

Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Task Force

Mental Health Treatment Committee

Minutes

April 13, 2021

Attendees: Rodney Jenkins, Elijah Bazemore, Marc Strange, Gudrun Parmer, Nicole Schramm-Sapyta, Donna Rosser, Lacie Scofield, Carlyle Johnson, Keyanna Taylor, Stephanie Eucker, Tremaine Sawyer, Katie Mallette, Kay Sanford, Larry Greenblatt, Helen Tripp, Aparna Kamath, Phil Keene, Lindsay Bickers-Bock, Cindy Haynes, Rod Jenkins, Brittany Agnew

The group convened, Cindy welcomed everyone and began introductions.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Strategic Planning for Program Sustainability (Group)

Cindy thanked committee members who attended the work session of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Director Jenkins commended Cindy and Major Bazemore for the well-organized presentation to the BOCC and the committee for presenting a united front displaying collaboration. Major Bazemore agreed with Cindy and Director Jenkins that the presentation was helpful in illustrating the progress of DJT and in gaining the support of BOCC. Carlyle said he thought it was helpful for the BOCC to understand the concept, philosophy, and basics for sustainability down the road. Brittany said it was nice to be a part of the meeting. No one else who was in attendance had anything to add.

Cindy announced a housing meeting scheduled for next week. She announced that Lacie emailed her updated housing list out to the committee. As for follow up Cindy asked Director Jenkins about the RFA. Director Jenkins reported that the RFP will be live for review in two weeks.

Cindy asked Major Bazemore for an update on SOAR training for CHWs. Major Bazemore reported that Susan mentioned the availability of an online training resource and will touch base with Keyanna regarding. He said this will give PSS skills to assist clients with dual diagnoses to apply for SSI and other benefits which will make them more successful upon release. He also reported that BOCC approved OTP grant funding to purchase equipment and should have room with equipment set up by next meeting and can begin application process. Hopes to have project completed by June.

Cindy asked Lacie for update on survey completion. Lacie reported survey administration revealed some needs for improvement with the survey instrument. Lacie has made those changes. Although unable to get results on every part of survey for everyone, she did get some good results they were able to include in progress report. Will share during her update.

Cindy asked Dr. Eucker about progress with iPad. Dr. Eucker reported having technical difficulties but good news is goal to have iPads always in use.

Alliance Health

Carlyle reported reaching point of fiscal year where must figure out which funds to request to roll over to the next fiscal year. Challenging with some grants because at moment, we have more than enough funds. Wanting to confirm that BOCC will support full cost of program within Detention Center. In such case, we will not budget funds from July forward for LCAS and PSS. Director Jenkins suggested confirming what Sheriff's Office has in their budget for those two positions. Nothing is final until the BOCC approves the budget for next fiscal. Director Jenkins mentioned that we did articulate that the Sheriff add the 2 FTEs in the budget. It is likely but not definite. Carlyle added BOCC taking this on enables Alliance to use funds for more outpatient treatment and follow-up. We are looking at options to expand opioid treatment in the community as well as social determinants like housing and transportation.

We are expecting additional funding coming through the latest Federal Recovery Act Block Grant coming to NC. This will provide good opportunities to sustain community efforts. Also just got funding to expand stimulant disorder treatment. We are working with providers to determine who is best suited to do that and looking at best practices. Alliance is still waiting to hear if we are accepted as tailored plan. We should hear by June. Transitions are occurring for Medicaid funded people either shifting to standard plans or remaining with Alliance as an MCO. Communication going out to Medicaid eligible or enrollees. We are concerned there may be confusion with consumers. Carlyle also mentioned an email from NCHRC concerning new legislation and deferred to Kay Sanford to discuss.

Kay talked about Senate Bill 607-Substance Use Safety Act saying should it be passed, it would make syringe services programs non-functional and would ruin the ability of the NCHRC to function within the state. The bill includes provisions that persons running harm reduction and syringe services programs should have background checks and no encounters with criminal justice system and no history of drug use. We would lose people with lived experience working with these programs. The bill also gives HOA's veto power on location of services within their communities. Kay mentioned that she sent out a request for all of DJT Task Force to send letters to Senators Edwards and Krawiec not only displaying opposition to this bill but also describing who you are and the programs you work for. This would show broad-based support for these programs in NC. Kay also offered resources to assist in letter writing, if needed. Nicole asked how this proposed legislation came about after such bipartisan support for the current law. Carlyle suggested a push from a group like CPAC. Kay agreed and said bill passed in West Virginia. Nicole will reach out to Legislative Liaison at Duke to ask about origins of bill. Director Jenkins will reach out to Advocacy Chair of NCPHA to ask same question.

EMS Opioid Data with Race/Ethnicity Stats (Captain Helen Tripp)

Captain Helen Tripp reported on overdose follow-up. The number of follow-ups are remaining consistent. The number of visits with peer navigators has increased significantly. Our program is working hard to make more connections with Brittany and DRRC. We are pleased to see so many new contacts. Helen also reported on race and ethnicity which is on par with previous months in that African Americans have the highest number of overdoses. We didn't have any Hispanic or Asian overdoses during month of March. We are still distributing about 1 Naloxone kit every other day. Helen will send out report in PDF.

Duke ED Peer Support Services

Dr. Eucker reported working on electronic health record alerts and easier linkages to peer support. Has not had many patients with OUD but has referred several patients with polysubstance use to peer support services and reminding social workers and case managers that these support services are available. Brittany added looking forward to use of iPads and that Shavonne is still referring patients. Cindy reassured Brittany that Dr. Eucker will work out problem with iPads.

PSS Services in Duke Regional ED (Dr. Jason Tatreau & Dr. Aparna Kamath)

Dr. Kamath reported that the Behavioral Health Center opened on April 12th. It has been busy, and they look forward to welcoming more patients from the community and to more referrals from Duke University. Dr. Kamath is looking forward to working with Donna on provider education. Lacie shared fantastic data on work with peer support services and DRRC. Before expanding and looking at policy change at Duke Regional, we wanted to get Behavioral Health Center opened. Reviewing data from Lacie and new data from NC, we are looking at if there are different ways to embed peer support specialist. Happy to provide update next month. They are distributing flyers on peer support and referring some patients to DRRC and looking at ways to have better collaboration. There were ten patients identified through flyers. Currently working with Donna and Lacie on inter-professional training on OUD scheduled for next month. Flyers are ready and being distributed. We are hoping to register 100 participants to include physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and case managers/social workers, both inpatient and outpatient providers. Also working on system updates, order setup dates and addressing SUD/OUD services with the new Behavioral Health Center to see how it impacts care and what else needs to happen at Duke Regional Hospital.

DRRC OBOT

Brittany reported that Susan is in a training. They are looking to hire a new clinician. They are very busy. Also looking to add another peer support to their team.

Program Coordinator (CLC Grant)

Lacie reported that in March, had 17 new participants. Twelve of those 17 became enrollees. Five were referred from the Detention Center. This partnership is working well. One came from Duke Regional after seeing flyer. Lacie would like to get more referrals from Duke Regional. Dr. Kamath and Dr. Tatreau looking at way to embed peer support in the hospital for a couple hours daily or weekly. She and Lindsey are looking at budget for the next fiscal year to see if they can increase Catherine's hours. This may be a way to get more patients from Duke Regional. Lacie calculated some service delivery numbers. She needed to fix things in the survey after the 19 surveyed of the 51 totaled at the end of February. The peer support specialist assisted 34 participants with transportation. Some were transported in peers' own vehicles. The program has bus passes but not all participants live on bus line. Lacie is purchasing Uber gift cards for this purpose. The peers assisted 18 with housing. Five were connected with food resources; 3 were connected with recovery support groups. The participants reported OBOT Suboxone services and transportation as most helpful resources. Lacie provided update on Education and Advocacy projects to include:

April 6th webinar for Durham County employees mentioned last month (Responding to the Opioid Crisis with Science and Compassion). There were 71-attendees and the evaluations were well received.

Lacie stated that she finished the Housing Table. It has been approved and committee is free to circulate it. Lacie mentioned Durham Rescue Mission not accepting people on Buprenorphine and Methadone, which has been problematic for CLC participants because other shelters have waiting lists. Shared thoughts of Susan, Brittany, OBOT providers.

Major Bazemore mentioned that because Durham Rescue Mission receives funding from Durham County, it may be a good idea to invite them to take part in committee meetings. He asked Cindy to reach out to them.

Lacie mentioned Lindsey's suggestion to have Board of Health prepare a statement encouraging shelters to accept people on MAT.

Helen mentioned Durham Rescue Mission is religious organization that is funded privately and that may be a barrier to getting them to understand benefits of MAT. Some agencies have a problem with medications for mental illness due to their faith structure.

Carlyle added attended meeting convened by Hope Center for Advancement 1-2 years ago. Saw barriers in understanding of MAT and concerns about diversion. Has heard concerns about diversion from other agencies as well.

Kay suggested working with the faith community to address this issue.

Lindsey mentioned possibility of working with Durham County Health Ministry Network.

Gudrun mentioned Spenser Bradford with Durham Congregations in Action.

Cindy offered to reach out to Spencer Bradford to meet with committee members to discuss. Director Jenkins agreed. Attendees to include: Director Jenkins, Major Bazemore, Carlyle, Kay, Lacie, Gudrun and Lindsey (if schedule permits).

Detention Center MAT

Major Bazemore reported that the clinician and peer support are in place. Have been meeting with Mrs. Terry and external supports. We are finalizing facility clearance. To date, program has served 60-Suboxone, 37-Methadone for a total of 97. April 12th, 4 Suboxone (2-Men and 2-Women), 2-Methadone (2-men). Of the 60-Suboxone (40 Men and 20 Women), eight (8) have returned to custody. Of the 37-Methadone (26-Men and 11-Women), two (2) have returned to custody. A total of 10 have returned to custody since September 2019. Phase 2-B includes 5 referred to DRRC as mentioned by Lacie. Major Bazemore optimistic about End of Year Report. Gave Kudos to Tremaine, Tammy, Chris, Terry, and outpatient people and DRRC team for jobs well done concerning Phase 2-B.

Next steps are:

- Group to discuss a letter regarding Senate Bill 607 for Senators Edwards and Krawiec
- Nicole to reach out to Duke Liaison, Kay to f/u with Jesse with NCHRC, Rod to reach out to Advocacy Chair

- Cindy to reach out to Spencer Bradford with Durham Congregations In Action to invite to committee meeting to discuss MAT
- Dr. Kamath, Lacie, Brittany, and Susan to discuss ways to embed a PSS
- Lindsay and Lacie discussing budget to at increasing Catherine's hours in the ED
- Lacie to secure a statement from the Board of Health supporting MAT programs

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

***Our next committee meeting is scheduled May 11, 2021 at 3:00 PM via WebEx and phone.**