

## **CFTF Issue Application**

Name: Tessie Castillo

Email: [tswopecastillo@gmail.com](mailto:tswopecastillo@gmail.com)

Phone: 919-809-7718

Organization: NC Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC)

Address: 1005 Slater Rd, Suite 300, Durham, NC, 27703

1. NCHRC proposes improvements to 2013's 911 Good Samaritan bill (SB20), which was supported by the CFTF. The law should be amended to include immunity from arrest for drug possession, underage drinking, and paraphernalia charges, in addition to the existing protection from prosecution. The law should also provide protection from probation or parole violations for people who call 911 in the event of overdose and the victim of the overdose.
2. Drug overdose is a leading cause of death for teenage children and the majority of people who begin using heroin are young people, including teenagers. The 911 Good Samaritan law was a major step towards encouraging teens to call for help during an overdose, but without protecting from arrest, charge, or probation and parole violation, many people are still afraid to call 911.
3. This law needs to be statewide because drug overdose is a statewide problem. If we don't do something, drug overdose deaths will overtake car accident fatalities as the leading cause of accidental death in our state by 2017.
4. Yes. Since this will be an amendment to an existing law, it can only be accomplished through legislation.
5. We propose legislation to amend SB20 to include immunity from arrest and charge for small amounts of drugs, paraphernalia and underage drinking. Also including immunity from violation of probation or parole, similar to legislation recently passed in Georgia in 2014 (HB 965). No financing is needed.
6. This amendment would not require changes to any infrastructure.
7. NC Harm Reduction Coalition will lead this effort. SB20 in 2013 was supported by the NC Sheriff's Association, NC Association of Chiefs of Police, the NC Medical Board, Project Lazarus, and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice.

8. Key stakeholders are the law enforcement community, the faith community, the medical community, and parents who have lost children to overdose or who have children at risk. We strongly encourage participation of the law enforcement community involved in overdose prevention efforts including Pitt County Sheriff Neil Elks, Rep. John Faircloth, State Bureau of Investigation's Donnie Varnell, Capt. Chris Attack from the Carrboro Police, David Rose of the Winston Salem PD, Law Enforcement Overdose Prevention Expert Ronald Martin (retired NYPD), Law Enforcement Overdose Prevention Expert Jen Earls (retired Chicago PD) and Eddie Caldwell of the NC Sheriff's Association. Concerned parents and family members who have lost children to drug overdoses who should be included in the conversation are Dianne Carden Glen, Chad Sanders, Tonya Skinner and BJ Sanders. Faith leaders involved in overdose prevention efforts should also be invited to the table, including Pastor James Sizemore of Radiant Church in Fayetteville. Members of the medical community involved in overdose prevention should also be present, including Dr. Logan Graddy, Dr. Mike Lancaster and Dr. Eric Morse.

Capt. Chris Attack: [CAttack@townofcarrboro.org](mailto:CAttack@townofcarrboro.org)  
David Rose: [DROSE@wspd.org](mailto:DROSE@wspd.org)  
Donnie Varnell: [dvarnell@ncdoj.gov](mailto:dvarnell@ncdoj.gov)  
Eddie Caldwell: [ecaldwell@ncsheriffs.net](mailto:ecaldwell@ncsheriffs.net)  
Ronald Martin: [dracron616@gmail.com](mailto:dracron616@gmail.com)  
Jen Earls: [jen.earls@gmail.com](mailto:jen.earls@gmail.com)  
BJ Sanders: [yebogogo99@hotmail.com](mailto:yebogogo99@hotmail.com)  
Chad Sanders: [sanders\\_chad@hotmail.com](mailto:sanders_chad@hotmail.com)  
Dianne Glenn: [Dcarden@aol.com](mailto:Dcarden@aol.com)  
Tonya Skinner: [tonya.skinner@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tonya.skinner@dhhs.nc.gov)  
James Sizemore: [jamesdsizemore@gmail.com](mailto:jamesdsizemore@gmail.com)  
Eric Morse: [morse@carolinaperformance.net](mailto:morse@carolinaperformance.net)  
Logan Graddy: [logan.graddy@gmail.com](mailto:logan.graddy@gmail.com)  
Mike Lancaster: [mlancaster@n3cn.org](mailto:mlancaster@n3cn.org)