

# Brunswick Coalition discusses upcoming medication drop-offs

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**BOLIVIA**—For Brunswick County residents who want to properly dispose of old medications, there will be many opportunities to do so in the near future, Brunswick Coalition coordinator Tammy Brunelle of Coastal Horizons announced at Monday's monthly coalition meeting.

The first event, Operation Medicine Cabinet, will be at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport on Thursday, Aug. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents can both drive by or drop off old or unused medications, both prescription or non-prescription, needles and liquids at the hospital's main entrance.

There will be another opportunity next month at New Hanover Regional Medical Center Medical Mall in Wilmington on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. NHRMC will accept prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal medications and supplements, and unopened syringes and needles. All medications should

be in their original containers and all containers should still have their labels attached. Brunelle said collection of syringes and needles is made possible through the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition and is absolutely necessary in the Cape Fear area.

"We're really excited about this opportunity," she said.

In addition to these events, permanent drop boxes are available in Brunswick County: 1379 River Road SE in Leland; 102 Town Hall Drive in Leland; 70 Stamp Act Drive NE, Bolivia; 9 E. Boiling Spring Lakes Road, Boiling Spring Lakes; 10176 Beach Drive in Calabash; and 3 W. Third St. in Ocean Isle Beach.

Brunelle also reminded attendees about the Crisis Consortium meeting that will take place Friday, Aug. 19, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

"It's all (recovery) services in Brunswick County coming in one location," she said. "It's a really good meeting."

Residents are also invited to the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension's Family Fair Saturday, Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

cooperative extension building, 25 Referendum Drive NE in Bolivia. In addition to providing immunizations for children about to start school, there will be free school supplies.

Brunelle also announced plans to once again send out the Coalition's Pride Survey to area schools. The survey was sent out to schools earlier this year, with the results released in June. Of those surveys sent out, only 116 Brunswick County Schools students were successfully surveyed. Data from that study revealed that of the 116 surveyed, 11.7 percent reported having misused prescription medication within the last 30 days, with 10.7 of those surveyed saying they misused prescription medications to get high.

This time, Brunelle said the survey will target eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders, in addition to Brunswick Community College students. The grant that pays for the survey is made possible through Partnership for Success.

The next coalition meeting will be Monday, Sept. 19, at 3 p.m. at the Brunswick County Health Department.