

Due to the ongoing social distancing restrictions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Durham County Board of Health Meeting was conducted virtually. The virtual option aligns with social distancing requirements which ensure the safety of citizens who wish to participate as well as Board members and Durham County Government staff.

The agenda, weblink and access code were posted to DCoDPH website and provided to the Clerk to the Board office 48 hours prior to the meeting for citizens to join by computer or phone.

A Regular Meeting of the Durham County Board of Health was held October 14, 2021 with the following members present:

Rosemary Jackson, MD; Spencer "Spence" Curtis, MPA, BS; Victoria Orto, DNP, RN, NEA-BC; Mary Braithwaite, MD, MSPH; James Miller, DVM; Roger McDougal, DDS; Gene Rhea, PharmD, MHA; Commissioner Nida Allam and Josh Brown

Excused Absence: Roger McDougal, DDS

Others Present: Rod Jenkins, Rosalyn McClain, Kristen Patterson, Liz Stevens, Attorney Bryan Wardell, Will Sutton, Michele Easterling, Chris Salter, Marcia Richardson, Jim Harris, Lindsey Bickers-Brock, Marissa Mortiboy; Dr. Anita Jackson, Hattie Wood, Lindsey Caster, Bria Miller, Alecia Smith, Cheryl Scott, Dr. Chitrakala Jagadeesan, Laura Lerch and Antrel Branch

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chair Rosemary Jackson called the virtual meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

Due to the unexpected resignation of board chair, Eric Ireland, effective September 7, 2021; Attorney Wardell provided the board with instructions pursuant to the procedures of the Board of Health to appoint a new chair to serve out the remainder of the current term.

Chair Appointment Procedure is as follows:

1. Vice-Chair will be affirmed as new Board Chair
2. An affirmation vote from the majority of present board members is required
3. A roll call vote was conducted to affirm majority vote
4. The new board chair appointed a new vice-chair to serve out the remainder of the current term from those board members who were available and willing to serve in the position.

Vice-Chair Rosemary Jackson was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above to serve as Board Chair for the remainder of the current term.

Chair Jackson asked if there were any nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Curtis made a motion to nominate Dr. Mary Braithwaite as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Allam seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

Dr. Rosemary Jackson and Dr. Mary Braithwaite agreed to accept the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair.

**DISCUSSION (AND APPROVAL) OF ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: DISCUSSION (AND APPROVAL) OF ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:** Chair Jackson requested the following addition:

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1. Budget Amendment-Fee schedule changes (*new business*)

Dr. Orto made a motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Allam seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING/ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL:**

Dr. Rhea made a motion to approve the minutes for August 12, 2021. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

**STAFF/PROGRAM RECOGNITION:**

Mr. Jenkins, Public Health Director for Durham County Department of Public Health continued to recognized the Public health staff for their continued COVID vaccination and response efforts.

Chair Jackson recognized Mr. Eric Ireland for his service on the board and his past work at the health department as Deputy Health Director. Chair Jackson stated that he will truly be missed and we wish him the very best.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:**

Chair Jackson called for administrative reports/presentations:

**2020 COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE (*Activity 1.1*)**

Ms. Bria Miller, Partnership for Healthy Durham coordinator provided the board with an update on the 2020 Community Health Assessment and Improvement process and the results of the community listening sessions.

A Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a process by which community members and stakeholders gain an understanding of the health issues that affect their county by collecting, analyzing and sharing information about community assets and needs. The 2020 CHA document was created as a collaboration among the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, the Durham County Department of Public Health and Duke Health. The 2020 CHA process included:

- A community-wide survey
- Analyze data
- Write and edit document
- Intentional framing around equity
- Chapter on climate change
- Focus on COVID-19 pandemic
- Community involvement from beginning to end

*(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation and 2020 Executive Summary Report are attached to the minutes.)*

**FISCAL YEAR END 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT (*Activity 33.6*)**

Mr. Sutton, Local Finance Administrator provided the board with an overview of FY 2021 End of The Year budgets, expenditures and revenues for the department.

*(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is attached to the minutes.)*

**SCHOOL NURSE PROGRAM COVID-19 ACTIVITIES UPDATE (*Activity 10.3*)**

Cheryl Scott, School Health Program Manager provided the board with an overview on the department's outreach activities and how Durham County Department of Public Health School Nurses respond to Covid-19 cases in the Durham Public School System.

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The school health nurses collaborate with students, families and school staff to:

- Identify vulnerable students
- High risk medical conditions
- Homelessness
- Mental health concerns
- Food insecurity

*(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is attached to the minutes.)*

**PUBLIC HEALTH VACANCY REPORT (Activity 37.6)**

The board received a copy of the vacancy reports through the end of August and September 2021 prior to the meeting. The vacancy rate for August 2021 was 15.4% and 16.2% for September 2021.

*(Copies of August 2021 & September 2021 Vacancy reports are attached to the minutes.)*

**NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS (NOV) REPORT (Activity 18.2)**

The board received a copy of the Environmental Health Onsite Water Protection Section NOV report through the end of September 2021 prior to the meeting.

*(Copies of the August 2021 & September 2021 NOV reports are attached to the minutes.)*

**HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
October 14, 2021**

**Division / Program: Health Education & Community Transformation / Bull City Strong**

**(Accreditation Activity 10.2: The local health department shall carry out or assist other agencies in the development, implementation and evaluation of health promotion/disease prevention programs and educational materials targeted to groups identified as at-risk in the community health assessment.)**

**Program description:**

- Bull City Strong is a new community-based partnership to address the increased risk of contracting, being hospitalized, and dying from COVID-19 among Black, Hispanic, and other historically marginalized populations in Durham County, North Carolina. Funded by the federal Office of Minority Health, the project works to increase the use of proven health strategies to improve health literacy to address disparities in health outcomes related to COVID-19.

**Statement of goals:**

- Develop and disseminate health and safety information that is accurate, accessible, and actionable. Improve access of existing health information to individuals with limited digital access and/or awareness of existing resources.
- Promote changes in the health care delivery system that improve health information, communication, informed decision making, and access to health services.
- Expand local efforts to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate health information services in the community.
- Increase the dissemination and use of evidence-based health literacy practices and interventions.

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**Issues:**

- **Opportunities**

- The project provides Durham County with significant new federal funding to enhance existing work to address COVID-19 related disparities and partner with local organizations, including North Carolina Central University, LATIN-19, Project Access of Durham County, and Pillar Consulting.
- This funding will enable Durham County Department of Public Health to develop and expand the existing network of community health workers – frontline public health workers who are trusted members of the communities they serve. DCoDPH has been a leader among local health departments highlighting the value of these roles in the community and our work to address health disparities.

- **Challenges**

- Low health literacy is associated with poorer health outcomes, including lower use of preventive health services and reduced vaccination uptake. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Durham County is 0.6186, a moderate to high level of vulnerability.
- Building staffing capacity for this project, when there are already high needs for COVID-19 response are challenging. The immediate need to hire the three full-time positions funded by this project is high.

**Implication(s):**

- **Outcomes**

- A baseline health literacy evaluation will be completed once the North Carolina Central University Institutional Review Board has approved this project and all documentation of the research efforts involved in this project have been completed in line with the County and health department policies around research.
- An initial community stakeholders' team meeting will be held on October 6, 2021 to present an overview of the grant and introduce a quality improvement framework to the community-based project.

- **Service delivery**

- Proposed strategies to implement over the next two years include a mass media campaign to provide accurate, accessible and actionable information; developing and expanding existing networks of community health workers who can address social determinants of health; working with local artists and journalists to create native content with accurate health messages; creation of materials in languages that reflect Durham's diversity; coaching and education to Durham community members from historically marginalized populations to improve their access to and utilization of high-quality health care; and creating a digital learning community to advance organizational health literacy.

- **Staffing**

- A dozen existing DCoDPH staff will provide 5-20% of their overall time to this project over the year ahead. These staff are in the Health Education & Community Transformation, Population Health, Nutrition and Administration Divisions.
- The grant will support three new full-time staff: a Bilingual Health Literacy Program Manager, a Community Health Worker Coordinator, and an Office Assistant. These positions

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will initially be filled with contract workers as County HR reviews requests for new provisional staff.

- Additional staffing will come from contracted arrangements with North Carolina Central University, LATIN-19 and Pillar Consulting.
- **Revenue**
  - The federal Office of Minority Health has awarded Durham County \$2 million for a two-year grant period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023. These funds will be split 45%/ 55% between years one and two of the grant. Approximately 35% of the funds across both years will be subcontracted to NCCU, LATIN-19, Project Access of Durham County, and Pillar Consulting.
  - This work will also be supplemented by a new addendum agreement, for \$39,900, from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services focused on Advancing Equity, which is to be used to implement a communications and messaging campaign addressing COVID-19 prevention and vaccination for populations at higher risk, underserved, and disproportionately affected.

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies:**

- The Office of Minority Health will review Durham County's health literacy plan, evaluation plan and grant work plan in early October.
- Contract hiring will occur in October.
- Program implementation will begin after IRB approval, compliance with County research protocols is confirmed, and baseline evaluation efforts have been completed. Program implementation will be guided by a Communications team, a Community Health Workers team, a data team, and an evaluation team, all of which will include participants from DCoDPH, NCCU, Project Access, LATIN-19 and Pillar Consulting.

**Division / Program: Health Education & Community Transformation / Health Promotion Employee Wellness**  
**(Accreditation Activity #10.1: The local health department shall develop, implement and evaluate population-based health promotion/disease prevention programs and educational materials for the general public)**

**Program description**

- Durham County Department of Public Health, Health Promotion & Wellness program collaborates with Human Resources on County employee wellness initiatives and activities. Public Health is responsible for managing the three county owned fitness centers. As a result of COVID-19, fitness centers and gyms throughout the state of North Carolina closed in March 2020. Durham County approved reopening our fitness facilities in July 2021.

**Statement of goals**

- In support of Durham County Government's Strategic Plan Goal 2, Health and Well Being for All, the Fitness Center provides a no-fee facility with quality equipment and a safe environment to exercise. Employees who register as part of the Choose to Move program also receive 30 minutes of paid time daily to be physically active.

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**Issues**

• **Opportunities**

- Employees eagerly waited for the fitness centers to open. This was evident by the frequent emails, calls and inquiries regardless of environment.
- During the pandemic closures, many employees gave up private gym memberships and opted to exercise on their own until our facilities opened again.
- Per conversations with employees, many stated they were more comfortable exercising using our facilities than other sites as ours were smaller and have a limited audience of only Durham County employees.
- While unable to offer in-person classes, the Wellness Attendant offered live streams from the Human Services Building Fitness Center using Zoom. Efforts were made to use Microsoft Teams instead of Zoom, but it was not a good fit for the classes. Classes are not recorded, but since the classes are virtual, this resource has been open to residents outside of Durham County Government employees.

• **Challenges**

- Durham County fitness centers were approved to open six months or more after most public gyms and facilities reopened. Employees did not understand why this was the case.
- Disinfectant wipes were not available and were on backorder from every supplier within the network.
- Due to COVID-19 and limited parking for one department, many employees were given the opportunity to work remotely. This left fewer employees physically onsite that would have used the fitness facilities.
- The size of the two aerobics rooms made it difficult to offer in-person classes and socially distance at the same time. Participation in group fitness has been low, but it has slowly started to increase.
- There are constant complaints of how difficult it is to use the cardio equipment while wearing a mask.
- Data usage from the Courthouse Fitness Center has not been received but requested. There consistently has been a challenge getting this data even prior to the closings due to COVID-19. Employee Wellness staff members do not have access to this closed system.

**Implication(s)**

• **Outcomes**

- Durham County Fitness facilities reopened in June 2021. Employees are thankful that the fitness facilities have reopened.
- In June 2021, there were 478 badge swipes at the Human Services Fitness Center. In July 2021, swipes increased to 606, and they climbed to 719 in August. Data from August 2021 is not yet available. Data has not been obtained for Admin II.

• **Service delivery**

- Virtual programs and educational materials were developed and delivered by health educators.
- The Employee Wellness Team worked quickly to reopen the fitness centers with less than two weeks' notice. This required taking some equipment out of use (social

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distancing), posting signage about masks and use requirements, setting up hand hygiene stations, and making more disinfectant solutions available.

- **Staffing**
  - Two health educators and Wellness Attendant (Contractor)
- **Revenue**
  - None

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies**

- Virtual classes will continue to be offered while COVID-19 rates are on the rise.
- A hybrid option may be added within the next quarter.
- During quarter two, in-person series will begin depending on interest once the registrations open in late September 2021.

**Division / Program: Health Education & Community Transformation/ ITTS Community Testing Program**  
**(Accreditation Activity 10.1 the local health department shall develop, implement and evaluate population-based health promotion/disease prevention programs and educational materials for the general public)**

**Program description**

- The Integrated Targeted Testing Services (ITTS) community testing program is designed to provide HIV/STI testing services to high-risk HIV negative people, such as men who have sex with men of all races and ethnicities, women, people who inject drugs, commercial sex workers, transgender persons, people living with HIV/AIDS that are unaware of their status, and other at-risk priority groups.
- This program ensures that clients testing positive are successfully linked to medical care and other services. The ITTS program implements strategies and/or interventions to reduce barriers to testing and address health inequities among key groups disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic.

**Statement of goals**

- Provide HIV, Hepatitis C (HCV), Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia (STI) testing to community members.
- Provide HIV/ HCV/STI counseling, information, and active referrals to needed services for all applicable clients.
- Maintain condom distribution sites around Durham County and distribute condoms to persons living with HIV/AIDS and other clients at high risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.
- Provide linkage to follow-up medical care, treatment, partner notification and/or case management services for HIV positive and STI positive clients.
- Coordinate Durham County's outreach component of the Safe Syringe Program (SSP) and naloxone distribution efforts.

**Issue**

- **Opportunities**
  - The COVID-19 response pulled the Adult Health Clinic staff from their normal testing responsibilities. Health Educators have provided HIV/HCV/STI testing for all of the Department of Public Health's testing only clients while the clinic nurses administered COVID-19 vaccines.

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- **Challenges**

- Public Health's efforts to increase preparedness measures for COVID-19 pulled staff from their normal roles and responsibilities. ITTS staff worked within various COVID-19 response groups, including public education, interpretation, contact tracing, testing, and vaccinations.
- The 2020 malware attack on the county limited our ability to communicate with community members and partners.
- COVID-19, and related local and NC executive orders restricting gatherings and face-to-face educational opportunities, severely limited the group's usual ability to do community outreach.
- Many of our community partners are still operating under limited capacity and are unable to produce participants for our testing programs.

**Implication(s)**

- **Outcomes**

- Program objectives were met this year.
  - 675 community members were screened for HIV and other STIs.
  - 46,000 condoms were distributed through various high-risk areas in Durham.
  - 8 community members were provided safe syringes and naloxone.

- **Service delivery**

- Community engagement, testing, and other ITTS services occurred primarily within the Public Health building. Staff continued to integrate social media and downloadable applications into testing activities to spread key messages and increase awareness and access to testing services to key priority groups.

- **Staffing**

- Two full-time program staff have supported this work over the last year: Dennis Hamlet and Ashley Bueno
- Annette Carrington has served as the Program Manager, alongside significant COVID-19 response tasks.

- **Revenue**

- This work is funded by State Agreement Addendums 825 and 534. Together these two AAs provide \$677,410 to Durham County in FY21-22.

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies**

- Advocate for health educators to be able to distribute medication to patients infected with Chlamydia.
- Develop innovative strategies with the Public Health's HIV Navigator to increase the number of people that are aware of their HIV and antiretroviral therapy status and ultimately become virally suppressed.
- Integrate new services into our outreach program such as Aptima Multitest Swabs.

**Division / Program: Dental Division / Oral Health Screenings at Early Head Start Sites**

**(Accreditation Activity 20. 1- The local health department shall collaborate with community health care providers to provide personal and preventative health services.)**



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**Program description**

- The Dental Division conducts dental screenings for children in Early Head Start at various childcare centers in Durham.
- A Public Health Hygienist provides screenings to identify cavities and emerging dental issues.
- After the screening, parents receive a letter with the results. The letters state whether the child has or does not have caries and explains that if the child does not have a dental home the parent can call the Public Health Dental Clinic to schedule an appointment.

**Statement of goals**

- Annual dental screenings provide indications of the prevalence of dental disease in children in the County- and how Durham compares with other counties within the state.
- To make parents aware of their child's current oral health status and treatment needs.

**Issues**

• **Opportunities**

- The screenings serve as a positive (and sometimes first) dental experience for children, assisting in collecting vital information to help improve children's dental health programs.
- Those children without a dental home can be seen at the Department of Public Health Dental Clinic.
- The screenings include education for children (and parents), as well as staff via oral health presentations at the sites.

**Challenges**

- As we continue to schedule screenings, a couple of sites have been hesitant to schedule, especially when there were spikes in COVID cases.
- There are often last-minute adjustments to the screening schedule when arriving at the sites, including finding space for the hygienist.

**Implication(s)**

• **Outcomes**

After being unable to screen for the past eighteen months, the Division completed screenings at:

*Linking Connections*  
*Randy's 5 Star Academy*  
*Primary Colors*  
*Early Start Academy*

Additional screenings are being schedule at *Toddler's Academy* and *All My Children*.

• **Service delivery**

The Division screened 87 children to date and provided presentations at each site.

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- **Staffing**
  - Fariba Mostaghimi, Public Health hygienist, completed the screening.
  
- **Revenue**
  - N/A
  
- **Other**
  - N/A

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies**

The Division will continue to talk with center directors schedule for the 2021-22 school year

**Division / Program: Population Health / Epidemiology**

**(Accreditation Activity 9.1: The local health department shall publish and disseminate data and information on current local health issues to the general public, community partners, and elected and appointed officials.**

**Program description**

The COVID-19 vaccine data distribution mapping application provides information on vaccine doses administered to Durham County, NC residents at the census group level for our populations of color. The map can be found at <https://durhampublichealth-durhamnc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/populations-of-color-vaccinations-map> and is integrated with the Durham County Coronavirus Data Hub website.

The mapping application is updated weekly with information regarding vaccine completion percentages, vaccination provider sites, and the estimated percent of populations of color still to be vaccinated all at the census group level. We have also provided and continually update our weekly reflection and Board of County Commissioners reports to provide analysis on our vaccine data as well as our covid cases. We update these documents with new innovative graphs, analysis and breakdowns of what the data is showing us, to provide insight into how we are being affected by COVID-19. As our understanding of COVID-19 evolves so do the questions we ask. We provide detailed information in these documents about our case clusters, demographics and trends, which allows us to inform our community how COVID-19 is impacting us as well as taking precautionary actions to help mitigate the negative effects and spread of the disease.

**Statement of goals**

- Provide accurate and timely data regarding Durham County COVID-19 vaccine distribution and case data.
- Provide COVID-19 vaccine data, case trends and resources for Durham County residents.
- Provide COVID-19 vaccine data and case trends in an interactive format that is easy to understand.

**Issues**

- **Opportunities**
  - Provide data to the media, stakeholders, partners, elected officials and community residents.
  - Provide a clear and comprehensive picture of Durham County residents being vaccinated and where.
  - Analyze data to track disparities in vaccine distribution and develop strategies along with community partners to address them.
  - Deduce case trends based on demographics, location and how we relate to our surrounding communities.

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- **Challenges**

- Data is obtained from an outside source, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on a weekly basis.
- Maintaining and processing the large amount of data we receive weekly.

**Implication(s)**

- **Outcomes**

- October 2021 Durham County COVID Webpage Analytics
  - Total webpage visits- 567,306
  - Unique Page Views 387,890
  - Average time on Page, 2 Minutes 55 seconds

- **Staffing**

- The Durham County Department of Public Health Data Scientist maintains the site. Durham County IS&T assists with troubleshooting issues.
- The Population Health Data Scientist developed the Vaccines by Populations of Color dashboard.

- **Revenue**

- None

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies**

- Continue to update the dashboard and data reflections on a weekly basis with new data and update features and information as needed.
- Develop tailored strategies for equitable vaccine distribution based on Durham County vaccine data.
- Continue to monitor new and innovative methodologies for displaying and distributing data.

**Division / Program: Public Health / Environmental Health General Inspections**

**(Accreditation Activities 16.3 – Environmental health staff shall be trained in the implementation of laws, rules, and ordinances that they enforce and shall have access to copies of the laws, rules, and ordinances)**

**Program description**

- **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 NCDHHS and the State of North Carolina adopt the 2017 FDA Food Code and Supplement as the basis of food protection rules in the State of North Carolina:** This effort has been a collaboration of partners from industry, academia, and local and state regulatory agencies working together to incorporate and apply the most up to date science in the regulation the over 36,000 establishments in North Carolina. Changes in the amended and readopted rules (15A NCAC 18A .2650, .2651, .2652, .2653, .2654, .2655, .2661, .2670, and .2674) became effective **October 1, 2021**. As with all new rule changes or adoptions, the first inspection after this adoption will be used to educate operators on the new items that will be added to the inspection form with no penalty to the overall score.

**Statement of goals:**

- Promote active managerial control of risk factors most commonly associated with foodborne illness in food establishments.

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- Establish a federally recommended framework for retail food regulatory programs.

**Issues:**

- **Opportunities**
  - Inspector/Operator education and adjustments
  - Remove requirements rendered unnecessary by the new code
  - Improved food safety that's science based
- **Challenges**
  - Training staff (virtual meetings/training conducted September 21, 23, and 29)
  - Two additional lines added to the inspection form make references back to previous inspection violations difficult
  - Additional and ongoing training by inspections staff for operators

**Implication(s)**

- **Outcomes**
  - More uniform application of rules and regulations as they apply to retail food service establishments aligning Durham County and the North Carolina with most other states.
  - Safer food supply with less burden on establishment owners and operators in some cases.
- **Service delivery**
  - N/A
- **Staffing**
  - Program will involve all regulatory staff members of the General Inspections section, 15 people, which includes the Division Director
- **Revenue**
  - N/A

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies**

- Continue practice and application of the new code and documentation by staff until they become proficient
- Adjust quality assurance program activities as needed to compensate for changes
- Incorporate changes into educational conversations and demonstrations during food service inspections and visits

**Division / Program: Pharmacy & Health Education / Safe Syringe Program**

(Accreditation Activity 10.1 -The local health department shall develop, implement, and evaluate population-based health promotion/disease prevention programs and materials for the general public.)

**Program description**

- On April 2, 2018, the DCoDPH Pharmacy launched the Safe Syringe Program based on the guidance and program requirements from the NC Division of Public Health.

**Statement of goals**

- To offer new needles, syringes, and injection supplies to reduce the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C in the community.
- To offer free HIV and Hepatitis C testing and follow-up care.

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- To offer education, treatment information, and referrals to community members.
- To provide a safe method of disposal for used needles and syringes.

**Issues**

• **Opportunities**

- Reduce the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C by offering new needles, syringes, and injection supplies.
- Reduce the risk of bacterial infections (i.e. endocarditis) that occur when injection supplies are reused.
- Connect participants with community resources including treatment options, health care, and housing assistance.
- The following items are provided in the Safe Syringe Kit:
  - 10 sterile 1.0mL syringes with fixed needles
  - Alcohol swabs
  - Tourniquet
  - Condoms
  - Sharps Container
  - Additional injection supplies
  - Participant ID card
  - Printed material for harm reduction and ancillary services
- Fentanyl testing strips and Naloxone kits are also offered with each SSP Kit.

• **Challenges**

- Ensure that used needles and syringes are properly discarded in a puncture proof container. Sharps containers are included with SSP Kits and participants are encouraged to use of them and return the container to the DCoDPH Pharmacy.
- Ensure that used needles and syringes are not deposited in the medication drop box in the HHS lobby.
- Bull City United was previously housed within the Department of Public Health but moved to form a separate County department for FY 21-22. BCU staff are working closely with DCoDPH staff to update all protocols to continue to distribute naloxone to program participants.

**Implications**

• **Outcomes**

- The following statistics have been collected for Jul-Sept 2021:
  - New participants: 11
  - Total contacts: 34
  - Syringes dispensed: 730
  - Syringes returned\*: ~4502
  - Sharps containers dispensed: 15
  - Fentanyl strips dispensed: 0
  - Naloxone kits distributed (with SSP): 22
  - Naloxone kits distributed (non-SSP): 97
  - Naloxone reversals reported: 0

\*“Syringes returned” metric includes needles/syringes returned directly to staff regardless of usage (i.e. substance use, medical use, prescription use)

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- **Service delivery**
  - Planning and implementation were completed by the Opioid Response Committee with guidance and support from the NC Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch.
  
- **Staffing**
  - Pharmacy and Health Education team members have received training from the NC Division of Public Health and the NC Harm Reduction Coalition regarding harm reduction strategies and Safe Syringe Program practices.

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies:**

- Statistics from the Safe Syringe Program will be monitored and reported to the Board of Health bimonthly.
- The Opioid Response Committee will continue to work with the NC Division of Public Health to improve our program and develop strategies to further our goals.

**Division / Program: Pharmacy/ Medication Drop Box**

**(Accreditation Activity 10.1 -The local health department shall develop, implement, and evaluate population-based health promotion/disease prevention programs and materials for the general public.)**

**Program description**

- On March 15, 2018, the DCoDPH Pharmacy partnered with Project Pill Drop to install a Medication Drop Box in the lobby of the HHS building.

**Statement of goals**

- To offer a safe method of disposal for unused and expired over-the-counter and prescriptions medications.

**Issues**

- **Opportunities**
  - The following items are accepted in the box:
    - Over-the-counter medications
    - Prescription medications
    - Prescription patches
    - Prescription ointments
    - Vitamins
  - Reduce environmental concerns caused by flushing unwanted medications.
  - Alleviate prescription drug abuse from expired medications left in medicine cabinets.
  
- **Challenges**
  - Ensuring that used needles and syringes are not deposited in the drop box. The needle/syringe disposal box is located next to the medication drop box.
  - Due to COVID-19, the hours of operation for the HHS building decreased in Q4 of FY19-20 and FY20-21, although this was not reflected in program participation.

**Implications**

- **Outcomes**
  - Quarterly statistics, FY21-22 Q1
    - ~40 lbs of medication disposed

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- Year-to-date statistics, FY21-22
  - ~40 lbs of medication disposed
- Previous year statistics, FY20-21
  - ~270 lbs of medication disposed
- **Service delivery**
  - Planning and implementation were completed by the Pharmacy Manager and Allied Health Division Director.
  - General Services installed the drop box in the HHS lobby with input from Security and General Services.
- **Staffing**
  - Pharmacy staff will regularly monitor the drop box and empty when necessary.
  - Assurant Waste Disposal is contracted to dispose of the medications.

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies:**

- The drop box will be monitored regularly and emptied when necessary.
- Statistics will be monitored and reported to the Board of Health quarterly.

**Division / Program: Pharmacy / Needle Disposal Box**

**(Accreditation Activity 10.1 -The local health department shall develop, implement, and evaluate population-based health promotion/disease prevention programs and materials for the general public.)**

**Program description**

- In September 2018, DCoDPH Pharmacy installed a Needle Disposal Box in the lobby of the HHS building. In June 2020, the box was relocated to the pharmacy sub-lobby.

**Statement of goals**

- To offer a safe method of disposal for used or expired needles and syringes.

**Issues**

- **Opportunities**
  - The following items are accepted in the box:
    - Used or expired needles and syringes
    - Used or expired medications with attached needles (i.e. Epipens)
  - Reduce environmental concerns caused by improper needle disposal.
  - Reduce accidental needle sticks caused by improper needle disposal.
  - Reduce the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C by disposing of needles after each use coupled with offering new needles, syringes, and injection supplies through the Safe Syringe Program.
  - Reduce the risk of staff needlesticks by providing sharps containers to *all* clients prior to needles being deposited in Needle Disposal Box (implemented August 2021).
- **Challenges**
  - Ensuring that used needles and syringes are not deposited in the medication drop box. Both drop boxes have clear signage in English and Spanish.

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- Due to COVID-19, the hours of operation for the HHS building decreased in Q4 of FY19-20 and FY20-21, although this was not reflected in program participation.

**Implications**

- **Outcomes**
  - Quarterly statistics, FY21-22 Q1
    - ~67,440 needles/syringes returned
  - Year-to-date statistics, FY21-22
    - ~67,440 needles/syringes returned
  - Previous year statistics, FY20-21
    - ~73,925 needles/syringes returned
- **Service delivery**
  - Planning and implementation were completed by the Pharmacy Manager and Allied Health Division Director.
  - General Services installed the drop box in the HHS lobby with input from Security and General Services.
- **Staffing**
  - Pharmacy staff will regularly monitor the drop box and empty when necessary.
  - Piedmont Biomedical is contracted to dispose of the used needles and syringes.

**Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies:**

- The disposal box will be monitored regularly and emptied when necessary.
- Statistics from the Needle Disposal Box will be monitored and reported to the Board of Health quarterly.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** There were no committee reports.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **2021 BOH OPERATING PROCEDURE MANUAL REVIEW/APPROVAL (*Activity 34.1 & 36.1*)**

The 2021 Board of Health Operating Procedures Manual was reviewed by the Board of Health which included:

- FY 2021 BOH Meeting Schedule
- Current BOH Member/Term Appointments
- BOH Operating Procedures
- BOH Statues/Rules
- FY 2021 approved BOH Policies
- BOH Adopted Rules
- Current DCoDPH Organizational Chart

Dr. Rhea made a motion to approve and include the aforementioned documents in the 2021 Board of Health Operating Procedures Manual. Mr. Curtis seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance list above.

- **2021 BOH POLICY REVIEW/APPROVAL (*Activity 15.3 & 35.1*)**

Dr. Rhea made a motion to approve the 2021 Board of Health policies as written. Dr. Miller seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.



**NEW BUSINESS:**

• **BUDGET RATIFICATIONS**

The Durham County Department of Public Health request approval to recognize funds in the amount of \$8,000 from the North Carolina Public Health Association, Ann Wolfe Mini-Grant.

The grant funds will be used to purchase incentives, increase uptake and participation in the Centering Pregnancy program. The goal is to get more clients to participate in Centering and reap the benefits of the classes such as decreased preterm labor, decreased low birth rates, increased breastfeeding rates, increase satisfaction and patient empowerment.

The Durham County Department of Public Health request approval to recognize funds in the amount of \$115,000 from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section/Children and Youth Branch.

This grant provides temporary funding to the Local Health Department (LHD) to support the coordination of COVID-19 screening, testing, and vaccine administration efforts, and to coordinate other school health/public health services.

The Durham County Department of Public Health request approval to recognize funds in the amount of \$39,900 from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for the Advancing Equity Addendum Agreement.

The Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) was awarded funds from the state, through the CDC's Advancing Equity grant, to address COVID-19-related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding local capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection and transmission among historically marginalized populations. The funds are intended to (1) ensure equity is integrated into the health department's mission statement, strategic plans, policies, procedures, services and resources and (2) implement a communications and messaging campaign addressing COVID-19 prevention and vaccination for populations at higher risk, underserved, and disproportionately affected.

Dr. Braithwaite made a motion to approve the (3) budget ratifications recognized above. Dr. Rhea seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

• **BUDGET AMENDMENT**

The Durham County Department of Public Health request approval to recognize funds in the amount of \$3,627,190.00 from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section/Children and Youth Branch.

This grant provides temporary funding to the Local Health Department (LHD) to hire:

Registered Nurse (RN) school nurses and related clinical school nurse support staff [Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP)] to work in Local Education Agency (LEA) schools that **opt in** to testing programs for the 2021-2022 school year to:

1. Support K-12 COVID-19 testing program activities.
2. Provide COVID-19 support and response in schools.

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3. Provide and support other school health program activities that foster healthy students, in school and ready to learn.

The Durham County Department of Public Health request approval to increase an existing .60 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to 1 FTE in Public Health.

A currently vacant Pharmacist position 40007450 is being reclassified to a HIPAA Privacy and Contracts Officer. Funding for the increase will be covered with lapsed personnel costs in the current fiscal year so no additional funding is needed.

The Durham County Department of Public Health request approval to Public Health fee schedule changes and recognize \$7,000 in additional revenue.

The following fee schedule changes are needed for Public Health

CPT	DESC	Fee
D4346	SCALING PRES GEN MOD/SEV GING INF	95.00
J1050	PR MEDROXYPROGESTERONE ACETATE	0.01
J2790	PR RHO D IMMUNE GLOBULIN INJ	73.64
J7297	PR LILETTA, 52 MG	93.79
J7298	PR MIRENA, 52 MG	308.05
J7300	PR INTRAUT COPPER CONTRACEPTIVE (Paragard)	248.04
J7307	ETONOGESTREL IMPLANT SYSTEM (Nexplanon)	399.99
N/A	Nitrofurantoin	0.58
N/A	Cipro 250mg	0.14
N/A	Cipro 500mg	0.22
N/A	Metronidazole Gel	0.19
N/A	Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim	0.05
N/A	Cryselle	0.16
N/A	Aviane	0.05
N/A	Aprl	0.04
N/A	Norethindrone	0.05
N/A	Miconazole 7	0.07
N/A	Fuconazole	1.93
N/A	Antifungal Cream	0.07
N/A	Ferrous Sulfate	0.04
N/A	Docusate	0.01
N/A	Promethazine	0.03
N/A	Ondansetron	0.13
N/A	Tri-Sprintec	0.06
N/A	Sprintec	0.05
N/A	Tri-Lo Sprintec	0.06
N/A	Portia	0.06
N/A	Plan B	3.62
N/A	Ferrous Gluconate	0.04
N/A	Ocella	0.17
N/A	Depo	0.01
N/A	Nuvaring	0.01
N/A	Folic Acid	0.08

Dr. Rhea made a motion to approve the (3) budget amendments recognized above. Dr. Braithwaite seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

- **AGENDA ITEMS DECEMBER 2021 MEETING**
  - Local Boards of Health Training

**INFORMAL DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

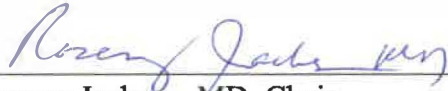
Mr. Jenkins recognized Dr. Anita Jackson, for her service to Durham County Department of Public Health as the medical director. Dr. Anita Jackson last day is Friday, November 5, 2021.

**Chair Jackson:** Dr. Jackson on behalf of the board, I would like to thank you for the work and contributions you've made over the past two years to the Durham County Department of Public Health.

**Dr. Anita Jackson:** Thank you very much. It's been my pleasure to serve the county and this great team. I wish Director Jenkins and all of the staff the very best. They have lots of work to do and they certainly have an amazing team so thank you very much for the wonderful experience, the learning and the service.

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Dr. Orto made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:12pm. Dr. Rhea seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.



Rosemary Jackson, MD, Chair



Rodney E. Jenkins, Public Health Director