



# 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

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## 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@edgecomboco.com](mailto:daltonbarrett@edgecomboco.com).

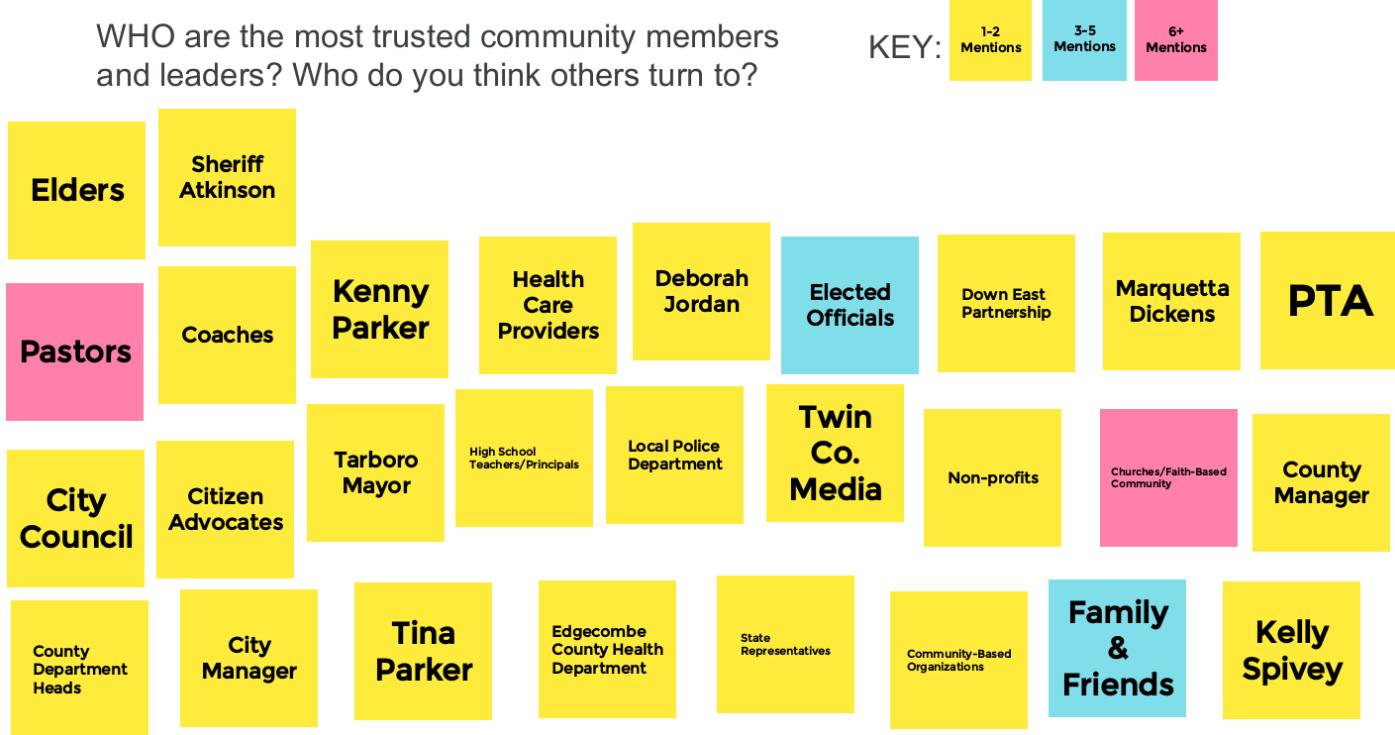
## **Feedback**

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.*



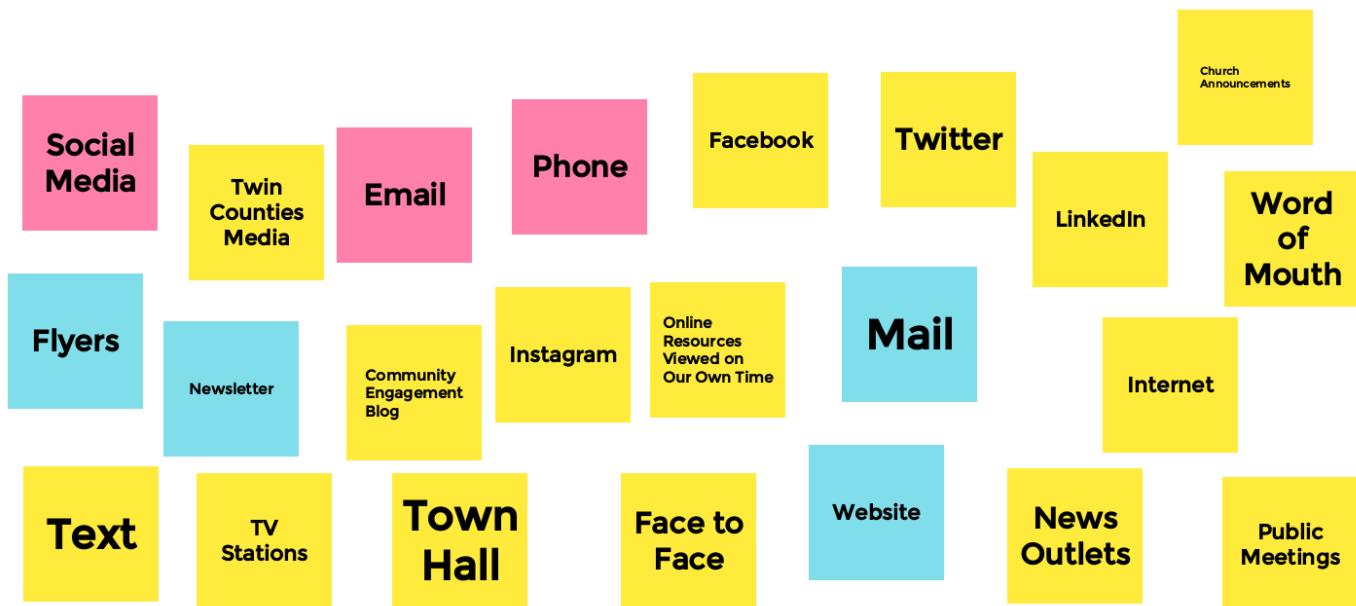
WHEN and how often do you prefer to receive updates or information on community resources?

KEY: 1-2 Mentions 3-5 Mentions 6+ Mentions



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

KEY: 1-2 Mentions 3-5 Mentions 6+ Mentions



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

