

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

## **Mental Health Treatment Committee**

### **Minutes**

**August 14, 2018**

**Attendees:** Katie Mallette, Tremaine Sawyer, Rita Hunter, Carlyle Johnson, Karen Verhaeghe, Gayle Harris, Cheryl Scott, Margaret Ruth Slade, Shonicia Jones, Elasa Mims, Timothy Vanhook, Terry Thomas, Larry Greenblatt, Sean Barnes, Elijah Bazemore, Cindy Haynes, Fred Johnson, Marissa Mortiboy, Jesse Battle

The group convened and began introductions. The group reviewed and approved minutes as submitted. TROSA guests began with discussion of any barriers they may have faced in the community while seeking treatment. During the discussion and sharing of experiences the common denominator relating to barriers for treatment was the various protocols and policies in place for the facilities offering treatment services and community support. Gayle Harris encouraged the TROSA guests to continue to think about any additional barriers and share that information with the group to help us as we move forward to design a program. They will share additional thoughts, comments with Jesse Battle and he will report back to the group.

In addition, Jesse informed the group that TROSA has a few policies in place that presents as a barrier for those seeking their services. For example, TROSA requires documentation for mental health issues and a full assessment. TROSA is not allowed to have patients taking benzos, Haldol, or other various medications to treat mental health behaviors that they are not equipped to treat. Gayle asked if TROSA could make this information available to share with referring agencies. Fred Johnson recommended that TROSA consider having their onsite clinic and psych team do the assessment to alleviate encountering problems initially. He also asked if there is way to get what is needed in place to treat substance use and mental health conditions. Dr. Carlyle Johnson offered to share a white paper with us on the topic and supporting materials from SAMHSA.

Gayle shared an overview on Correct Care Solutions (CCS). Durham County has contracted with CCS for 12 years to provide a public health model that provides care through a comprehensive delivery for ongoing services and medication. The Criminal Justice Resource Center provides the mental health services and staff. The county allots \$550,000 for these services and pharmacy provides all medications. Gayle receives all calls for the county and sends them to Cheryl to work with the patients. MAT has been discussed and patients are sent to BAART. The pregnant women are allowed to continue medication and are sent to BAART with an escort while other patients are clinically withdrawn before going to BAART. There is approximately 20-25 women per year on suboxone. The county has tried to secure a contract with BAART but have been unsuccessful in receiving a response. Dr. Carlyle Johnson offered to assist the county with securing a contract.

Tremaine Sawyer informed the group that the STARR Program provides naloxone once patients are released from the jail. In addition, STARR works with Kay Sanford to conduct naloxone training with the detainees/patients. Fred also reminded the group that the problem is there is a gap in services from starting MAT in the jail and what happens once they are released. There is no funding to support those who are uninsured. We need to think about that while planning the program. Jesse Battle suggested we recommend to the State that they support suboxone and MAT.

The group ran out of time for further discussion and agreed that there is a significant amount of information to be covered and not enough time to discuss and review in effort to develop a plan to address this issue.

Therefore our next scheduled meeting will be extended to further discuss and develop a plan to implement MAT in the jail system. Our next meeting will begin at **5:00 PM** instead of 5:30 PM at the Durham Department of Public Health in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. The group agreed to begin designing a plan for this process during the next meeting. Next steps are:

- Cheryl will provide data on how many in the jail are in withdrawal protocol
- Sheriff Bazemore will data on drop in recidivism rates
- Design a plan to incorporate MAT in CCS contract

**Our next committee meeting is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room C.**