



Holly Hagan, PhD, MPH

“Evidence Supporting Syringe Services Programs, Opioid Substitution Therapy, and Other Harm Reduction Strategies Aimed at Preventing Adverse Outcomes Associated with Injection Drug Use”

Dr. Hagan is professor at New York University College of Global Public Health and co-director of the Center for Drug Use and HIV/HCV Research at NYU. She also serves as chair of the Executive Steering Committee of the Rural Opioid Initiative, a collaborative project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The initiative funds nine research projects in areas with some of the highest rates of overdose and hepatitis C infection.

Donnie Varnell

“Challenges to Implementing Harm Reduction Programs in Local Communities: A Law Enforcement Perspective”

Varnell is presently an investigator with the Dare County North Carolina Sheriff’s Office and the former Special Agent In-Charge for the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation’s Drug Diversions Unit. He serves on several state-level committees combating prescription and opioid drug abuse. He also serves as a law enforcement consultant on special projects with the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, where he was heavily involved in the naloxone program for law enforcement and first responders.

William Ramsey, MD

“Voices of the Community on the Opioid Crisis in West Virginia: A Summary of the ‘Where’s Waldo’ Project”

Dr. Ramsey is associate vice-president for coordination and logistics and chief collaboration officer for West Virginia University Health Sciences Center. He has over 30 years of experience in healthcare as a provider, researcher and policy leader, particularly in the area of unique and innovative methods and systems for providing quality and cost-effective medical care. As part of the HSC leadership team, Ramsey is directly involved in the operation and management of specific healthcare and wellness improvement initiatives and serves as a liaison to a variety of entities including government, community organizations and other healthcare stakeholders throughout West Virginia.