

# MCCC’s QRT provides harm reduction services to EKY

**By Olivia Morgan  
Staff Writer**

Mountain Comprehensive Care Center’s Opioid Quick Response Team program serves to provide harm reduction services in Eastern Kentucky.

QRT Program Coordinator Rodney Holbrook said one purpose of the program is to eliminate and reduce opioid-related deaths throughout Eastern Kentucky. QRT also strives to provide resources for those in need, he said.

“We help people reach other sources that they may need, such as inpatient treatment, sober living and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinics,” Holbrook said. “Anything that encom-

passes someone struggling with addiction.”

MCCC’s QRT serves five counties in the region: Pike, Floyd, Magoffin, Martin and Johnson. According to Holbrook, the program travels throughout the area to supply harm reduction supplies to struggling addicts, such as Narcan, overdose education and fentanyl and xylazine test strips.

“The test strips are meant to provide the person who is using drugs some knowledge about what they are about to use,” he said.

Holbrook said QRT works with the local drug and mental health courts. The program also works with local hospitals, allowing patients to be referred to MCCC for inpatient treatment.

“Our turnaround time on that is within a couple of hours, sometimes 30 minutes,” he said.

Holbrook said addiction heavily affects the Eastern Kentucky region, leaving impacts on individuals and their families.

“It affects all areas in the region,” he said.

The program typically visits communities within the region to provide resources and supplies approximately three to four times a week, according to Holbrook.

Holbrook said QRT works diligently to meet its clients’ needs, provide the best possible care and educate others about substance abuse and overdose.

More information can be found at, [www.mt-comp.org/crisis](http://www.mt-comp.org/crisis).



News-Express photo by Jeff Vanderbeck  
Mountain Comprehensive Care Center’s Opioid Quick Response Team (QRT) visited the Pikeville Walmart Supercenter parking lot on Aug. 26 to provide harm reduction services.

# PSC issues order to investigate the affordability of electric and natural gas utility service in Kentucky

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The Kentucky Public Service Commission announced in a statement Aug. 26 that it has opened a case to provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders in the commonwealth to identify and discuss concerns and potential measures to improve the affordability of electric and natural gas utility service for residential ratepayers.

The commission, according

to the statement, made all regulated electric utilities and the five largest natural gas utilities parties to the proceeding to create a comprehensive record.

The commission, the statement said, invites interested groups or individuals with a special interest in the affordability of electric and natural gas utility service to participate by seeking intervention to the case or by filing public comments.

Public comments may be submitted through the Com-

mission’s website at, <https://psc.ky.gov/Case/SearchCasesPublicComments>, or by sending an email to, [psc.comment@ky.gov](mailto:psc.comment@ky.gov).

“Access to electric and natural gas utility service is fundamental to the health, safety, and well-being of Kentuckians,” the statement said. “Today’s order notes that data collected from the Energy Information Administration show that the calculated average residential electricity price in Kentucky was 10.87 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in 2020 and was

13.24 cents per kWh in 2025, showing a 21.8 percent increase from 2020 to 2025.”

“Given the current environment of rising utility costs, the commission believes that a broader examination of electric and natural gas utility affordability issues would help the commission better understand the factors affecting affordability across the commonwealth and evaluate existing and potential approaches for addressing those concerns,” the statement continued.

The statement said the commission intends to convene a technical conference in 2027 for parties to examine issues developed in the record, the statement said. The commission has requested that parties file their initial comments and proposed topics for this case on or before Sept. 30.

The order and other records in the case are available on the PSC website, [psc.ky.gov](http://psc.ky.gov). The case number is 2026-00185.

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