

## Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

### Attending:

- Margie Stevens, PhD: UHC School of Medicine Professor (Research Assistant)
- Amber Frazier, CPSS: Courage Center in Lexington, SC
- Kris Stepp: AID Upstate Prevention and Mobile Unit Operator
- Ryan O'Hara Goforth, CPSS: Palmetto Foundation Recovery Coach
- Tricia Christensen: CGE in Raleigh
- Eric Ridings, SC DHEC: Upstate DHEC (will finish Stigma Grant in December 2023)
- Azhane Powell: Founder of FyreBird Recovery & SCHRC
- Shelby Jeffrion: Charleston Police Department
- Rollie Martinson: SCHRC
- Marc Burrows: Challenges, Inc. & SCHRC
- Rachel Kaplan: SCHRC

### Discussion 1:

~[scstatehouse.gov](mailto:scstatehouse.gov)~

- Eric inquired if anyone knew of the new bill that was provided under the email [scstatehouse.gov](mailto:scstatehouse.gov) (search S854)
- Senator Tom Davis is the assumed representative who proposed the bill. This bill was filed on 11/30/2023 and is listed under bill number S854
- Kris volunteered to reach out to speak to Senator Davis regarding the bill in question.
  - This bill is currently listed as an amendment.
  - Kris stated he will email and phone senator Davis to see if this is his personal language used or if it is the language of someone else.
  - Marc Burrows did question the next steps of this bill; it will be investigated also by Kris.
  - Tricia will compose a series of questions for Kris to inquire about with the Senator.
- Speaker: Dewayne M. (open pronouns)
- Dewayne is with the National Harm Reduction Coalition [~A Safer South Campaign~](#):
  - States covered under this campaign: Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina [~safersouthcarolina.org~](http://safersouthcarolina.org) (NHRC Work in SC)
  - The purpose of this campaign is to increase the sharing of information between everyone. The funding and the work are currently set in New York and California; however, the south has something to say as well; meaning, a central location is needed so that all information can be shared amongst all.
  - Another goal of this campaign is to provide information as well as help those who decided to no longer use as well as also safely to safely help those who continue to use. Shelby did state that the law enforcement is a huge representation in the south and are there to help.
  - Dewayne also stated to Kris that finding out the intent of this Syringe bill; what it is trying to do/provide, is also a good question.

### Wrap - Up:

~Legislative Season for SC is 01/09/2024 - 05/09/2024~

- Send the Syringe Bill to ACLU to get their thoughts on it as well as Marc will send the bill to Corey Davis for his input on the bill.
- Laura Bogardus stated that Clemson is working on a grant that brings together several police departments to talk and share best practices throughout the states this Spring.