In the 2012 Community Health Assessment, prescription substance abuse was identified as one of the biggest health issues in Henderson County and one of the top three priorities needing to be addressed. The Henderson County Partnership for Health—which includes both hospitals, the Health Department and other primary stakeholders in the community—decided to make addressing this problem their priority and created HopeRx. HopeRx is Henderson County’s Project Lazarus initiative. After a well-attended “Community Conversation” was held in the Fall of 2013, several educational initiatives were implemented, including a pharmacy partnership to provide educational materials with every prescription filled, a church community partnership that led to drug drop off days at several churches, an educational media campaign and planning for another event in 2014. On other fronts, physicians have been working together to examine the possibility of developing a community-wide policy on prescribing these drugs, the court system has been examining the possibility of creating a drug court and partners are looking at how to expand and improve access to treatment services.

For more information on community health improvement in Henderson County, visit:

www.wnchealthyimpact.com

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