



Edgecombe County, NC

Get off the List: Strategic Visioning

Public Engagement Meeting

July 31, 2023 | 6 PM – 7:30 PM | Carmon Auditorium

MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Bring together individuals that represent varying perspectives on community health and wellness in Edgecombe County.
2. Hear from County Manager, Eric Evans, about his new focus to “get off the list” and improve measurements of health and wellness in Edgecombe County.

ATTENDEES

Name	Affiliation	EMAIL
Amy Robinette	NECP	robinetteatl@necp.epschool.com
Andre Berry	Genesis Tutorial	aberry1906@gmail.com
Betty Battle	Department of Social Services	bettybattle@edgecombeco.com
Bobbie Jones	Princeville	bjones@townofprinceville.com
Brandy Murray	STEP	bmurray@step-partnership.org
Brett Brenton	My Future NC	brett@myfuturenc.org
Bridget Phifer	Living Better Life	bridget@livingbetterlife.org
C.B.	Private Citizen	bigtimegrand@gmail.com
Caneisha Berry	Berry Thoughtful	cberry@berrythoughtfullife.com
Chad Eason	Edgecombe Co. EMS	chadeason@edgecombeco.com
Chandler Briggs	MDC Rural Forward	chandler.briggs@mdcinc.org
Debbie Matthis	St James UMC	debbie.matthis@ncumc.org
Deborah Battle	East End Baptist	mrsdeborahbattle@yahoo.com
Deborah Coley	Office on Aging	deborahcoley@edgecombeco.com
Donia Simmons	Down East Partnership for Children	dsimmons@depc.org
Doris Howington	Wright's Center	wrightsboard@gmail.com
Eric D. Spivey	Ripple Effects Group	eric@rippleeffectsgroup.com
Eric Evans	Edgecombe County Manager	ericevans@edgecombeco.com
Fred Vutresco	Town of Pinetops	townadministrator@pinetopsnc.com
Jennifer Fields	Edgecombe Co. Parks and Rec	jenniferfields@edgecombeco.com
Jerry Spruell	Edgecombe Co. Board of Elections	jerryspruell@edgecombeco.com
Jessica Scott	Edgecombe Co. Health Department	jessicascott@edgecombe.com
John Walker	My Tarboro Today	johnwalkernc@yahoo.com
Kara Cecchi	Moss Kids	kara@mosskidsbooks.com
Kateisha Jones	Eastpointe	kateishajones@eastpointe.net
Kathy Williams	animal nonprofit	cf3enc@gmail.com
Kelsey Mabery	Down East Partnership for Children	kmabery@depc.org
Kim Hickerson	Down East Partnership for Children	khickerson@depc.org
Latanis Hinton	Edgecombe Co. Health Department	latanishinton@edgecombeco.com

Linda Joyner	Town of Princeville	joyner@townofprinceville.org
Lydia Hyslop	county feedback	iheartlibrarians@gmail.com
McKayla Robinette	NC Agromedicine Institute	robinettemr@gmail.com
Melba Tyson	East End Baptist	
Melissa Mishe	New CA, Inc.	melmishe@hotmail.com
Meredith Capps	Edgecombe County Health Department	meredithcapps@edgecombeco.com
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Na'im Akbat	Rural Opportunity	nka0847@yahoo.com
Natalie W. Bess	Edgecombe County	nataliebess@edgecombeco.com
Nichelle Cole	New CA, Inc.	ncole@newcainc.org
Pam Gould	STEP	steptwincounties@gmail.com
Pastor Davis	Red Hill Baptist	fdavis594@aol.com
Pastor Mack Battle	East End Baptist	
Sabina McKenzie	Edgecombe Co. Board of Elections	sabinamckenzie@edgecombeco.com
Sabrina Golling	MDC Rural Forward	sabrina.golling@mdcinc.org
Senator Kandie Smith	NC Senate	kandie.smith@ncleg.gov
Shannon Perkins	St James UMC	shaeperk@gmail.com
Shelayna Parker	OIC of Rocky Mount	sparker@oicone.org
Shelly Willingham	Private Citizen	
Sherry Johnson	Veteran SVCS	sherryjohnson@edgecombeco.com
Shirley McNeil	Fountain Transportation	shirleymcneil@att.net
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William M. Parker	Private Citizen	wmp02parker@aol.com

NOTES

“Get Off the List”

When Mr. Evans worked with former County Manager Lorenzo Carmon, Mr. Carmon used to express his frustration with a common observation: that Edgecombe County was often found at the top or the bottom of many of the lists used to measure a county’s success, health, wealth, and development.

As the current County Manager, Mr. Evans found himself with a similar observation: the Edgecombe County community and its residents face difficult challenges each day and have limited access to many resources. To begin to combat these challenges and as a call to action, Mr. Evans is urging community members to work together to “get off the list”!

Most of the lists Edgecombe County is on fall under one of the following categories, so the following will be our four focus areas.

1. Youth and Family
2. Education & Workforce Development
3. Health Equity
4. Affordable Housing

Why Public Engagement?

Edgecombe County wants to engage citizens because they have expertise and experience that will help the County to be successful. Additionally, they aim to be transparent in the work. Getting buy-in from the most important players – the public – is what will make this work happen in the most effective, inclusive way possible.

One of the goals of this meeting was to identify the best methods and most important considerations for transparency and communication. The participants engaged in an activity to share information about trusted community messengers, methods to engage hard-to-reach communities, and ways to increase collaboration.

Community Paramedicine: An Example

The Community Paramedic Program is an example of how public engagement and collaboration is serving the Edgecombe community.

The Community Paramedic Program is a new initiative that launched May 22, 2023 as a result of collaboration amongst community providers and members. These stakeholders evaluated the needs of the community and decided to use Opioid Settlement dollars to start the Community Paramedic Program. The program continues to be successful because of the support and resources provided by community providers.

Edgecombe County's Community Paramedic Program has a substance abuse focus tailored to the specific needs of the County. Some initiatives include a safe syringe program, Narcan distribution, a Medicated Assisted Treatment bridge program, alternative transportation, etc. Contact Dalton Barrett for more information and resources: daltonbarrett@edgecombeco.com.

Feedback

1. Out-of-town contractors face a barrier with having to travel to Edgecombe County, so allowing electronic permits is a possible solution.
2. Gentrification and lack of affordable housing is a concern with builders coming from outside of the community. It is a priority to ensure that houses and taxes are affordable to people already here.
3. SUGGESTION: Put a bid out to contractors to revamp vacant homes to create affordable housing.
4. Income must increase or housing cost must decrease to create affordable housing.
5. Section 8 vouchers are available for Edgecombe County; however, there are difficulties with landlords taking care of properties, so houses are not always livable. Funding to support landlords with property maintenance is needed.
6. QUESTION: What actions are happening to move this "Get Off the List" initiative forward?
 - a. Group of stakeholders are continuously mapping the existing work and gaps.
 - b. Connecting groups/people and supporting existing efforts are the main strategies.
 - c. Subcommittees will be taking point on each of the four focus areas.

7. Sometimes quality is more important than quantity. "If not more, then better".
8. The elderly population should be considered in efforts since Edgecombe's population is aging.
9. SUGGESTION: a blog may be an effective way for informing the public.
10. Small towns seem to get overlooked (ex. Pinetops), so the "Get Off the List" initiative needs to prioritize them.

Activity

CONTEXT: One strategy for "getting off the lists" is to improve collaborations amongst providers doing good work in the community. Collaboration is great, but it also requires time, trust, and other resources. We want to know what successful collaboration looks like. Participants thought about different aspects of collaboration and public engagement and placed sticky notes with their ideas onto the respective posters.

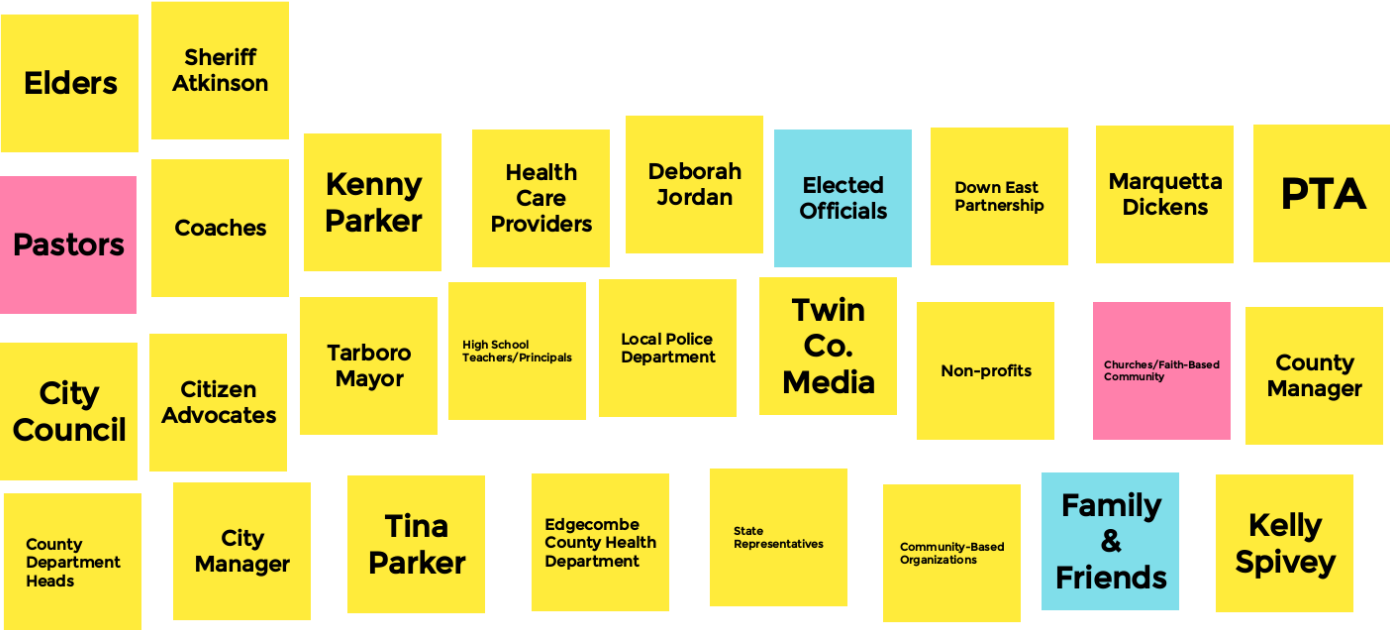
WHO are the most trusted community members and leaders? Who do you think others turn to?

KEY:

1-2
Mentions

3-5
Mentions

6+
Mentions



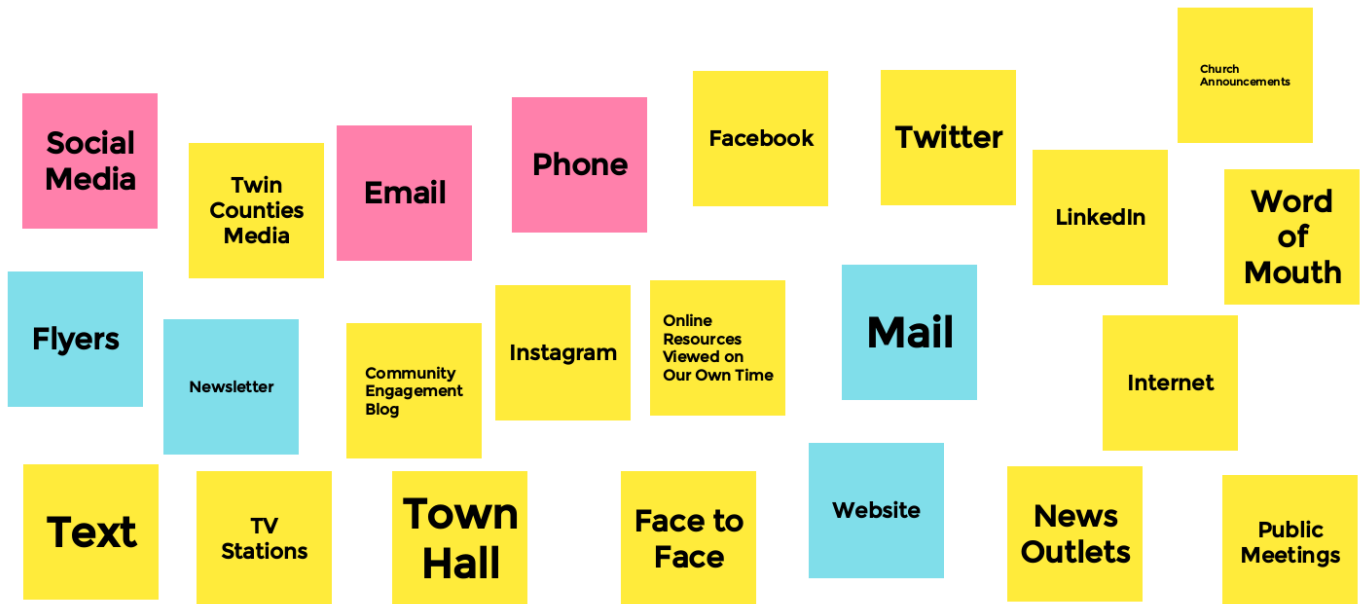
WHEN and how often do you prefer to receive updates or information on community resources?

KEY:



HOW do you prefer to receive information about events, resources, and issues?

KEY:



WHERE do you go for information about your community's resources? Where are the best places to share information?

KEY:

1-2
Mentions

3-5
Mentions

6+
Mentions

