

**Health Director's Report
October 13, 2022**

Division / Program: Nutrition/DINE/Recipient of the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Award

(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

- Durham's Innovative Nutrition Education program (DINE) received the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's Child Health Recognition Award at the North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA) conference in September. The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards program honors local health departments, public health staff and individuals for innovative, collaborative programs that improve the lives of North Carolina's children. The Foundation works with the NCPHA to coordinate the program, and all nominees and award recipients are recognized at a luncheon at NCPHA's annual meeting. Recognition awards are presented in four categories: Lifetime Achievement, Individual, Local Health Departments and Public Health Staff. DINE won in the Local Health Department category. Awardees receive a plaque and \$10,000 to staff to use for staff development and support and/or programming.

Statement of goals

- Durham's DINE program provides outstanding nutrition and food access centered on nutrition educational programming. This multi-faceted nutrition program improves access and builds awareness, increasing self-efficacy to choose nutritious foods. Implementing edible gardens, expanding food pantries, promoting free school meals, and creating and maintaining a searchable food resource map that lists food pantries and school meal sites in English and Spanish are core activities. DINE provides nutrition education through in-person and virtual workshops, cooking demos, social media, videos and e-newsletters.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - DINE aims to use the award money towards staff development and programming.
 - DINE hopes the recognition of the team's success will aid them in receiving future awards and grants.

Implication(s)

- **Staffing**
 - The DINE Program Managers wrote the nomination. One DINE Program Manager, the Nutrition Division Director, three DINE staff nutritionists and the Health Director attended the conference and luncheon and accepted the award.

Division / Program: Nutrition/DINE/Receives Mini-Grant to Support Outdoor Learning in Child Care Sites

(Accreditation Activity 10.4 The local health department shall promote and support the use of evidence-based health promotion/disease prevention strategies by other community agencies and organizations.)

Program description

- DINE in Early Care and Education (ECE) is a nutrition education program targeted at SNAP-eligible families with children aged 0-5 who attend a preschool, childcare center, or family childcare home in Durham. This program also offers nutrition consultation and training to help childcare programs implement policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve nutrition and physical activity in these programs.
- DINE in ECE received the NCPHA Ann Wolfe grant of \$8,000 to support outdoor learning. Grant funds will be used to create outdoor learning toolkits that include curriculum materials such as outdoor thermometers, play equipment such as tricycles, gardening equipment such as wheelbarrows, and materials to increase comfort of children and teachers in the outdoors such as umbrellas and rain boots.

Statement of goals

- Increase outdoor learning time at ECE programs to increase young children's academic achievement, social skills, and time spent being physically active; and decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Expose children to gardening and increase awareness and acceptance of fruits and vegetables.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Grant funds will provide an incentive for ECE programs to engage more deeply with DINE.
 - Research indicates that outdoor learning and play improves mental, social, academic, and physical well-being for children and adults. Children from families with lower incomes tend to have less access to high quality care and to ECE programs that spend quality time learning outdoors. Spending down this grant, therefore, will work toward equity between childcare programs serving higher versus lower income families.
 - Most Americans ages two years and older do not consume enough vegetables. The more engaged children become with hands-on food education, such as gardening and food preparation, the more likely they will prefer and routinely consume vegetables.
- **Challenges**
 - Early care and education settings struggle with adequate funding and staffing. This has worsened during the COVID19 pandemic. This makes communication with childcare program staff difficult.
 - Childcare program directors report limited parental acceptance of outdoor time. This will require family education and staff support.

Implication(s)

- **Staffing**
 - The DINE in Early Care and Education Coordinator will work with ECE program directors and teachers who have already partnered with DINE and have set goals related to nutrition and physical activity.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Create formal agreements with childcare programs to roll out toolkits.
- Determine what each facility needs to create/improve outdoor learning space. Toolkits will be tailored to programs based on their individual spaces, population served, and needs. Programs receiving toolkits will receive training on the toolkit materials.
- DINE in Early Childcare coordinator will provide ongoing training and support to ECE staff to incorporate outdoor learning into the curriculum.

Division / Program: Dental Division / Oral Health Screenings at DPS/Early Head Start (Accreditation Activity 20. 1- The local health department shall collaborate with community health care providers to provide personal and preventative health services.)

Program description

- The Dental Division conducts dental screenings for children in Durham Public Elementary Schools and Early Head Start 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. The documents also notes that if the child does not have a dental home, the parent can call the Public Health Dental Clinic to schedule an appointment.
- Parents of children in Durham Public Schools are notified if the Tooth Ferry mobile dental van is visiting their child's school. In these instances, parents are provided information on how their child can be treated on the Tooth Ferry. (They also have the option to bring them to the Public Health Dental Clinic.)

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.
- Parents receive information on their child's current oral health status and treatment needs.
- Dental Division Clinic or Tooth Ferry can be dental care options for parents whose children need treatment.

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.
- If the Tooth Ferry is visiting a child's school, they have the option to be treated on the mobile dental van.
- The screenings include education for children (and parents), as well as staff via oral health presentations at the schools or Early Head Start Centers.

Challenges

- There are often last-minute adjustments to the screening schedule when arriving at the sites, including finding space for the hygienist.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**

The following screenings have been scheduled for September - November.

Durham Public Schools:	Eastway Glen Hillandale Southwest
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Early Head Start	Linking Connections Learning Center All My Children Toddlers Academy Randy's 5 Star Academy Growing Legacy
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- **Service delivery**

Team compiling data for screenings completed in last week of September.

- **Staffing**

- The Tooth Ferry Coordinator has delivered screening permission forms to schools.
- Fariba Mostaghimi, Public Health hygienist, completes the screening. A dental team member will record results and assist in completing the letters to parents.

- **Revenue**

- N/A

- **Other**

- N/A

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- The Division will continue to schedule with DPS and Early Head Start Centers for the 2022-23 school year.

Division / Program: Population Health / Epidemiology

Activity 26.3: The local health department shall assure that agency staff receives training in cultural sensitivity and competency.

Program description

The Population Health division holds an annual day-long retreat to plan for the fiscal year. The retreat includes training topics, presentations on local public health activities, strategic planning and teambuilding activities to strengthen relationships between team members. The September 20, 2022 retreat was held at the Durham County Main Library.

Statement of goals

- Provide an opportunity way from the office to focus on longer term planning and develop a division strategic plan for fiscal year 2023.
- Learn about public health programs and efforts from internal and external partners.
- Determine how the Population Health division can align their work with the Durham County Department of Public Health and external partners.
- Incorporate equity topics into the retreat and be explicit about the role of equity in Population Health work.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Received presentations from Quinny Sanchez Lopez with UniteUs on NCCARE360 and Kelly Warnock with the Durham County Department of Public Health on the Nexus Team.
 - Started strategic planning process of what areas the Population Health division will focus on for fiscal year 2023.
 - Had discussions on how to align Population Health work with NCCARE360, Nexus Team and further incorporating equity.
 - Population health staff each actively participated in planning different components of the retreat.
- **Challenges**
 - The last part of the retreat was spent on moving items and setting up for the Community Health Assessment (CHA) survey at headquarters located at Durham Children's Initiative. This shortened the amount of time available on the agenda for other activities.
 - Balancing day-to-day work with activities needed to carry out longer term planning activities.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - Identified goal areas for the Population Health FY 23 strategic plan.
 - Moved all CHA survey supplies and set everything up for survey launch on September 21.
 - Learned more about the resources available at the Durham County Main Library.
 - Made a connection with library staff regarding health literacy efforts and connected to the DCoDPH Bull City Strong team.
 - Developed ideas for further incorporating equity into Population Health work.

- **Staffing**
 - The retreat was planning by all members of the Population Health division.

- **Revenue**
 - None

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Continue to with strategic planning at the October 3 Population Health division meeting and finalize the plan by the end of October.
- Measure progress towards strategic plan strategies and objectives.

Division / Program: Pharmacy / 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.
- 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
 - 10 Alcohol swabs
 - 1 Tourniquet
 - 6 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 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.
 - Hours of distribution were changed effective September 06, 2022 due to conflicting demands of pharmacy operations. Staffing is now devoted to serve the SSP clients during the following specified hours:
 - Tuesday/ Thursday: 9AM – 12Noon*
 - Wednesday/ Friday: 1PM – 4PM*
 - Participants will not be turned away if presented outside of the distribution hours to give participants time to adjust to this new schedule.

Implications

- **Outcomes**
 - The following statistics have been collected for FY22-23 Q1:
 - New participants: 32
 - Total contacts: 86
 - Syringes dispensed: 1880
 - Syringes returned*: ~3690
 - Sharps containers dispensed: 43
 - Fentanyl Test Strip dispensed: 111
 - Naloxone kits distributed (with SSP): 59
 - Naloxone kits distributed (non-SSP): 0
 - 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)

- **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 quarterly.
- 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 / 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).
 - Needle disposal is available during the hours of operation for the HHS building.

- **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.

Implications

- **Outcomes**
 - Quarterly statistics, FY22-23 Q1
 - ~3690 needles/syringes returned
 - Year-to-date statistics, FY22-23
 - ~3690 needles/syringes returned
 - Previous year statistics, FY21-22
 - ~22,753 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.
 - Carolina Biomedical Disposal 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.

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.
 - Medication drop off is available during the hours of operation for the HHS building.
- **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.

Implications

- **Outcomes**
 - Quarterly statistics, FY22-23 Q1
 - ~40 lbs. of medication disposed
 - Year-to-date statistics, FY22-23
 - ~40 lbs. of medication disposed
 - Previous year statistics, FY21-22
 - ~155 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.
 - Trilogy MedWaste Southeast, LLC 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: Community Health Division/Parenting Program-Triple P
(Accreditation Activity 12.3-The local health department shall participate in a collaborative process to implement population-based programs to address community health problems.)

Program Description

The Durham Triple P Program staff aims to connect with community partners across the Triple P Durham Service Area 3 (Durham, Alamance, Chatham, Guildford, Rockingham, Person, Randolph, Caswell, and Orange counties).

- Outreach efforts include organizing and attending community Triple P activities throughout the service area. These parent support activities include sessions with court-ordered mothers and fathers, facilitation of parenting sessions with the Criminal Justice Resource Center (CJRC), presentations for the North Carolina Triple P Learning Collaborative (NCLC) (i.e., child welfare), community collaborations (i.e., 100 Black Men Organization, Hayti Reborn Justice Movement) and coaching sessions with pediatric practices (i.e., Burlington Pediatrics). Contract development is underway to conduct multiple community seminars to share quick and practical strategies surrounding positive parenting.

Statement of goals

- To expand the implementation of Triple P as a multi-tiered, public health approach to parenting and family support designed to prevent and intervene to address behavioral issues, emotional trauma, and developmental problems.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - The ability to meet with community members who discussed their concerns about toxic stress, poverty, and family preservation. Research shows that these determinants of health are heavily influenced by environmental and systemic factors such as racism, gun violence, and generational poverty. The research is daunting as laws continue to reinforce these social ills.
- **Challenges**
 - Under the burden of multiple stressors, it is less likely that parents, guardians, and other caretakers will be able to function to the highest of their abilities and effectively meet the needs of their children experiencing toxic stress without creating networks of support.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - Firm, consistent and confident parenting is associated with positive coping in parents and children- which is Triple P's goal. Durham's families require tailoring of Triple P services. The program will continue provider training, parent support groups, and other events and activities to increase our communities' protective and support factors.

- **Service delivery**
 - The Triple P Durham Service Area will continue to collaborate with community partners and coordinate with Triple P America and local stakeholders to provide the continuing implementation and expansion of Triple P services in this state Triple P service area.
- **Staffing**
 - Durham County Triple P Service Area 3 Supervisor and Lead Coordinator
 - Durham County Triple P Service Area 3 Coordinator
 - Durham County Department of Public Health employees

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- The Triple P Durham Service Area 3 supervisor and staff will continue to support parents, guardians, and other caretakers to increase and utilize support networks to meet the needs of children and their families effectively.
- The Triple P Durham Service Area 3 supervisor and staff will continue supporting accredited Triple P practitioners who regularly interact with parents. Accredited family workers, licensed social workers, psychologists, doctors, nurses, school counselors, mental health providers, teachers, and clergy continue to use program resources to support parents' learning and their use of Triple P strategies.

Division / Program: Health Education Division / Jail 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 Expanded Testing (Jail Testing) program is designed to provide HIV, Hepatitis C (HCV), and STI screening services to incarcerated individuals detained in the Durham County Detention Facility.
- Research has shown that men with a history of incarceration may avoid HIV/STI testing while in the community, and inmates are more likely to receive voluntary HIV/STI testing when prisons/jails routinely provide opt-out HIV/STI testing to everyone during the intake medical evaluation. Opt-out screening also helps normalize HIV/STI testing by making it a routine instead of an exceptional aspect of health care.
- Opt-out screening has the potential to identify more infected individuals who are currently unaware of their HIV/STI status than opt-in screening does.

Statement of goals:

- The three goals of the Jail Testing program are:
 - To make opt-out HIV, HVC, and STI testing in the correctional settings a routine part of healthcare.
 - To identify new cases of Syphilis and new cases of HIV early in disease stage.

- To facilitate referring newly identified clients into treatment and prevention services.

Issues:

- **Opportunities**

- Ensures HIV/STI testing of incarcerated individuals are voluntary and free from coercion.
- Linkage to care and retention rates are higher amongst incarcerated individuals.

- **Challenges**

- New reports and studies indicate the jail population is steadily declining. Therefore, there are fewer individuals to screen for HIV and STIs.
- Frequent COVID-19 outbreaks in the jail setting have decreased opportunities for HIV/STI testing.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**

- The following tests were conducted in the Durham County Detention Center from January 1, 2022- June 30, 2022
 - HIV: 240
 - Syphilis: 240
 - Hepatitis C: 195
 - Gonorrhea & Chlamydia: 222
- All identified HIV and syphilis cases have been confirmed as previous or new and have an established treatment regimen.
- All incarcerated individuals who test positive for any sexually transmitted infection were informed of their status and were treated by Jail Medical staff within 1-2 business days.

- **Service delivery**

- Screen a minimum of 10% of the average daily census of inmate before, during, or shortly after the intake medical evaluation.
- Refer all newly identified HIV and syphilis cases to the North Carolina Health & Human Service's Disease Intervention Specialist to receive partner notification services.

- **Staffing**

- Two full-time program staff have supported this work over the last year: Chris Mack and Laveasta Clayton.
- Dennis Hamlet has served as the Program Manager.

- **Revenue**

- This work is funded by State Agreement Addendums 825 and 534. Together these two AAs provide \$461,176 to Durham County in FY22-23.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- Facilitate PrEP referrals for high-risk individuals who are released from the Durham County Detention Center.
- Integrate new services into the jail testing program such as Aptima Multitest Swabs.