

# Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Task Force

## Mental Health Treatment Committee

### Minutes

February 12, 2019

**Attendees:** Katie Mallette, Evan Ashkin, Cheryl Scott, Elijah Bazemore, Kay Sanford, Carlyle Johnson, Stephanie Eucker, Rita Hunter, Joanie, Ross, Lauren Brinkley, Shonica Jones, Larry Greenblatt, Karen Verhaeghe, Margo Faulk, Dorel Clayton, Clarence Birkhead, Jamie Carter, Victoria Thornton, Tremaine Sawyer, Cindy Haynes

The group convened and began introductions. The minutes were approved as submitted. Dr. Carlyle Johnson with Alliance Health (formerly Alliance Behavioral Health) spoke to the group about possible funding opportunities from Alliance. He informed the group that initially Alliance received funding from the CURES grant to expand MAT and offer more services to the uninsured. They opened Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) at the Hope Center. Most who need MAT are those in the Medicaid population. They received a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funding but not enough to support referrals. Now there is 3 million from new state funding. Alliance is thinking of opportunities for sustainability.

The challenge is long term commitment to offer treatment. Now there is more funding remaining that needs to be spent before the summer. Alliance has reach out to the state to request a carry forward to the next fiscal year. Alliance want to prioritize those individuals that cannot afford treatment and make access easier. If the State says yes to the request, Alliance will serve new individuals. The constant question remains, how do make it sustainable? The Big fix would be Medicaid Expansion. Also expecting more funding from the Support Act, waiting on the General assembly to add funding. If the State says no to the carry forward request then Alliance would be willing to offer funding to support MAT in the County Detention Center buy providing funding for the purchase of buprenorphine for the county and naloxone for Duke Emergency Department.

Dr. Evan Ashkin provided information on the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) program. The FIT program supports patients in their transition from the Durham County Detention Center. Dr. Ashkin quoted recent data that North Carolina is the highest state where kids aren't treated for mental health. Model Transitions Clinic Network (EBased). Using Peer Support to as a direct linkage. There was funding from Health Department and we hired a community health worker at DRRC. At risk (first 2 weeks) meds, reduced ED, fewer days behind bars. Durham, Orange, Wake, and Mecklenburg reduced overdose by 61 percent. Take the FIT Model with Lincoln Community Health Center to facilitate the process to continue using suboxone. Dr. Carter at LCHC is very interested in getting treatment for the incarcerated. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, NIH released 30 grants, 1.3 billion to focus on opioid use. They will fund 5 geographic sites for transition clinic network and help with linkage program. Dr. Brinkley Rubinstein has sent Sheriff Birkhead the LOS for his signature to support the NIH JCON Grant. DPS involved and supportive to help program to be sustainable. This will go to the governor and the legislature

and Dr. Ashkin wants to get in the detention center. Recommendation for Medicaid post incarceration, work with Durham Recovery Response Center (DRRC). Roxanne Bryant is our physician champion at DRRC.

Cindy reported that there were at least 15 applicants for the Peer Support Specialist positions. DRRC will hire and supervised these individuals. DRRC will coordinate PSS 3-day training with Georgi Counseling.

Major Bazemore provided an overview of the workflow of MAT in the detention center (See handout provided). The overview included a 4-tier approach:

- Tier 1 - Pregnant women
- Tier 2 – Continuation of MAT
- Tier 3 – Initiate MAT
- Tier 4 – Partnering with Methadone Clinic (BAART)

The County has a contract with BAART but they communicated they have an issue with prescribing suboxone for pregnant women. Dr. Greenblatt suggested that it may be because of the naloxone component for pregnant women. Dr. Lauren Brinkley Rubinstein and Major Bazemore to follow up with BAART about the issue. The estimate is 18 people per day to initiate and random for pregnant women. The MD and NP are to be waived for the detention center. We signed letters from LCHC to participate Samaritan Purse (free clinic in Durham) has limited resources. Duke ED will connect with PSS to go to DRRC if they meet the criteria, DRRC can initiate MAT then connect to Lincoln.

Cindy provided an update on evaluation. Ryan Bell is working on this for the PSS in the Duke ED. The county is working on the metrics, looking at preliminary ED data and discharge notice. Cindy provided Ryan a list of key outcome for the program that were previously identified. Kay Sanford suggested also looking at process evaluation working with multiple agencies. “We want to create a blueprint of the work”. Dr. Lauren Brinkley-Rubinstein will work on the evaluation and including process evaluation, demographics, and insurance. Karen Verhaeghe suggested parent involvement in the ED and DRRC doesn’t see juveniles. Dr. Greenblatt will reach out to Dr. Gary Maslow to ask what is being done for pediatrics.

Upcoming deadlines: State reports due February 28<sup>th</sup> for November 2018 to January 2019 reporting period.

**Next steps are:**

- Dr. Greenblatt to follow up with Dr. Maslow.
- Sheriff Birkhead to sign LOS for NIH grant.
- Dr. Brinkley Rubinstein to work on jail process evaluation and key outcomes.
- Begin process to get Dorel in the jail for FIT Program
- Cindy, Dr. Eucker to look at process evaluation and key outcomes for PSS in Duke ED.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

**Our next committee meeting is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM, Location TBD**