

# **Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Task Force**

## **Mental Health Treatment Committee**

### **Minutes**

**November 10, 2020**

**Attendees:** Major Elijah Bazemore, Helen Tripp, Gudrun Parmer, Lacie Scofield, Donna Rosser, Marc Strange, Joy Brunson Nsubuga, Tremaine Sawyer, Carlyle, Keyanna Terry, Gudrun Parmer, Brittany Agnew, Larry Greenblatt, Jesse Battle, Susan Kornett, Cindy Haynes

The group convened, Cindy welcomed everyone and began introductions.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **Alliance Health**

Carlyle reported Alliance is expecting allocation letters any day for the \$268,000 to roll over any day now. There is additional funding from SOR 2 (State Opioid Response 2), will use ten percent for treatment of substance use disorder. Also working on the RFA process through the state to sustain the Detention Center's MAT program.

#### **Duke ED Peer Support Services**

Brittany and Susan reported going back to the foundation and proactively engaging the hospital, units, and stakeholders

#### **DRRC OBOT**

Joy reported no new updates. Now that excellent staff on board, just continuing to building the program. Susan added she is seeing growth, more individuals coming in.

#### **Program Coordinator (CLC Grant)**

Lacie reported in October, we gained 8 new program participants, thanks to our new peer navigator Brittany Agnew. Most of these participants came from our partnership with EMS community paramedics and some came from Duke University Hospital. This has doubled our total number of participants since the start of the grant. Brittany was also able to enroll 6 of those new participants into treatment. We only had one enrollee previously, so we now have 7 total enrollees in the program.

We are still looking to fill the open part-time peer navigator position. DRRC has been interviewing potential candidates. As soon as that person is hired and trained, we will begin taking referrals from the detention center.

Duke University Hospital ED has begun referring patients to both the OBOT program and the peer navigators again. I have been talking to Stephanie Eucker about how to provide Naloxone kits to hospital patients who are first connected with peer navigators over the phone. Currently, all patients who are discharged from the hospital with an opioid use disorder diagnosis receive a prescription for Naloxone. However, for a variety of reasons, patients may not fill the prescription. We thought it would be better if they could leave the hospital with a kit in their hands. Alliance has generously offered to provide those kits and Stephanie is working with Duke to implement a distribution process.

Finally, we are in the planning stages of all 5 educational initiatives that I presented at the last meeting. On Thursday, we are meeting with a planning committee to develop curriculum for the provider training course. Several people from this committee are attending - Carlyle, Susan, Nidhi, Paul, Amy, Aparna, and myself. Donna will be leading the meeting.

### **Detention Center MAT**

Major Bazemore reported he would like to plan a Durham Detention MAT meeting to update everyone on the program's progress. Waiting on funding letter from Alliance.

To date: 46-Suboxone, 32 Methadone, for a total of 78. As of Mon-November 2: 1 Suboxone, 1 Methadone in custody (Both males). Additional data Phase II-B Induction: 19-Men, 3-Women, all identified by COWS. Interviews for LCAS for Detention Center completed and offer extended to candidate, who will start work on November 30. Following training with RI, will begin work in mid-December. Peer support interview scheduled for November 24. Opioid-COVID funding meeting scheduled for Mon-November 16 (\$350,000-Funding for LCAS and 2 PSS) but would also like to fund some reentry activities. . In middle of ACA audits.

### **Next steps are:**

- Use a strategic planning approach to improve sustainability of current initiatives
- Outline what we already have in place to support current grants and initiatives
- Determine what is needed/missing
- Lacie will reach out to Lindsey to attend December meeting.

### **Funding Opportunities – Cindy reported on the following:**

Bureau of Justice Assistance to secure a responsible drug disposal program-Likely that Wanda and the P/E Committee will consider applying. Application due 11/25.

COVID and Opioid: Supporting Justice-involved individuals with SUD during the Pandemic-Major Bazemore mentioned during his report.

Cindy offered her support to Major Bazemore in efforts to pursue funding opportunities.

Major Bazemore reported that the Detention Center did not receive the \$900,000 grant for which they applied last summer. Expressed the need for a dedicated person to assist with grant applications. Cindy recalled that Public Health providing the assistance of their grant writer/evaluator with preparing grant applications. As future funding opportunities are sought, perhaps consider requesting funding for such a position.

Comment (Gudrun): Requesting funding for a project manager, who will manage the grant is a more reasonable ask.

Comment (Carlyle): Added that grant funding is not a sustainable long-term plan given that there can be as much as a 3 month lag time to receive funding, which can result in less time for implementation.

Suggests using grant funding to prove the value of a program to assure that it is seen as a priority and is eventually included in the agency/organization's budget.

Cindy suggested we dedicate the December meeting to discussing a sustainability plan.

Comment (Major Bazemore): expressed concerns that Public Health is not adequately represented on the MHT Committee.

Cindy suggested reaching out to Lindsey to attend December meeting.

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

**\*Our next committee meeting is scheduled December 8, 2020 at 3:00 PM via WebEx and phone.**