



Drug Free Schools Community Act
2025 Biennial Review
12/31/2025

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I. Introduction:

The following report is a result of the 2025 Drug Free Schools Communities Act (DFSCA) biennial review which evaluates the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) programs implemented during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years. This report contains a description of the Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) community; an overview of the SCSU policies, sanctions, and enforcement efforts; a summary of AOD education and prevention programs; an assessment of program goals; a review of the strengths and weaknesses of SCSU AOD initiatives; and recommendations for the next two academic years. To conduct a thorough review, Residence Life, Counseling Services, the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility, the Wellbeing Center and University Police all participated in gathering information and assessing program effectiveness of AOD initiatives. Questions concerning alcohol and other drug programs, interventions and policies may be directed to Sarah Keiser, M.S. LADC, Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Services at keisers3@southernct.edu and (203)392-5087.

II. About Southern Connecticut State University:

Southern Connecticut State University is a diverse community of 10,027 students and is located less than three miles from downtown New Haven, Connecticut near the artsy and historic Westville Village section of the city. Founded as a teachers' college in 1893, Southern has evolved over the past century into a comprehensive university offering 114 graduate and undergraduate programs. More than four hundred faculty members lead students through a wide range of studies and research specialties. Students are housed in nine residence halls with an approximate occupancy of 2600 student spaces. Southern is an access institution, with a strong commitment to social justice, and is accredited by the Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

III. Alcohol and Other Drug Policies:

A. SCSU Student Alcohol and Other Drug Policy, University Sanctions, and Enforcement

It is the University's intent to provide a drug free, healthy, safe, and secure academic environment. The University seeks to uphold the drug and alcohol-related policies and laws and will impose disciplinary sanctions against students who violate policies and laws consistent with local, state, and federal laws. The University prohibits the use, consumption, possession, and distribution of alcohol by any student under the age of 21 within university housing facilities, on campus grounds or at university sponsored events. The abuse of alcohol and other drugs by students, regardless of age and of location (on-campus or off-campus), is prohibited by the Student Conduct Code. The University can, and will, impose disciplinary sanctions for violations. Students are also subject to city ordinances and state and federal laws.

Recreational marijuana became legal in Connecticut on July 1, 2021, which makes the use and possession of lesser amounts of recreational marijuana legal for adults 21 and older. State and local municipalities determine how to implement the law in their communities, but the use of marijuana is still prohibited on campus grounds regardless of age.

Good Samaritan Medical Amnesty Statement:

In an effort to foster responsible student behavior and to respect the health and welfare of all members of the SCSU community, if an individual or organization reaches out to a campus official seeking medical attention for him/herself or for another, the student or organization requesting assistance and the student requiring assistance may not be subject to the typical disciplinary sanctions for a violation of campus alcohol and drug policies, as long as the individuals or organizations comply with all assessments and follow-up required by the Office of the Dean of Students.

This Good Samaritan Medical Amnesty Statement applies only to cases where there is a legitimate concern for a person's wellbeing because of excessive alcohol or drug use. Additional infractions occurring simultaneous to the alcohol or drug use (i.e., acts of vandalism, physical assault, disorderly conduct) will be adjudicated separately. If the student engages in any subsequent or repeat incidents involving misuse of alcohol and other drugs, the situation will be evaluated by the Dean of Students Office to determine if the Good Samaritan Medical Amnesty Statement applies. Further, this statement applies only to campus disciplinary procedures and does not apply to local, state, and federal processes.

Residence Hall Alcohol Policies and Protocols:

Alcohol is not permitted in six of the nine residence halls and is permitted in limited quantities for students 21 years or older in Brownell, Schwartz, North Campus, and North Campus townhouses.

Residence Life staff are required to notify University Police of all incidents involving possession of alcohol by an underage student or providing alcohol to minors. Residence Life staff reserve the right to have a student dispose of alcohol in instances where alcohol is involved in a University protocol violation or a situation in which an individual's safety may be impacted.

University Police have the discretion to issue a citation for violations of the Connecticut State Law for possession of alcohol by a minor which may include a fine of \$136, suspension of a driver's license and criminal charges. Students found in violation of the alcohol protocol may receive a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility and to the Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Services. Students with two or more violations of the alcohol protocol are at risk of losing on campus housing privileges.

Residence Life staff also reserve the right to request a medical evaluation for students appearing intoxicated. University Police and emergency personnel may transport a student to the hospital if medical attention is deemed necessary for the health and safety of a student. Notification is made to an emergency contact person provided by the student and is required for all medical transport to the hospital.

Residential students who have been transported to the hospital for a medical evaluation resulting from alcohol or drug intoxication are able to return to the residence halls upon discharge from the hospital. Students receive a "Returning to SCSU medical transport" form with instructions prior to their departure to the hospital. The Director of the residence hall will conduct a follow up wellness check within days of their return. Guests of residential students who violate the University's alcohol policy may be banned from entering the halls in the future.

Sanctions and Enforcement:

There are several offices that serve a direct role in the enforcement of SCSU’s alcohol and other drug policy, as well as the issuing of sanctions. The primary offices consist of University Police, Residential Life, and Student Conduct/Civic Responsibility. Residential Life is responsible for lower-level incidents involving alcohol and marijuana that take place in one of the residential facilities. These incidents are typically managed by the Resident Hall Director and involve first offenses and lower-level cases. University Police assist Residential Life when necessary in the residential facilities. but is primarily responsible for all other areas on campus.

The University Police have the discretion to manage sanctions through the legal system (i.e., violations, misdemeanors, etc.), refer to Student Conduct, or both. Student Conduct manages all cases referred to by Residential Life and University Police. These are typically higher-level cases or repeat offenders and include all drug violations in the residence halls. The table below summarizes the incidents involving alcohol and other drugs managed within each of the office.

Student Conduct/Res Life Cases	2023-2024	2024-2025
Alcohol	36	56
Other Drugs	16	0
University Police Arrests		2
Non-resident cases	0	0

Each area has access to several types of sanctions to help improve student behavior. As an educational institution, our primary focus is always one that is developmental in nature. We utilize progressive discipline as a means of changing behavior. University Police has the option to issue citations. These citations include a \$136 fine, a 30-day suspension of driver’s license, and/or criminal charges. As Residential Life is overseeing lower-level cases, their sanctions will often include a referral to an educational program or community service. Depending on the level of the case and the previous discipline record of the person involved, the outcome can result in a separation from the University or from the residence halls. If the case does not meet that level, the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility will routinely refer students to the Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Services for evaluation and completion of an educational program. Secondary sanctions may also include community service, educational programs, or other discretionary sanctions. Students who are assessed as being high-risk with substance use and need more intensive treatment services for a substance use disorder may meet with the Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Services, who can refer a student to a treatment provider or program within the community.

Upon review, there was a slight increase in alcohol referrals in the 2024- 2025 academic year, but the numbers of students transported to the hospital for an alcohol incident decreased indicated by the decline in the number of student conduct referrals for BASICS over the review period. Over the current review period, the University saw an increase in overall enrollment from 9,377 in 2024 to 10,027 students in Fall of 2025. The numbers of students living on campus have steadily increased from 1,942 residents in the fall of 2023 to 2,044 students in the fall of 2025 but occupancy in residential housing is still lower as compared to the 2,239 students in spring of 2020 prior to COVID-19.

Alcohol and Other Drug Standards for Student-Athletes:

SCSU student athletes are subject to the same standards of all SCSU students. In addition, student athletes, including athletic training students, are required to participate in an education program which aims to educate students on the risks associated with the use of alcohol and performance enhancing drugs. The Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Services provides information about resources, treatment, and recovery support services on campus through presentations to each of the athletic teams at the beginning of each academic year. The NCAA requires random drug testing with student-athletes throughout the year, including summer and post-seasons.

B. Employee Alcohol and Other Drug Policy, University Sanctions, and Enforcement:

The drug and alcohol-free workplace policy applies to any person who is representing or conducting business for the University. Any individual observed unlawfully manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, using, or possessing alcohol or illegal drugs in the workplace is to be reported immediately to University Police or local law enforcement. The University strongly encourages faculty and staff members to voluntarily obtain assistance for an alcohol or drug problem before such behavior results in an arrest and/or disciplinary referral which might result in their separation from the institution.

Individuals seeking help with substance abuse problems are provided with resources on treatment programs in the community. The Lexington Group, an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) will maintain the confidentiality of persons seeking treatment and will not report them to institutional or state authorities. Through the Office of Human Resources, The Lexington Group offers employees additional education and counseling, as well as appropriate referrals. Within New Haven County, the following substance abuse counseling agencies exist:

Connections Inc.	203-786-5316
APT Foundation, Inc.	203-781- 4600
Rushford Center	203-630- 5220
Cornell Hill Health Center	203-503- 3470

These agencies provide a variety of services which may include inpatient and outpatient substance abuse counseling, detoxification, residential and intensive outpatient programs, medication assistance treatment for opioid use disorders, and long-term care. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact each agency for additional information regarding specific services and costs.

Sanctions and Enforcement:

Employees found violating the policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including possible required participation in an approved alcohol and or drug treatment program. Additional disciplinary action may include termination of employment under applicable Board of Regents and State Universities regulations, University policies, statues, employment contracts, or

collective bargaining agreements. There were no violations by employees of the Drug and Alcohol-Free workplace policy reported between the academic years of 2021-2023.

C. Distribution of Alcohol and Other Drug Policies to Faculty, Staff, and Students

As a requirement of these regulations, the University continues to disseminate and ensure receipt of the policy below and information to all students, staff, and faculty on an annual basis.

The University remains in compliance by implementing programs to prevent the abuse of alcohol and use or distribution of illicit drugs by its students and employees. The University maintains written policies on alcohol and other drugs and has a method for distributing this policy to all students and employees.

The annual notification required by the Drug Free Schools and Community Act is sent out electronically on an annual basis to all staff, faculty and students by the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students and provides the following information:

1. Standards of Conduct that prohibit unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on its property.
2. A description of health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and abuse of alcohol.
3. A description of applicable legal sanctions under local, state, or federal law.
4. A description of counseling and treatment programs within the New Haven community.
5. A description of the disciplinary sanctions the institution will impose on students and employees.

As an academic community, Southern Connecticut State University is committed to providing an environment in which learning and scholarship can flourish. The possession or use of illegal drugs, or the abuse of those which may otherwise be legally possessed, seriously affects the University environment, as well as the individual potential of our students and staff.

IV. Alcohol and Other Drug Educational Prevention and Intervention Programs:

A. Alcohol and Other Drug Services

The Alcohol and Other Drug Services office is in Schwartz Hall, room 101D and serves as a campus resource center for students seeking information, support, and counseling for substance use. Our programs and services aim to reduce harmful consequences associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs and other behavioral addictions.

Students who are referred from the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility are required to participate in one of the following AOD education programs facilitated by the Alcohol and Other Drug Coordinator:

BASICS: is a brief two session harm reduction educational program that assists students in exploring alcohol and marijuana use and their desire to change behavior.

Alcohol WISE: is a prevention online educational course that provides students with information about the effects of alcohol on the body, the benefits of moderation, determining pattern of use, and health risks associated with long term use.

Cannabis WISE: is a prevention online educational course that provides students with information about the effects of marijuana on the body, the benefits of moderation, determining pattern of use and health risks associated with long term use.

Screening Tools:

Alcohol-E-Check Up to Go (E-CHUG): a personalized brief screening tool to assess alcohol use.

Marijuana-E-Check Up to Go (E-TOKE): a personalized brief screening tool to assess marijuana use.

ScreenU Alcohol- a free, confidential, alcohol risk assessment based on evidence-based strategies called SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment).

ScreenU Prescription Drugs (Rx)- a free, confidential, prescription drug risk assessment based on evidence-based strategies called SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment).

ScreenU Cannabis-a free, confidential, marijuana risk assessment based on evidence-based strategies called SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment).

The Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Services, in addition to providing clinical assessments, brief counseling, support groups, and referral services continues to provide additional outreach services on campus with the intention of connecting students to services both on and off campus. The AOD Coordinator continuously works to build relationships with treatment agencies and recovery support programs to improve access for students seeking resources in the community.

HECAOD developed ScreenU, a web-based program that allows SBIRT to be implemented with college students either independently or in partnership with a campus professional. The program identifies students who are misusing alcohol or prescription drugs and provides feedback and strategies to reduce their risk for experiencing negative consequences from their use.

ScreenU is a web-based tool that administers SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to treatment) to an unlimited number of students for alcohol, prescription drugs, and cannabis.

Professional Development Training and Education

A series of professional development training and events were offered to all staff, faculty, and students in both 2024 and 2025. Workshops and trainings focused on topics including stimulant misuse among college students, gender identity, sexual orientation and SUD, sports betting, and gambling disorders.

Opioid and Stimulant Use Education and Abuse Prevention:

In May of 2025, Southern Ct State University was awarded a total of \$30,000 in grant funds from the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative for the 2025-2027 Campus opioid and stimulant education and awareness program initiative. A total of **\$140, 770.00** of external grant funding since 2019 has been awarded to Southern which has allowed for the implementation of educational programs, training of staff and faculty and access to naloxone on campus.

The State Opioid Response grant is designed to increase access to treatment, reduce unmet treatment needs, and reduce opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for Opioid Use Disorder. In addition, the scope of the SOR funding has been expanded to allow stimulant misuse to be addressed. According to the 2022 College Prescription Drug Study (<https://cssl.osu.edu/research-projects/college-prescription-drug-study>), 14.5 % of students who completed the survey reported that they had ever used a stimulant for non-medical reasons at some point in their lives.

The program goals are to increase knowledge of the dangers of opioid and stimulant misuse and overdose, raise awareness of on-campus resources and connect students, faculty, and staff with support and access to treatment and recovery resources, within the community. Classroom presentations include a focus on stimulant use and opioid overdose prevention. The Coordinator of Alcohol and Other Drug Services work in collaboration with the Department of Health in New Haven to train staff, faculty, and students on how to use naloxone and respond to opioid overdose. A total of seven opioid overdose response trainings were held on campus between March of 2024 and December of 2025. The installation of public access Naloxone boxes along with AED machines were installed in twenty of the buildings on campus since 2023.

College Campus Gambling Prevention Initiative:

Southern CT State University was the recipient of the College Campus Gambling Prevention Initiative and received funding in the amount of \$5000.00 from the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling for 2025-2026 academic year. Southern had previously been awarded funding in December of 2023 in the amount of \$5000 to implement on campus educational programs to raise awareness about the risks associated with gambling and sports betting. Southern Ct. State University and Sarah Keiser, the Coordinator of Alcohol, Drug and Recovery Services, were awarded the Ct. Council on Problem Gambling Impact Award in October of 2024 for the prevention programming initiatives that were implemented on campus to educate students about the risks associated with gambling.

The College Symposium on Gambling Harm was held at Southern in June of 2025 that highlighted the latest research and data on gambling among college students.

According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, 75% of American college students report they have gambled in the past year with 6% reporting a serious gambling problem. Adults ages 18-24 have been shown to have a significantly higher risk of developing problems related to gambling. Colleges, universities, and community colleges across Connecticut were given the opportunity to participate in a campaign to raise awareness that gambling is not a risk-free activity. Campus funded activities aimed at promoting healthy/responsible decisions around gambling.

In October of 2021, the State of Connecticut expanded gambling opportunities to include online sports betting and online casino gaming. Since the expansion, the state has collected over thirty-five million dollars in payments from online gaming. Helpline calls to the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) have more than doubled since the launch with an increase in a younger demographic. Due to the rapid speed of play of online casino and sports betting, callers report developing problems more quickly compared to other forms of gambling.

Collegiate Recovery Community

The CRC at SCSU is support based and student-oriented with the goal of providing a resource for college students in long-term recovery, and for any student seeking recovery. Additionally, the CRC provides support and resources to students who have been directly or indirectly affected by the substance use of friends or loved ones. The CRC provides a recovery lounge space with a safe, supportive environment for students to receive peer-based support designed to facilitate their recovery, connection, engagement, and success. This space also serves as an entry point for students not yet in recovery, but who are seeking help and resources for substance use disorders. Southern is working in collaboration with CCAR, Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery to offer peer led recovery support groups for students on campus.

The Wellbeing Center

The Wellbeing Center is in Schwartz Hall, Room 100, on Fitch Street, and is designed to function as an integrated wellbeing hub that creates multi-departmental synergy in the delivery of comprehensive wellbeing related services. The Wellbeing Center is intended to be a one-stop shop for linkage to wellbeing support services, educational programming, and leadership development. The Wellbeing Center's mission is to create happier, healthier, and more successful students through the promotion of holistic wellbeing. The Wellbeing Center is increasing its capacity to provide effective and engaging wellbeing education and preventative public health programming on a broad array of issues including, but not limited to health and fitness, nutrition, sleep, stress, sexual health, drug and alcohol use, mental health, disabilities, civic engagement, violence prevention, and advocacy. The Wellbeing Center aims to provide robust opportunities for wellbeing and leadership development through peer education, training, and supervision. The Wellbeing Center has engaged in classroom presentations, wellbeing related fairs, tabling events, educational training, weekly virtual and live programming, and a workshop series for enhancing their practical skills related to holistic mental and physical wellbeing.

The Wellbeing Collaborative:

The Wellbeing Collaborative was established in Fall of 2020. There are a variety of student affairs professionals represented in this collaborative, including representatives from the Dean of Students, Health Services, Wellbeing Center, Counseling Services, and Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center. The collaborative has been charged with developing and implementing strategic goals for the advancement of holistic health, mental health, and wellbeing efforts at Southern. Meetings are held every few weeks to review initiatives, efforts, and programming opportunities to enhance well-being on campus. For example, this collaborative hosts an annual Week of Wellbeing at the start of the academic year in which a series of activities and events are offered to the Southern community, including resource fairs, health promotion events, and awareness campaigns. The collaborative conducted a review of the literature and best practices in wellbeing promotion to develop the comprehensive THRIVE

framework focused on Togetherness, Health, Resilience, Insight, Vitality, and Equity. Regular virtual and live programming have been offered through collaborating departments supporting this initiative and promoting holistic wellbeing.

Wellbeing Coaching

In addition to direct substance use prevention and intervention efforts, the university has expanded complementary wellbeing initiatives that support healthy decision-making and overall functioning. **Wellbeing Coaching** is offered through the Wellbeing Center and includes Wellbeing Coaching 101 training and structured scripts that equip staff to assess student needs and provide practical, non-clinical behavioral strategies to improve academic and personal functioning. This approach utilizes behavioral prescriptions emphasizing collaborative goal setting, early identification of concerns, and seamless referral to appropriate campus resources, creating a supportive pathway for students who may be at risk without requiring clinical services. These efforts are further reinforced through [The WellStreet Journal](#), a monthly wellbeing newsletter that promotes healthy behaviors through engaging activities, timely updates, and accessible tips. Coordinated with both online and on-campus Wellbeing Center programming, the newsletter serves as a simple and effective way to connect students with essential wellbeing topics, including substance use awareness and prevention, while fostering a culture of proactive self-care.

JED Campus:

In 2021, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) enhanced their commitment to student mental health by partnering with JED Campus, a national initiative from The Jed Foundation (JED). This collaboration aims to improve and fortify programs focused on mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention at educational institutions. Southern is in the process of wrapping up the multi-year initiative and has benefited greatly from the partnership on strategic planning for enhancing mental health, substance use, and wellbeing related programs and services.

Student Support Team:

The Student Support Team (SST) consists of a variety of student affairs professionals including representatives from the Dean of Students Office, Student Involvement, Residential Life, Health Services, Wellness Center, Academic Advising, New Student and Sophomore Programs, Campus Recreation, Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility, Counseling Services, and Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center. This team gathers information from students, faculty, staff, and family members to provide a proactive, collaborative, and coordinated approach to support students in distress. The SST addresses concerns about student behavior and personal issues, including mental health concerns, and strives to promote individual student wellbeing and success while maintaining the overall safety of the campus community. This team meets weekly with the purpose of providing a confidential, respectful, and proactive model of support, while simultaneously promoting a positive, healthy, and safe student experience. Key objectives include identifying and gathering information about students of concern, assessing the information, and developing an effective response that addresses both the needs of the student and the safety of the campus community, and to implement a plan of action in such a way that de-escalates potential crises, reduces, and removes any potential threats, and attends to the specific needs of the individual student. This team is additionally supported by a full-time, case manager

in the Dean of Students Office, in addition to continued outreach an updated informational folder that has been provided to various academic programs and campus community members on how to appropriately recognize, respond, and refer students in distress.

University Police:

The Mission of the Southern Police Department is to provide exceptional police services in partnership with the Southern community. Protect and serve, maintain a safe environment, enhance the quality of life and learning, and promote a culture of respect and trust.

Exemplifying that mission through meaningful community engagement opportunities is at the heart of the Southern Police crime prevention and safety education methodology. Police officers facilitated programming with resident assistants on topics related to impaired driving prevention, bystander intervention, and healthy relationships. Outreach efforts were developed with police service dogs as an irreplaceable tool in bringing our community together. Our police service dog, K9 Jules engages in on going community events that include supporting students in recovery, recognizing red flag behaviors, and drug take back initiatives. Prevention programming with our officers focuses on wellness efforts that teach and support self-care activities.

Officers are issued Naloxone as part of their standard issue gear and are trained to recognize and respond to drug and alcohol related medical emergencies as well as safe handling practices for processing and destruction of substances.

Residence Life Staff Training

All Resident Advisors and Residence Hall Directors receive training on the University's alcohol and drug protocol and policies. Resident Advisors are responsible for three educational programs per semester, with one of the three being a life skills program which often can include alcohol and other drugs.

The Coordinator of Alcohol and Other Drug Services provides training to all Resident Advisors on twice a basis, once in August prior to the start of the academic year and one in January, at the start of the spring semester. The training aims to educate Resident Advisors on how to identify signs of an alcohol or drug problem including opioid and stimulant abuse, risks associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and how to refer and support a student who needs mental health or substance abuse services. Resident Advisors are also trained on how to be a recovery ally to support students in recovery who reside in the residence halls.

New Student, Family Orientation and Transfer Student Orientation:

Every summer, first-year students (freshmen) and transfer students as well as their families participate in several orientation and transition activities to help them prepare for the first semester. First-year students are required to participate in educational programs focused on substance abuse including alcohol and other drugs, bystander intervention, and making healthy choices. While transfer students and families are not required to participate in orientation programs, they are highly encouraged. During Family Orientation, families learn how to support their students in making healthy choices.

V. Alcohol and Other Drug Program Goals:

1. Provide educational programs and implement prevention screening tools on alcohol and other drugs, gambling, mental health, and holistic health related topics to empower students to make responsible decisions regarding their health and personal safety.

Assessment: Students receive education on alcohol and other drugs and wellbeing related topics through in-person classroom presentations, residence hall programs and campus wide outreach, including Alcohol and other Drug Services programming, Wellbeing Center activities and during the Week of Welcome programs. Southern Connecticut State University's alcohol and other drug programs and events are aimed at providing education to students about the risk factors associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and implementing harm reduction strategies for reducing high- risk use among students. A gambling screening day and an alcohol screening day are held each academic year to enhance access to resources and services on campus.

2. Increase awareness across all campus departments about the comprehensive THRIVE framework focused on Togetherness, Health, Resilience, Insight, Vitality, and Equity.

Assessment: The collaborative has been charged with developing and implementing strategic goals for the advancement of holistic health, mental health, and well-being efforts at Southern. In-person programming has been offered through collaborating departments supporting this framework. Wellbeing Coaching is offered through the Wellbeing Center and includes Wellbeing Coaching 101 training and structured scripts that equip staff to assess student needs and provide practical, non-clinical behavioral strategies to improve academic and personal functioning. This approach utilizes behavioral prescriptions (Thrive Script), emphasizing collaborative goal setting, early identification of concerns, and seamless referral to appropriate campus resources. The sharing of information about resources and services on campus at both Counseling Services and Wellbeing Center events has assisted in helping students gain greater access to supports on campus.

3. Increase access to treatment, reduce unmet treatment need, and reduce risk for fentanyl and opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for opioid use disorder.

Assessment: The AOD Coordinator has established relationships with community organizations and agencies that provide both MAT and recovery supports, which has created opportunities for new partnerships and provided students with increased access to services both on and off campus. The community partner resource fair is held every fall semester which brings community organizations to campus to offer students access to community resources and treatment services. SAMSHA grant funding through the Ct. Healthy Campus Initiative has allowed for opioid overdose training to be offered to all staff, faculty and students and the dispensing of medical disposable bags across campus to encourage safe disposal of medication. Fentanyl testing strips are also being distributed at events and trainings. Public access naloxone boxes have been installed in both the residential and academic buildings with a total of twenty buildings.

4. Continue to implement harm reduction programs and outreach activities aimed at reducing high risk use of marijuana, including edibles, due to the ongoing fentanyl crisis and recent legalization of marijuana in Connecticut and surrounding states.

Assessment: The AOD Coordinator secured funding through Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative, (CHCI) to join the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery (HECAOD) as a member and receive campus-wide benefits, including access to brief intervention tools and resources aimed at reducing high-risk use of marijuana and prescription drugs.

5. Enhance promotion efforts on campus to increase awareness about the Good Samaritan Law which encourages members of the SCSU community to call emergency personnel for any person in need of medical attention in the case of an alcohol or drug overdose without fear of prosecution.

Assessment: Students are provided with information about the Good Samaritan Medical Amnesty Policy during NSO, (New Owl's Weekend), classroom presentations and at other alcohol and drug educational programs throughout the academic year. The residence life staff receive training at the start of the fall semester during RA training and provide additional education to students about the amnesty policy through educational programs in the residence halls. Posters on the Good Samaritan Law were distributed to offices on campus and are visible on the digital boards across campus.

6. Enhance awareness through class presentations and outreach efforts about treatment and recovery resources to support students struggling with process addictions which could include gambling, gaming, sports betting, digital technology, and pornography.

Assessment: The Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Services provide resources and access to screening tools for students which aim to increase awareness about process addictions and encourage students to utilize support groups and treatment services both on and off campus. The AOD Coordinator works in coordination with community partners and organizations such as the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) and has implemented a college gambling education initiative with recent grant funding to provide students and faculty with access to screening tools, services, and support both on and off campus. Gambling screening day takes place once each semester and resident advisors participate in training focused on problem gambling during residence life training which began in August of 2024.

VI. SCSU AOD Program Strengths:

1. External grant awards totaling **\$179, 920.00** secured by the Coordinator of Alcohol, Drug and Recovery Services since 2017 has allowed for professional development training, enhanced prevention, and outreach activities related to high-risk alcohol use, opioid, and stimulant education, awareness, and problem gambling.
2. The University employs professional staff with appropriate training and licensure to address issues of alcohol and other drug use/abuse by students and staff in addition to contracting with third party vendors to provide employees with treatment services.

3. The THRIVE Wellbeing Collaborative has implemented strategic goals for the advancement of mental health, holistic health and well-being efforts on campus, allowing for greater collaboration between departments within the Division of Student Affairs. The THRIVE framework focused on Togetherness, Health, Resilience, Insight, Vitality, and Equity.
4. The Coordinator of Alcohol and Drug Services is a member of NAADAC, AHRE and the Connecticut Healthy Campus Statewide Initiative (CHCI), which supports campus level alcohol and other drug prevention efforts through trainings, workshops and grant funded opportunities.
5. The institution provides clear and comprehensive guidelines for students and employees regarding its alcohol and drug policies and continues to maintain a drug and alcohol-free workplace.
6. The University provides clinical services, resources, and educational programs on-campus to promote safety and to educate students on risk factors associated with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.
7. SCSU University Police track the number of alcohol and drug related offenses monthly and work in coordination with the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and faculty.
8. The SCSU Student Support Team(SST) meets weekly to discuss students of concern, including students who may be at risk for developing a substance use disorder and who are in need of mental health and substance abuse services.
9. The Coordinator of Alcohol, Drug and Recovery Services offers recovery-oriented activities and recovery meetings on campus to support students seeking recovery and for any student in long-term recovery from a substance abuse disorder.
10. Additional screening tools for gambling and gaming along with prevention programming have increased due to the increased risk of problem gambling among college students, 18-24,
11. The University implemented a Good Samaritan Medical Amnesty Statement that encourages students to call emergency personnel for any person in need of medical attention in the case of an alcohol or drug overdose.

VII. SCSU AOD Areas For Growth:

1. While many of the alcohol and other drug educational programming and wellbeing activities focus on reaching first and second year residential students, ongoing outreach efforts are necessary to engage the growing number of commuter and transfer students who are also in need of supports and services.
2. While parents and families are not required to participate in family orientation during NSO, looking for new opportunities to engage with family members could be beneficial. Providing parents with access to the **WellStreet Journal**, a monthly newsletter that promotes healthy behavior through engaging activities, upcoming events, and tips for maintaining healthy wellbeing.

3. Focus on expanding outreach efforts and awareness to address the growing concerns associated with college students' social media consumption leading to significant impacts on mental health and an increase in substance misuse to manage anxiety and depression.
4. Despite the Good Samaritan Medical Amnesty policy being implemented on campus in 2014, there continues to be hesitancy among students to report an incident on campus for fear of punitive consequences. Increased visibility about the Good Samaritan Law is necessary to encourage students to call in the event of an opioid overdose or alcohol related incident.

SCSU AOD Program Recommendations:

The DFSCA 2023 program recommendations highlighted the importance of continuing to provide prevention and educational programming that focused on reducing high risk alcohol and other drug use and educating students about risks associated with opioids and prescription drugs. Securing new grant funding from the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative (CHCI), has allowed for more opportunities to expand professional development training for staff, students and faculty including naloxone training and the installation of public naloxone boxes on campus.

One of the 2023 DFSCA report recommendations was to enhance outreach efforts to create more awareness about process addictions and problem gambling among college students due to the legalization of sports betting in Connecticut. Grant funding from the Ct. Council on Problem Gambling in the fall of 2023 and in August of 2025 provides the necessary resources to offer more prevention and intervention activities including screenings and access to support and treatment services.

The recommendations for this review are outlined below:

1. Continue with prevention and outreach efforts aimed at harm reduction to reduce risks of an opioid overdose related death by distributing fentanyl testing strips and medication disposable bags to the campus community in addition to offering opioid overdose response training to faculty, staff, and students.
2. Given our collaborative relationship with the JED foundation, SCSU is in the final stages of the comprehensive review of wellbeing, mental health, suicide prevention and alcohol and other drug policies, programs, and services, with a goal of enhancing these in the years to come.
- 3: Further enhance outreach and prevention programming on campus to create more awareness about process addictions, social media and internet misuse, gaming and gambling addiction given the increase of college students between the ages of 18-24 reporting having a serious gambling problem.
3. Continue to implement prevention strategies that focus on educating students about the risks associated with high-risk drinking while continuing with efforts to address the abuse of opioids and stimulants.
4. Provide factual information and implement harm reduction strategies which include access to cessation support with the continued increase in the use of marijuana and edibles.

