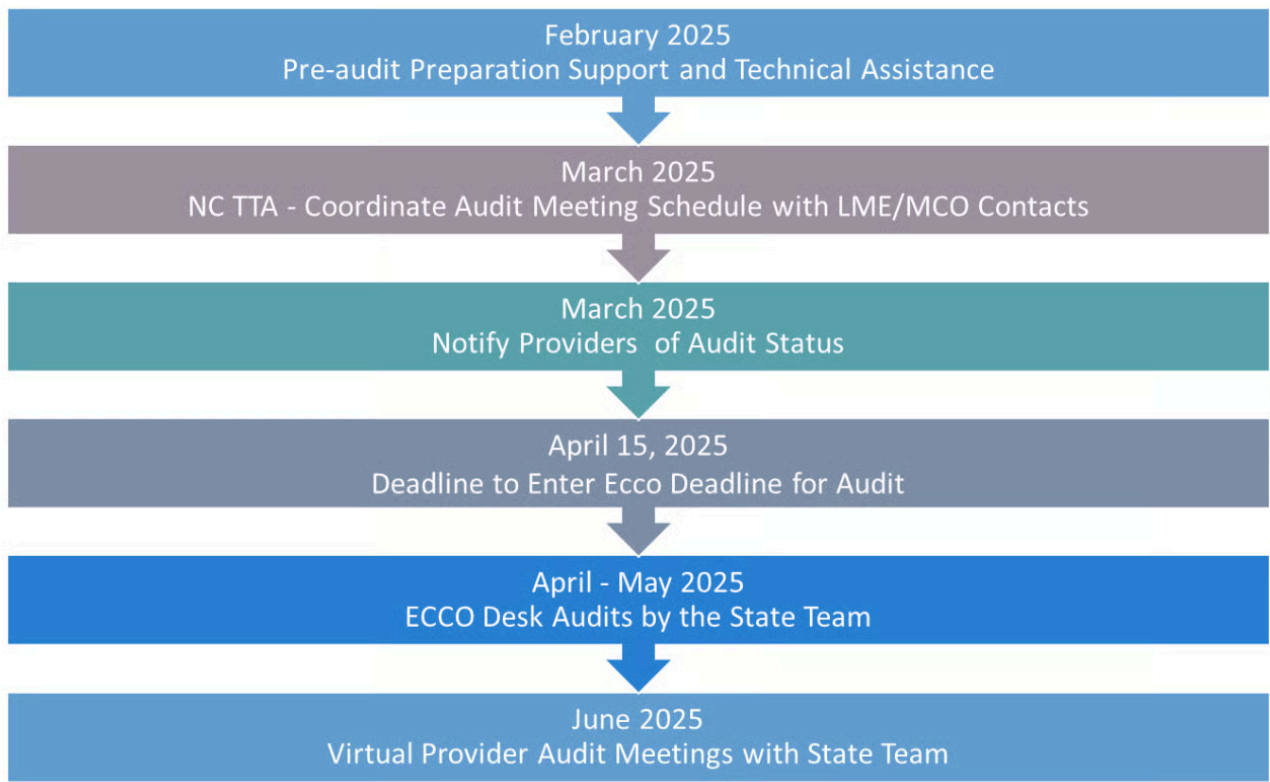
### From the Desk of DMH/DD/SUS

Please keep the following in mind as you prepare for the annual audit:

- Providers were notified for participation in the audit interviews on March 4, 2025
- All BG providers must enter all data (for work from July 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025) into Ecco by April 15th.

**Note:** Data entered after April 15th will not be considered during the audit review nor included in audit meetings.

- Strategy selection will begin April 16th via survey
- The TTA Center will coordinate with LME/MCOs via survey to set audit review dates for their respective agencies. LME/MCOs will inform providers of their respective meeting dates and times
- DMH team desk audits will be conducted from mid-April through May
- Selected BG Providers and their LME will meet with the Audit team in June to discuss findings



If you have any general questions about the audit, you can contact Dr. Angela Maxwell, at [angela.maxwell@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:angela.maxwell@dhhs.nc.gov).

For questions regarding *Synar* contact David Haywood at [david.haywood@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:david.haywood@dhhs.nc.gov).

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## A Note from Wake Forest:

Discover a world of resources designed to empower your prevention efforts! The new repository is now LIVE, and we're excited to unveil its features and demonstrate how you can use its resources to enhance your prevention initiatives.

Highlights include:

- North Carolina Youth and Young Adult Prevention Survey insights and North Carolina Substance Use Prevention Data Dashboard for analyzing prevention data.
- Learning resources to deepen your understanding of effective prevention strategies, such as comprehensive guidelines for communication campaigns, youth engagement, and policy development.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore everything the Prevention Resource Repository has to offer. Empower your work and make a difference!

Join us for an introduction to the Prevention Resource Repository with the Wake Forest team on **March 28, 2025 at 10 - 11:30 am** by [registering here](#).

Submit questions you may have to [PreventionResourceRepository@wakehealth.edu](mailto:PreventionResourceRepository@wakehealth.edu).

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## Message from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

**Looking for assistance with YPE Pre/Post Surveying?**

As a reminder, the PIRE Evaluation Team is available to assist providers to plan for opportunities to collect pre/post survey data for YPE programs using the standardized NC Pre/Post Survey. PIRE analyzes the data you collect and provides you with a report. The survey data collection is intended to assist providers and our overall Block Grant prevention system in assessing and improving our implementation of YPE programs.

If you have questions for PIRE, please contact Jessica Edwards at [jedwards@pire.org](mailto:jedwards@pire.org) or 919-265-2636.



# GENERAL UPDATES

## **Attention All Ecco Users!**

Keep the following in mind as you Plan, Implement, and Evaluate your SUPTRS services this year!

- As of January 15, 2025, Ecco will close each month on the 15th!
- If you experience any **issues with Ecco reporting in regards to your implementation plans (IPs)**, contact Robert Greer, the NC TTA Center Prevention Support Coordinator, at [rgreer@apnc.org](mailto:rgreer@apnc.org) or through the *Help* feature in Ecco.
- If you experience any **technical difficulties while using Ecco or account access issues**, please contact Marcus Bouligny by using the *Help* feature in Ecco.
- If you would like access to the most recent recording of the ECCO Updates or Training, contact [rgreer@apnc.org](mailto:rgreer@apnc.org).

## **Disaster Recovery Updates**

We hope your recovery efforts in the wake of last year's hurricanes have continued to improve. Please keep in mind the following resources. We will continue to provide up-to-date resources as we receive them.

- [List of resources for people in affected areas of Western Carolina](#)
- [APNC Hurricane Helene Information and Resource Hub](#)
- [FEMA Extends Deadline to March 8th for N.C. Disaster Assistance](#)



# UPCOMING SUPTRS MEETINGS, TRAININGS, & CONFERENCES

[Live Virtual Training offered by the NC TTA Center](#)

### **Office Hours: Strategy-Specific Tips for Entering Your Data into Ecco**

Office Hours to prepare you for the upcoming SUPTRS Block Grant Audit began on Thursday, February 27th, and will run every Thursday until March 27th via Zoom from 2-3 pm. We will update you if the dates are changed and/or delayed.

Providers will be given tips for entering strategy-specific data into Ecco, the online reporting system. Each week will focus on a different topic as follows:

- March 6 – Reporting Environmental Strategies into Ecco [Join by clicking here!](#)
- March 13 – What’s in your Ecco Briefcase? [Join by clicking here!](#)
- March 20 – Pulling Reports in Ecco [Join by clicking here!](#)
- March 27 – General Ecco and SYNAR Data Reporting [Join by clicking here!](#)

Use the topic-specific link to join the 2 - 3 pm weekly discussion. If you miss an Office Hours session, don’t fret the recording will be made available on our LMS as a general course.

### **Synergy in Action: The Art of Campus-Community Collaboration on May 20, 2025, from 1 - 2pm**

The relationship between colleges or universities and their surrounding communities offers a unique and powerful opportunity to address substance misuse among young adults. This session will explore how prevention coalitions and campuses can collaborate effectively, leveraging each other’s strengths to support young adults and create a positive ripple effect on the broader community. Attendees will gain insights into building and maintaining these partnerships and tangible resources, templates, and North Carolina-specific examples to inspire creative and impactful prevention initiatives. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with strategies to foster collective impact and strengthen community-campus collaborations for substance use prevention.

[Registration is now open](#)

### **YPE Training on June 23rd and 24th, 2025 from 9am - 1pm**

North Carolina Foundations of Youth Prevention Education prepares direct service prevention providers to implement evidence-based and/or standards-based Youth Prevention Education (YPE) programs. North Carolina Foundations of Youth Prevention Education provides a basic understanding of the components and best practices for implementing any YPE program. This training will increase participants’ knowledge and skills in planning, managing, facilitating, evaluating, and monitoring a Youth Prevention Education program. The training is divided into self-paced pre-requisite and two days of content with engaging activities that allow participants to meet the previously stated objectives by directly applying the material. The training will be interactive, with breakout rooms and group discussions.

[Register Here!](#)

## **Courses Available in the NC TTA Center LMS!**

### **General Courses**

- ECCO Onboarding
- North Carolina Youth Engagement Training
- Overview of the North Carolina Approved Communication Campaigns and Awareness Initiatives Recordings

- Tobacco and Merchant Education Related Webinar Series
- Innovative Strategies for Substance Use/Misuse Prevention: A Look Inside
- Substance Use Misuse Prevention Skills Training (SUMPST) Prerequisite

**Note:** Everyone will have access to the general courses upon creating an account. Other courses will be assigned to you upon registration. To access the general courses, log into your account by [clicking here!](#)

If you do not have access to our learning management system (LMS), contact Robert Greer at [rgreer@apnc.org](mailto:rgreer@apnc.org).

## [Courses available soon via our NC TTA Center LMS](#)

### **Preparing for the DHHS/DD/SUPTRS Audit - Office Hours Series**

To prepare you for the upcoming SUPTRS Block Grant Audit, recordings of past office hours will be made available:

- Audit Prep 2025 Webinar Recording
- Reporting on Prevention Education Strategies in Ecco FY24 Recording
- Reporting on Environmental Strategies into Ecco FY24 Recording
- Reporting on Community-Based Processes into Ecco
- Pulling Reports in Ecco
- General Ecco and Synar Data Reporting

## [Training available on the \*\*NC TTA Center website\*\*](#)

### **Conducting Alcohol & Purchase Surveys in North Carolina Training**

This recorded webinar was delivered in February 2023 and facilitated by Nancy McGee to provide the most current best practices and current required policies when conducting Alcohol and Tobacco Purchase Surveys.

Visit our website to watch the training recording [by Clicking Here!](#)

For more information related to conducting Alcohol and Purchase Surveys, feel free to contact the DMH/DD/SUS Synar Team; **Ronda Doward** at [Ronda.Doward@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Ronda.Doward@dhhs.nc.gov), **David Haywood** at [David.Haywood@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:David.Haywood@dhhs.nc.gov), or **Taofikat Oladipo** at [taoladipo@uncg.edu](mailto:taoladipo@uncg.edu).

**Registration for the North Carolina Prevention Conference is now open!**



**APRIL 24-25**  
**LAKE JUNALUSKA, NC**



[Register Here!](#)

### Training Offered by our Statewide Partners

Be sure to check out the following training supported by DHHS/DD/SUS:

#### **CINC: Evidence-Based Prevention Education Strategies: Preventing Youth Problematic Behaviors in Gambling on March 5, 2025 at 10am - 12pm**

Understanding how emotion regulation and gambling-related cognitive distortions relate to gambling problems has applicability for problem gambling prevention and treatment. The findings of recent research indicate that emotion regulation may serve as the foundation to the development of cognitive distortions while also directly influencing problem gambling (Flack, 2021). Even further, a systematic review of 22 years of studies on problem gambling found that 96 percent showed a significant association between emotional regulation, coping strategies, and problem gambling severity (Neophytou, 2023). Other research has shown that adolescents who are experiencing problem gambling can also experience emotional dysregulation and cognitive distortions (Ciccarelli, 2021). [Register here!](#)

#### **Community Impact: Ripple Mapping on March 13th at 10am**

Evaluation of coalition efforts with Ripple Mapping. Participants will be able to use this process to assess with appreciative questioning. Evaluations are essential to see if the coalition is being effective or if it needs to change course. It is easy to overlook all the impacts coalitions make. The second part of this webinar allows participants to understand how the evaluation tool of Ripple Mapping can assist in evaluating efforts. [Register here!](#)

#### **Connections Between Substance Use, Mental Health, and Suicide Risk on March 25th at 2 - 3pm**

Alcohol or cannabis use can exacerbate or even cause some of the very issues students seek support for in campus health and counseling centers. In this virtual presentation, we will consider the risk factors for suicide associated with alcohol and cannabis use, explore other ways in which mental health outcomes are affected by substance use, and discuss opportunities for prevention and intervention.

To register, click on this link [NC Higher Education Consortium!](#)

#### **Prevention Resource Repository Launch and Learn Webinar on March 28th from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

Discover a world of resources designed to empower your prevention efforts! The new repository is now LIVE, and we're excited to unveil its features and demonstrate how you can use its resources to enhance your prevention initiatives.

Highlights include:

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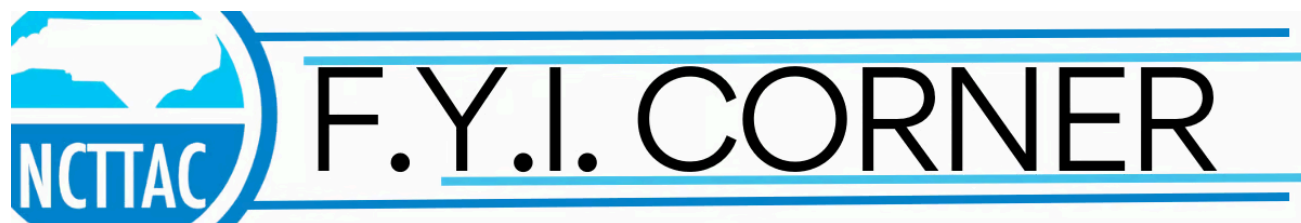
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[Register here!](#)

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**Sustainability Planning Intensive (4-part) Training Course begins April 3, 2025, at 10:30am.**

Use this link to register and browse additional upcoming training [Southeast Prevention Technology Transfer Center Calendar](#)



Information shared in the "FYI Corner" is not endorsed by the NCTTA Center or DMH/DD/SUS and may have costs associated with the event.

**APNC Spring Conference: April 21-23, 2025 in-person at Lake Junaluska.** To learn more, [click here!](#)

**National Afterschool Association Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 9-12, 2025.** For more information, [click here!](#)

**Mental Health First Aid Training** For more information on how you can get trained in Adult or Youth Mental Health First Aid visit this [website and register today!](#)

**2025 RIZE Conference Visionaries United a Prevention Conference in Charlotte, NC, on April 16-19, 2025.** [Click here](#) for more information!

**Mental Health First Aid Summit on May 4, 2025, in Philadelphia, PA.** [Click here](#) for more information

**NatCon25: Mental Health and Substance Use conference that will be held on May 5-7, 2025, in Philadelphia, PA.** For more information, [click here!](#)

**CADCA's 24th Mid-Year Training Institute at the Gaylord Opryland, in Nashville, TN, from July 20-24, 2025.** [Click here](#) for more information!

**National Prevention Network Conference in Washington, DC on August 11-13, 2025. [Updated information coming soon!](#)**

**Nonprofit Learning Lab** - The Nonprofit Learning Lab is a national nonprofit that trains leaders in the nonprofit sector. They offer daily online nonprofit training on training, facilitation, fundraising, strategic planning, communications, volunteer management, and [free resources to help you lead your organization!](#) Check out their website for more information!

**Calls to Reassess Cannabis Risks: New Research Reported** - to learn more about consensus data on the consequences of marijuana in young people [click here!](#)

**Parental Alcohol Use Linked To Increased Cancer Risk In Children, Texas A&M Researchers Find** - [click here](#) to read the article!

**Johnny's Ambassadors Youth THC Prevention Resource** Check out the THC [resources and materials on this website](#) for middle school and high school teens and teachers.

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Interested in hearing more from the TTA Center? Stay totally up to date by joining our mailing list!!

**To join, click here:**

[Mailing List](#)

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