

Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Task Force

Mental Health Treatment Committee

Minutes

October 13, 2020

Attendees: Helen Tripp, Gudrun Parmer, Elijah Bazemore, Tremaine Sawyer, Lacie Scofield, Nathania Allen, Michelle Easterling, Lawrence Greenblatt, Susan Kornett, Carlyle Johnson, Donna Rosser, Amy O'Regan, Karen Verhaeghe, Nidhi Sachdeva, Brittany Agnew, Cindy Haynes

The group convened, Cindy welcomed everyone and began introductions.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Alliance Health

Alliance has entered the new federal fiscal year for opioid grants, which means new funding. They are waiting on allocation letters and working on plans for continued support of various projects for opioid treatment. They hope to have information soon about the announcement of these projects. They are waiting on new funding and due to the pandemic, waiting on a better time to implement new phases of the project in the Detention Center. There is an RFA for MCO's to apply for *Tailored Plan* eligibility under Medicaid transformation. This is a critical point for the future of Alliance and staff are preoccupied with submitting information to the state during the months of November and December in hopes of meeting eligibility criteria.

Question (Major Bazemore): Do you have a projected date for the letter to extend the funding cycle for the Detention Center project?

Response (Dr. Johnson): Soon. Hopefully this week or next week. They have federal approval to roll the funds over.

Duke ED Peer Support Services

Peer Support Services-Cindy reported that Dr. Eucker has a scheduling conflict and will miss the next two meetings. She will return in December.

Comment (Dr. Greenblatt): One of the Medicaid PHP's is interested in creating a value-based payment program for OBOT. They would pay practices for hitting certain quality markers. They want to pilot the program with Duke in July 2021.

DRRC OBOT

Susan Kornett introduced herself as the new OBOT Supervisor and Clinician and reported on the following:

They have hired a new Peer Navigator, Brittany. The program is up and running. They are doing intakes and referrals and look forward to serving those with need in the community. Susan is happy to be a part of the committee.

Question (Dr. Greenblatt): Are you a prescriber?

Response (Susan): I am a LMHC and a LCAS with extensive MAT background. Dr. Browning is our prescriber.

Question (Dr. Greenblatt): Is RRC considering injectable Buprenorphine (Sublocade) for Medicaid recipients?

Response (Susan): They have met with a rep, but she is not sure.

Program Coordinator (CLC Grant)

Reminded the group that when last we met, one of the Peer Navigators, Christine, had passed and that the other, Herb, was part time. As a result, there was a significant slow down of the project. DRRC has since hired a new full-time peer navigator, Brittany Agnew (Brittany introduced herself to the group and was welcomed by Cindy). Rasheeka Fogg resigned as supervisor for the peer navigators and Susan Kornett is now in that position as well as the supervisor of the OBOT Program. Brittany's schedule is M-F, from 12:00-8:30pm. This overlaps well with the Community Paramedics program and she will accompany them on cold call and home visits of post-overdose patients from 1:00pm-3:00pm. She will also take hospital referrals. The part-time peer navigator, Herb, had a change in hours on his full-time job and had to resign. The job announcement for his position has been posted and it will be shared with the committee. This position will work the morning shift and take hospital referrals in the mornings and referrals from the Detention Center. Once that position is filled, Tremaine Sawyer and Jerome Allen will be contacted. She has also heard from Dr. Eucker that referrals from Duke Main will be starting up again soon.

Dr. Kamath and others from Duke Regional are still working on their referral process. A flyer advertising peer support services has been developed. The intention was for use in the Detention Center but has also shared it with the DCoDPH Safe Syringe Program (SSP). The budget for the new fiscal year includes Funding for educational activities and publications. Specifically, there is money for a publication and a provider training course. The grant also speaks to addressing social determinants of health, to include activities involving housing options and employment, which are vaguer and have no specific budget allocation attached. Lacie, Lindsey Bickers Bock, Donna Rosser and Willa Robinson-Allen met and fleshed out ideas with others on this committee which led to the document you received via email. She screen shared and reviewed the document with the group.

Question (Nidhi Sachdeva): What type of provider training did you have in mind (topic)?

Response (Lacie): A description can be found in the document.

Lacie briefly reviewed each activity.

Comment (Susan Kornett): Really great initiatives. Will email you. Would like to help wherever I can.

Comment (Amy O'Regan): Looks great, Lacie.

Lacie added funding may be needed to support the last two initiatives. This may be another project for the committee. She welcomed others to email additional comments or offers to assist with any of the initiatives.

Detention Center MAT

Program slowed due to COVID-19. There was an outbreak at the Detention Center forcing the facility to shut down. Recently reopened after retesting inmates and staff with all negative results. On September 28, Tremaine's Star Program came back online. As of Mon-October 12, 42-Suboxone, 31 Methadone, for a total of 73. Currently have 2 Suboxone in custody. As for additional data now capturing for Phase 2B Induction: 17 men and 3 women=20 individuals with the potential to participate through COW protocol. Happy to announce that the external FIT person is onboard. Tremaine and Michele Easterling to get individuals linked to resources once released. Have resumed interviewing for the LCAS position previously halted by COVID-19. Will hopefully have someone onboard by November 1. Once this position is filled, will begin recruiting for the Peer Support position. Waiting on response for an additional grant application.

Next steps are:

- Susan and Carlyle will discuss Alliance work with the OBOT at DRRC.
- Lacie will share the job announcement for the part-time peer navigator.
- Reach out to Lacie if interested in working on any of the initiatives for the CLC grant.
- Publication will be updated to reflect Peer Support program and services specific to Durham.
- Lacie to reach out to Loftin concerning other harm reduction programing resources.
- Lacie to talk with Carlyle to get feedback on housing.
- Major Bazemore, Tremaine and Michele Easterling to work with new FIT person to connect persons to services once released.

Please note our meeting will convene from **3:00 PM - 4:30 PM** virtually.

***Our next committee meeting is scheduled November 10, 2020 at 3:00 PM via WebEx and phone.**