

Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Task Force

Mental Health Treatment Committee

Minutes

June 8, 2021

Attendees: Elijah Bazemore, Helen Tripp, Katie Mallette, Lacie Scofield, Gudrun Parmer, Kay Sanford, Carlyle Johnson, Crissi Rainer, Sheriff Birkhead, Jason Tatreau, Rodney Jenkins, Amy O'Regan, Joy Brunson-Nsubuga, Susan Kornett, Brittany Agnew, Tremaine Sawyer, Lindsay Bickers-Bock, Keyanna Terry, Cindy Haynes

The group convened, Cindy welcomed everyone and began introductions.

The minutes were approved as submitted

Strategic Planning for Program Sustainability (Group)

Cindy updated the group that she has reached out to Rev. Bradford with DCIA to schedule a meeting to discuss the faith community, housing, and MAT. She also extended an invitation for him to attend a regular committee meeting. Kay suggested when we speak with Spencer we may need to talk with TROSA about providing housing.

Cindy informed the group that she adjusted the agenda to allow Sheriff Birkhead time to talk with us in regards to the proposed 10% budget cut to support Mental Health Services.

Proposed 10% Budget Cut to Sheriff's office to Support Mental Health

Sheriff Birkhead informed the group that looking at the work that is being done in Durham County, we are ahead of the criminal justice reform with what we are doing in regards to mental health. We met with some of the members of this committee, Alliance and Duke to discuss this topic and develop an approach. Sheriff announced that we made a convincing argument to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) explaining that 10% is 3.6 million of the Sheriff's office existing budget. Sheriff asked the group to stand with him around Mental Health. He offered to send out a template for a letter that the members could submit to the BOCC. The BOCC will vote on the budget on Monday and they are still receiving emails requesting to cut the Sheriff's Office budget. Sheriff Birkhead stated that the Alliance and Duke Health have already submitted letters. Gudrun asked if nothing happens this year, do you think it will continue in next year's budget. Sheriff replied this will continue based on the national stance. They are asking to remove SRO in the schools. Gudrun stated that this immediate danger and we need to have a longer conversation to make sure the BOCC and the City Council know that taking funds from the Sheriff's budget would be detrimental. Sheriff stated we need to champion the work we are currently doing and showcase it, for example, MAT and Behavioral Health with Alliance Health. Other counties don't have the resources we have in Durham.

Amy asked what are they going to do with the funds. Sheriff replied that Durham Beyond Policing is requesting funds and what it means for the Sheriff's office is a cut of programs and people. For example 40 FTEs would be out of a job and 26 programs would end. Carlyle mentioned that we are not clear on what the measurable outcomes would be. Alliance doesn't

want the funds without outcomes in place. They were discussing gaps where Durham doesn't have gaps. Gudrun asked if this was a strategy to reduce the budget. Sheriff stated no strategy, no specifics, they have already frozen 15 FTEs plus cut 5 FTEs with Durham Police Department. Lacie asked if we have added up the funds going into MAT and STARR to show where the 10% would impact. Carlyle mentioned he had the numbers from the private sector. Kay suggested it would be good to show how much of the budget is being applied to Mental Health in your jurisdiction. We need to demonstrate the wonderful work we are doing in Mental Health – ask the BOCC instead to add 10% to the Sheriff's budget so we can do more work to address Mental Health. Ann Oshel's (Alliance) letter was read yesterday at the BOCC meeting. Next steps would be to request to add funds to the Sheriff's budget to expand resources and the letter writing campaign over the next six days. The BOCC will receive letters. Joy suggested that we also look at the human aspect of the work we are doing with the funds – more about who we have touched and the lives that have been turned around. The tangible data from MAT, Gudrun, and Carlyle. Sheriff will do the template to share with the group and Carlyle, Gudrun, Bazemore and Sheriff will pull together the data. Gudrun also added it would be great if we had people speak on what the programs means to them. Kay suggested finding people who participated in the STARR program and stress statistically the kids in the criminal justice system are so vulnerable – we have to provide the services. Carlyle stated also any programs – transition program we need to get in touch with Evan Ashkin. Keyanna agreed to reach out to Evan for participants or CHWs to speak.

Alliance Health

Carlyle reported that we are three weeks from Medicaid Transformation – members going to standard plans. A number of members that should have stayed with LME went to standard plans. The State is working on correcting this error. Alliance will find out Friday if we can be a tailored plan. Orange and Mecklenburg Counties are to join Alliance.

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

Captain Helen Tripp reported working on getting data caught up. Overdoses are staying in the low fifties for April (51), Six narcan kits distributed. There were ten (10) admitted to the hospital and twenty-six (26) narcan kits distributed in May.

Duke ED Peer Support Services

Susan reported Dr. Eucker gathering data. Hopefully we can go in the hospital soon since Covid is declining. We will continue to collaborate.

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

Dr. Tatreau reported that he has had a meeting with Duke Compliance Office. Colleen is drafting a document for next steps for PSS to come in to Duke Regional.

DRRC OBOT

Susan reported they are growing, expanding and adding more to the team. The OBOT program is a big success – work with both Duke Hospitals, PORT, and in-patient services.

Housing Update (Group)

Carlyle reported there no updates to date. We haven't been able to meet criteria for psych and MAT and psychotropic meds. Kay suggested we should seize the opportunity since there is new management at TROSA now that Kevin is no longer the CEO. They may be willing to take on MAT. Carlyle stated if TROSA change policies we would need to know. Duke psychiatry rotates through TROSA. Susan informed the group that housing came up to connect individuals in recovery to housing. Lacie and Susan currently working on this. Helen reminded the group of the housing committee she is on, may be a resource as well.

Program Coordinator (CLC Grant)

Lacie reported that they are publishing 400 hard copies of the updated Resource Guide and there is a PDF file of the guide on the Durham County Public Health's website next to housing. Lacie asked the group to send her an email to let her know the number of resource guides you would like keeping in mind the limited printed copies available. Lacie also gave an update on the provider training. Dr. Tatreau was the lead and Susan was a presenter and Brittney was one of the panelist. There were 140 providers to attend 1 of 10 modules. Lacie stated that Donna asked her to thank everyone for their involvement of the training. The modules are online and you can get credits.

The PSS program has a total of 90 participants reached by a PSS with 68 being enrolled in DRRC OBOT program. We have distributed 63 naloxone kits. May 2021 ends our fiscal year. Lacie asked Ryan from the data committee to present next month. Crissi collected quality data interviewing stakeholders presented the Executive Summary. Lacie emailed the summary to all. Crissi stated there has been 7 stakeholder interviews and want to do 10 unique to Durham is coming together. Everyone on the team treats patients with respect. Team members build each other up and enrollees and training for PSS has been helpful. Recommendations include:

- Mental health and recovery support for peers
- More peer navigators
- Housing options for enrollees
- Continue to work to increase safety for peers in the community

Recommendations that have occurred:

- More MI for peers
- Awareness of project need to be increased
- Medical record flag in Duke Health
- Leadership in Duke Regional

We also conducted 2 enrollee interviews for people in the program for 2 weeks. The enrollees felt like the peers really cared and they had access to resources such as transportation, food pantry, and MAT. Recommendations here are:

- Group therapy for enrollees
- Partnering with local churches
- Another pharmacy option in addition to Gurley's
- More peers
- Housing

Detention Center MAT

Due to time constraints and oversight by Ms. Haynes, Major Bazemore submitted his report via email. Ms. Haynes extended her apologies for the oversight to Bazemore. Major Bazemore reported as of today, June 8, 2021, Phase I has served 72 Suboxone and 43 Methadone (115 total)

In Custody:

7 - Suboxone (6 men, 1 woman)

2 – Methadone (2 men)

72 Suboxone (9 Returned to Custody)

Men – 49

Women – 23

43 Methadone (3 Returned to custody)

Men – 32

Women – 11

Next steps are:

- Major Bazemore & Sheriff Birkhead to get the letter template to committee members for the BOCC
- Gudrun, Carlyle, and Major Bazemore to work on data collection
- Keyanna to reach out to Dr. Evan Ashkin for his input
- Group to send Lacie request for copies of the Resource Guide
- Lacie to coordinate Ryan present data report
- Cindy to follow up with Rev. Spencer Bradford (DCIA)
- Committee to present their stance on the 10% budget cut to Sherriff's budget at the next DJT Task Force Meeting

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

***Our next committee meeting is scheduled July 13, 2021 at 3:00 PM via WebEx and phone.**

***The next DJT Task Force Meeting: Thursday-June 10, 2021 from 6:00pm-7:30pm via Zoom.**