**Durham Joins Together Saving Lives**

**December 10, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Co – Chairs: Dr. Wanda Boone, CEO of Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) & Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair of Board of Commissioners**

Attending: Wendy Jacobs Vice-Chair Durham BOCC, Dr. Wanda Boone TRY, Cindy Haynes Duke Population Health, Donna Rosser DCoDPH, Paula Harrington Oxford Housing, Heidi Carter Durham BOCC, Lois Harvin-Ravin Durham Co Veterans Services, Ben Rose DCoDSS, Spencer Bradford Durham Congregations in Action, Carlyle Johnson Alliance Health, Brittany Agnew DRRC, Dr. Evan Ashkin NC Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program, Dedreana Freeman Durham City Council, Cpt. Helen Tripp DCoEMS, Kiana Terry DCoDPH FIT, Lacie Scofield DCoDPH, Major E. Bazemore Durham County Detention, Mark Strange DCoCJRC, Nancy Rosales TRY, Phillip Graham RTI International, Susan Kornett RI Durham, Lindsey Bickers Bock DCoDPH

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|  | **Agenda Items** | **Notes** |
| 5:30-5:35 | Welcome - Wendy Jacobs, Task Force Co-Chair | Wendy extended the welcome and thanked members of the DJT Task Force for continuing their very important work while keeping themselves and their families safe. Emphasized importance of the work considering mental and financial stress brought on by the pandemic, while those with SUD have poorer outcomes from COVID-19. Wendy had attendees introduce themselves and their affiliations. |
| 5:35-5:45 | Status of Work post UNC SOG – Dr. Wanda Boone – Task Force Co-Chair | Wanda reported that the UNC-SOG grant has ended. Durham was one of eight communities funded for $20,000 over 2 years, to assess and find solutions for opioid overdose. Pleased to report that all eight committees are still intact, and coordinators still meet to discuss work. In Durham, sub-committees are still active. |
|  | Committee Reports |  |
| 5:45-5:55 | Prevention and Education –Dr. Wanda Boone and Dr. Angeloe Burch, Sr.  *Durham County Substance Use Report – Dr. Wanda Boone*  *Overdose in the Black Community* | Wanda reported that she and Cindy Haynes (Chair of MH/T Committee), raised concerns about overdose in the Black community 2 to 3 years ago. Dr. Boone was finally able to get data from the state to support concerns. Included report on findings at last quarterly meeting. Wanda shared findings as follows: All Opioid Overdoses in Durham-Black=56%, white=43% (Durham only NC County reporting this phenomenon); Heroin and Other Synthetic Narcotics-Black=37.6%, white=25.7%; Commonly Prescribed Opioids-Black=10.7%, white=12.5%; Cocaine-Black=22.2%, white=2.2%; Benzodiazepines-Black=5.6%, white=11.4% . When thinking about data, important to understand that prevention strategies should be targeted to populations most at risk. This is what the Prevention and Education Committee has been doing. TRY has secured $550,000 in resilience and substance use prevention funds. Over last 3 years, has seen decrease in past 30-day use of alcohol and tobacco (not vapes), decrease in past 30-day misuse of prescription drugs by youth, an increase in perception of risk by youth, marijuana and vape use is up among youth. Concerning opioids, the committee’s message has been, “Prevention is key. Take only what you need. Discard unused pills. Naloxone saves lives.”  Wendy invited Whole Health Ambassadors (CHWs) to share insights and experiences. Two in attendance who did not wish to speak. |
| 5:55-6:05 | Treatment and Mental Health – Cindy Haynes  Community Linkages to Care Grant Award– Lindsay Bickers Bock  Data – Ryan Bell (Mental Health/Treatment Data) | Treatment/Mental Health Committee  Cindy expressed her thanks to Donna for contributing to committee meeting minutes and conveying messages both to and from the committee. She welcomed Susan Kornett, OBOT Supervisor with RI and Brittany Agnew, peer support specialist with DRRC. Working with Dr. Eucker in Duke Main ED and will present to the Duke ED faculty on the Peer Support program. Lacie instrumental in getting Peer Support program up and running. DRRC looking to expand OBOT services into community. Detention Center MAT Program is a model for the state. Since its inception in September 2019, 47 individuals on Suboxone, 34 on Methadone for a total of 81 participants in Phase 1. Major Bazemore emphasized they had only 7 individuals in the program to recidivate. Phase 2, 23 individuals identified as eligible for induction. Detention Center has meeting scheduled with Public Health leadership to discuss continued collaboration. FIT and LCAS positions filled. Public Health Director, Rod Jenkins, was invited and did attend December 8 T/MH Committee meeting. The committee thought it important that Health Director Jenkins know about their work and how they positioned DCoDPH to respond to the opioid epidemic in the community. In order to continue, there also needed to be conversation with Public Health and the BOCC about sustainability and what the investment would be from all agencies represented on the committee. Cindy also commended Carlyle Johnson and Alliance Health for assistance with funding to fill gaps for existing programs and would like to discuss the same level of commitment from Public Health and the BOCC.  Wendy asked that she and Cindy talk offline concerning next steps for funding for the Detention Center MAT and FIT programs.  Wanda responded concerning the importance of collective impact and although committees may have a variety of programs for which they are seeking funding, there is value in applying for grants together, rather than working in silos.  Major Bazemore added in order to move programming in Detention Center forward, will need 1 million dollars in grant funding by July 1 of 2021. Requesting assistance with finding grants for which to apply. Plans to apply for a DHHS grant in January for $250,000.  Cindy commended Treatment/Mental Health Committee members for hard work and level of commitment.  CLC Grant  Lindsey reported 1 year and 1 week into the Community Linkages to Care grant. COVID has resulted in much different year than expected when writing for the grant. Expressed tremendous thanks to Lacie for program coordination efforts and for working with Cindy, Dr. Boone and others to make the program work better than it started despite challenges. Goal of the program is to connect any Durham County resident to treatment or support related to substance use or addiction (harm-reduction, housing, jobs) as ways to connect people to success in dealing with substance use. Peer support specialists seen as heart of program. Thrilled to again have 2 peer support specialists working with the program and in both Duke hospitals. With COVID restrictions, the focus has been less on hospital Ed, but on inpatient referrals. Lindsey also commended Helen and Community Paramedics program for providing opportunities to meet people at their homes or in a place of their choosing along with peer support specialists. Third way to connect is through Detention Center and the Local Reentry Council. Mentioned partnership with TRY to develop Educational Resource Guide that will appear on a new page on the DCoDPH website specific to Opioid, Substance Use and Addiction Services. Developing trainings for Public Health staff and healthcare providers in the Duke system so that they are aware of services. Lindsey expressed thanks to all partners who are contributing to the success of the CLC program. She placed links in the chat for services listed on the new webpage.  Data Committee  There was no report from the Data Committee. |
| 6:05-6:10 | Policy Group Update, Phillip Graham and Robert Albright | Phillip shared that with respect to discussions about sustainability in previous reports, the task force continuing to meet provides a unique opportunity. He has been meeting with Robert to assign meaning to Policy-Big P and Little p. To Cindy and Major Bazemore, part of that may center around thinking more strategically about comprehensive funding and ways to support it. The Policy Committee needs to take a broad look at everything needed for 2 years’ worth of funding and figure out how to support folks moving forward. Thinks that there are funding opportunities within foundations that have not been tapped into. Will have his people pull together a list of those resources; particularly those dealing with opioid related policy. Phillip looks forward to providing an update at the beginning of the year. |
| 6:10-6:30 | Discussion, Questions, Feedback, Next Steps | Wendy expressed kudos to Wanda, Durham TRY and the Whole Health Ambassadors; to Cindy, Lindsey, Major Bazemore and DRRC. Invited anyone who had not had an opportunity to speak, to do so.  Brittany shared that it is nice to be around people interested in helping the community. Added that there are people wanting to be heard, need housing and trauma-informed care. Excited to advocate for people who need help.  Susan also expressed her excitement about working with the DJT Task Force and other committees. She welcomes any feedback on ways to make the OBOT program at RI welcoming and accessible to people of color. Aware that these communities are grossly underserved and underrepresented in the use of MAT.  Paula shared that she is grateful to work with this group. She is a member of TRY, works with Oxford Housing and realizes the importance of housing and recovery. Oxford House supports people on MAT. Believes in Prevention and Education.  Helen expressed pride in the Community Paramedics Team and the work that they have been doing. Very pleased when Lacie presented the numbers of referrals to DRRC that came from community paramedics at last T/MH Committee meeting. Also, that the highest number of conversions to MAT and continuing in treatment are patients that community paramedics referred to DRRC. She commends DRRC on the work they do.  Lacie shared data that Helen provided on Overall Overdoses that EMS has responded to since July 2019. The data shows a significant spike in overdoses since the start of the pandemic and compared with data from 2019. Lacie also shared data on overdoses broken down by race. This data provided by EMS showed African Americans accounted for 48% of overdoses in 2020, although they only comprise roughly 40% of the population in Durham.  Wanda repeated prevention message and talked about TRY activities to address disparity.  Wanda concluded the meeting with the following message:  “Take time to create a life that you love. Don’t be so focused on the day-to-day, that you can’t practice self-care.”  She thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. |
|  | Next meeting: No meeting scheduled. |  |

Schedule for Durham Joins Together committees:

Prevention/Education – 2nd Wednesday 10:30am Virtual

Mental Health/Treatment and Data – 2nd Tuesdays 3:00 PM

Policy – To be determined