

Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Task Force

Mental Health Treatment Committee

Minutes

February 11, 2020

Attendees: Elijah Bazemore, Carlyle Johnson, Cindy Haynes, Lauren Brinkley-Rubinstein, Marc Strange, Donna Rosser, Amy O'Regan, Larry Greenblatt, Karen Verhaeghe

The group convened, Cindy welcomed everyone and began introductions.

The minutes were approved as submitted with said correction to spelling Joy Nsubuga.

Alliance Health & Durham County Funding Meeting Update

Carlyle informed the group that while in the meeting with Public Health, it was agreed that the Alliance would cover the Peer Support Specialists and RI from November 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020. The State grant will take over starting February 1, 2020. The contract has been signed. The Program Coordinator for the grant is to be hired by March. It was proposed to focus on improving the PSS program in big Duke, but Dr. Eucker will be out on leave soon. It would be a good idea to identify a physician champion, but could wait until there is something to share with Duke Regional. Amy informed the group that she works with Dr. Eucker and she will report back to her.

Peer Support Services Update

Joy stated that we need to change the PSS structure to full time and on call, as well changing the hours to early morning to catch patients admitted overnight and before discharge. Cindy asked Joy if she wanted to provide an update on DRRC OBOT program. Joy agreed moving forward to provide the update. At the present, problems stem from agencies providing MAT, or not, agencies differing in the way they provide MAT. Agencies are territorial about patients they serve and would rather refer them to higher level care than working with another agency.

Carlyle mentioned that Alliance is running into similar problems. They are working on providing more guidance for their network and what they are looking for regarding standards of practices. We are getting complaints as well concerning differing perspectives on the Traditional versus Medication First Model and what to do if someone doesn't want to go to therapy.

Joy stated that RI/DRRC is developing a fact sheet on the basics of MAT. Dr. Greenblatt mentioned instances where providers within the practice may differ on how MAT should be done. Amy is working on a portfolio of research covering (3) MAT projects. She is looking at outcomes and dissemination products at the end of the project. She thinks the guidelines would be useful to consider.

MAT in the Detention Center Update (Major Bazemore, Dr. Lauren Brinkley-Rubenstein, Shonicia Jones)

During the Detention Center subcommittee meeting today, Well Path Regional Managers informed Major Bazemore that per corporate policy, they would no longer begin Suboxone induction within less than five days of OUD diagnosis, or a COWS (Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Score) of eight or higher at the Detention Center. Dr. Greenblatt stated that he and Dr. Browning are able to provide expert guidance during the next Detention Center Subcommittee meeting. It was suggested that providing Well Path with other institution's language could be used to revise their policy on induction. Lauren has examples from the Rhode Island Project that she could share along with other options. Major Bazemore will reach out to New Jersey and Virginia.

The overarching growing concern is Well Path & Durham County Public Health are not honoring its contractual agreement with the Detention Center. In addition the support from Durham County Public Health has declined significantly since the former Health Director (Gayle Harris) has retired. County staff are not coming to the Mental Treatment Subcommittee meetings. We may need to bring in the County Attorney because if the County is not following standards of procedure then, they are responsible for those released and possibly overdose. There is a concern about liability –don't have the ability to prescribe to everyone

Major Bazemore stated to date there has been 43 participants in the MAT Program. Twenty-three (23) Suboxone, twenty (20) Methadone. In addition to reaching out to others for their policies, Carlyle agreed to reach out to Cook County. Phase 2 of the MAT Detention Center Program is aiming to begin April 1, 2020. Major Bazemore called another Detention Center subcommittee meeting for Thursday February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

Next steps are:

- Detention Center Subcommittee meeting on February 20th @ 10:00 to discuss strategy Dr. Greenblatt and Dr. Browning have been invited to that meeting
- Cindy would like to meet the new Health Director (Mr. Jenkins) to bring up to speed on the Task force and Committees and invite him to join the Mental Health Treatment Committee same as the former health director
- Plan to reach out to Wendy Jacobs and Heidi Carter for support from the County Commissioners
- Lauren will put together data packet on cost savings from MAT in the Detention Center
- Major Bazemore will send an email connecting Dr. Greenblatt with Linda to have a discussion about the program
- Major Bazemore will contact Sherriff Birkhead about the Mental Health Treatment Committee getting on the agenda for the next County Commissioner's April Work Session

Please note our meeting time has changed. We will begin at **3:00 PM** instead of 4:30 PM at the Durham Department of Public Health in the 2nd floor conference room.

***Our next committee meeting is scheduled March 10, 2020 at 3:00 PM, Location: Durham Recovery Response Center at 309 Crutchfield Street Durham, NC 27704**