**Our Vision**
To educate our youth on the dangers and health implications of alcohol, tobacco, and drug exposure and use.

**Our Mission**
To strengthen a generation of youth in Pickens County who are armed with the knowledge, motivation, and support to combat the temptations of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

- We actively advocate for a community that:
  - Prevents access to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products by youth.
  - Promotes abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in youth.
  - Supports and promotes effective tobacco, alcohol and drug cessation and counseling programs for all individuals.
  - Protects the health and safety of our children, youth, and adults.

**Find us on social media**
- Steppin' It Up Coalition [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)
- @steppinitupco [Twitter](https://twitter.com)
- Steppin' It Up Coalition [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com)
- Steppin' It Up Coalition [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

**Want to know more?**
- steppinitupcoalition@gmail.com
- [www.steppituppickens.org](http://www.steppituppickens.org)
- (864) 898-5800

The coalition meets the second Monday of every month. Please visit our website to find out this month’s meeting location.
From our Project Director

Since 2000, I have been privileged to work at Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County. The preventative initiatives performed by our BHSC Prevention Department has been second to none, and brought to the forefront of many statewide initiatives. Among our most proud partnerships includes bringing the MADD Victim Impact Panel to Pickens County. We are presently in our 3rd year being involved in this initiative reaching over 90 participants since April 2016. Thanks Steven Burritt, MADD SC Program Director for allowing us to be a part of this initiative. For the past 3 years I have been chosen as the South Carolina State facilitator at Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Conference held in National Harbor, Maryland. This opportunity gives our state a voice in Washington to advocate for prevention efforts.

Being chosen in 2012 in a select group of 68 recipient for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Drug-Free Communities Support Grant was a great accomplishment. I appreciate my agency allowing me to apply for this. Now that we have been given another 5 years of funding through the same competitive process, we are ready to build an even greater taskforce combating risky behaviors among our youth. BHSPC is thankful to have a youth advocate program that has over the last 30 years educated the community by raising awareness. The future of our community depends on us making a change now.

Most importantly, I would like to recognize vital components of this strategic plan. Our SIUC co-chairs, the 12 sector chairs and community stakeholders who assist us in this fight. No matter how minute the change, for us it is remembering that change has been made while continuing until no one will remember there ever being a drug abuse epidemic. A Healthy Community is what we all should be striving for.

Cathy Breazeale, BHSPC Director of Prevention Services and SIUC Project Director

Sector Chairs

Aleah Gramblin Youth
Stephanie Finley Parent
Melissa Banson Business
Freddy's Restaurant-Easley
Jeff Gerber Media
Summit Media-Greenville

Lori Gwinn School
School District of Pickens Co.

Cheri Anthony Youth-Serving Organization
City of Pickens Recreation Dept.

Det. Brett Barwick Law Enforcement
Pickens County Sheriff's Dept.

Rev. Rick Hayes Non-Profit/Pastoral Organization
Pickens Twelfth Mile Baptist Assoc.

Sarah Jordan Civic Volunteer
YOUth SADD Club
Darien High School

Angela Needly RN Healthcare Professional
Baptist Easley Hospital

Dedrick Henderson State, Local, Tribal Governmental Agency with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse
Pickens County Guardian Ad Litem

Angela Farmer Organization Involved in Reducing Substance Abuse
Behavioral Health Services of Pickens Co.

Achievements to Highlight

The chart below shows the reductions between 2010-2016 of cigarette smoking, alcohol use, smokeless tobacco use, prescription drug use, lifetime marijuana use, and binge drinking.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette Smoking</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Use</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokeless Tobacco</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription Drug Use</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Marijuana</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binge Drinking</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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As you can see from the chart, reductions were noted in all of the above categories.

Other Notable Data:

- Students' perception of harm surrounding smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day increased by 12%
- Students' perception of harm surrounding drinking alcoholic beverages nearly every day increased by 2%
- Students reporting having smoked a cigarette in the past 30 days prior to the survey was cut in half from 16% in 2010 to 8% in 2016
- 10% reduction in the number of youth giving money to adults to buy alcohol for them.
Achievements to Highlight

The four core measures of the Drug Free Communities Grant are:
1. Past 30 Day Use
2. Perception of Harm
3. Parental Disapproval of Use
4. Peer Disapproval of Use

![Graph showing survey data for 9th and 11th graders in Pickens County](image)

- Total surveyed is the total number of Pickens County students who took the survey each year.

The Communities that Care Survey will be administered again in 2018 in partnership with SC Dept. of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County, and the School District of Pickens County. This survey will be administered to all 6th, 8th, 9th, and 11th graders in Pickens County. This data will provide a new baseline for the coalition. We look forward to sharing this data with the community in the future.

About Steppin' It Up Coalition

Founded in September 2007, the mission of Steppin’ It Up Coalition (SIUC) is to strengthen a generation of youth in Pickens County who are armed with the knowledge, motivation, and support to combat the temptations of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. SIUC received funding from the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Grant in 2012 to help achieve this mission. DFC Funding was given for a 5 year period and totaled $625,000.

From 2012 to 2017, the SIUC has grown to approximately 100 members who believe in the vision of the coalition. Steppin’ It Up Coalition’s vision is to educate our youth on the dangers and health implications of alcohol, tobacco, and drug exposure and use.

From its foundation, the coalition has actively advocated for a community that:
- Prevents access to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products by youth.
- Promotes abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in youth.
- Supports and promotes effective tobacco, alcohol and drug cessation and counseling programs for all individuals.
- Protects the health and safety of our children, youth, and adults.

In September 2017, the Steppin’ It Up Coalition received Year 6 DFC Support Grant to continue funding of an additional $625,000 until September 2022. In the next five years, it is the hope of the SIUC to achieve sustainability to make a lasting impact in Pickens County.
Points of Pride

Attending CADCA National Leadership Forum in Washington, DC

Hosting a series of trainings on Coalition Capacity Building with Charlie Weathers of The Weathers Group

Former Clemson and NFL Player Woodrow Dentler speaks to Holly Springs Elementary during Red Ribbon Week

Steppin’ It Up Coalition representatives along with other SC DFC Coalition Representatives with Senator Tim Scott on Capitol Hill, February 2017

In September 2016, the coalition added new co-chairs. They are Dr. Dove Gamble, PhD and Dr. James Mahanes, MD

Attending CADCA’s First Ever Carolinas Youth Leadership Initiative in Rock Hill, SC

Bringing “Lessons of Redemption” author Kevin Shird to Pickens County for a 2-day youth conference on “Choices”

The SIUC Parent Sector hosted this powerful event in November 2016 where George “Dennis” Giambriliv spoke about the DUI crash that killed his father. Dennis was in the car at the time. This was the first time he had ever spoken publicly about the incident. Dennis is a member of the Parent Sector and his daughter, Akiyah is a member of the Youth Sector

In February 2017, a record six youth from Pickens County advocated for Prevention on Capitol Hill during CADCA’s National Leadership Forum

Bringing local celebrity Delvin Choice to Town Hall Dance Party to speak to Pickens County high school students

Implementing the EVA Project, a middle school alternative program including students from each of the 5 Pickens County Middle Schools

Plans began for the Hands Across the Carolinas’ 5K Run/Walk to bring awareness to the community about the opioid epidemic and substance abuse in our community

Representatives from SIUC attended the Men of Color National Summit at Clemson University

Representatives from SIUC along with others from SC with Senator Lindsay Graham, February 2016

Steppin’ It Up Coalition