



Durham Joins Together Saving Lives Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Via Zoom

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

Attending: Carlyle Johnson-Alliance Health; Helen Tripp-DCo EMS MIH Program; Whitney Young-DTCC Mobile Health Lab; Lacie Scofield, Lindsey Bickers-Bock, Willa Robinson-Allen, Dennis Hamlet, Donna Rosser-DCoDPH; Dr. Wanda Boone, Nancy Rosales, Nathalia Rosales-Together for Resilient Youth (TRY); Wendy Jacobs-DCo Board of County Commissioners; Roshanna Parker-Director, DCo Justice Services; Dwane Brinson-Assistant County Manager for Community Safety, DCo Government; Hilda Smith-NCCU Opioid Abatement Program; Colin Miller-UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab/Opioid Data Lab; Paula Harrington-Oxford House/Freedom House; Nicole Schramm-Sapyta-Duke Institute for Brain Sciences; Logan Adams, Scottie Torain -Duke Addiction Medicine; Odinaka Idada-Reliable Health Services, Inc.; Arthur Payne-Morse Clinic of Durham

AGENDA ITEMS	MAJOR DISCUSSION POINTS
Welcome and Introductions 5:30 pm - 5:35 pm	Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, Task Force Co-Chair NOTES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On behalf of she and Co-Chair Dr. Boone, Co-Chair Jacobs welcomed everyone to the September 26, 2023, Quarterly Meeting of the Durham Joins Together Saving Lives Task Force.• Asked that attendees put their name and affiliation in the chat.• Encouraged everyone to review meeting minutes from June, as well as Prevention/Education and MH SUD Tx. Committee Reports, attached to the Meeting Updates/Reminders.• Grateful for committee work.• Mentioned story from WUNC that she and Co-Chair Boone shared about UNC students mobilizing to distribute Naloxone in response to fatal overdoses among students.
Presentation/Discussion	Street Safe – UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab

5:35 pm - 5:50 pm

Colin Miller, Community Liaison, UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab, UNC-CH

NOTES:

- ACM, Dwane Brinson was delayed. Co-Chair Jacobs introduced Colin Miller, Community Liaison, UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab.
- Colin Miller said his technical title is Social Clinical Research Specialist.
- Shared information on UNC Drug Checking Program, as follows:
- **Commonly Used Drug Checking Techniques (Benefits and Limitations)**
 - **Test Strips (Fentanyl, Benzo-Diazepines, Xylazine)** - traditionally used in urinalysis. Repurposed to test for the presence of these drugs in other substances.
Benefits: Easy to use, inexpensive, quick turnaround.
Limitations: Testing limited to these substances, false positives common in case of Fentanyl.
 - **Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FTIR)** - Now commonly seen in the field, like Safe Syringe Programs (SSPs).
Benefits: Good for identifying all types of substances, and cuts of substances including Fentanyl. Works well paired with Fentanyl test strips. Sturdy machine, no ongoing maintenance costs, Results in 10 to 15-minutes.
Limitations: Better at detecting substances 5% or more of sample size (Fentanyl often cut in amounts less than 5% due to potency), prohibitively expensive (\$30,000-\$60,000)
 - **Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer (GCMS)** - Used by UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab
 - Benefits: Very sensitive machine, easily identifies substances in samples
 - Limitations: Cost (\$500,000 to \$1,000,000), not practical for use in the field
 - Programs using FTIR, send samples to UNC for confirmatory testing with GCMS
 - Bulk of programs served by UNC do not have FTIR or test strips.
 - Program helps to identify drugs and drug analogs, as well as adulterants cut into a community's drug supply.
- Goal of Program: to make drug use safer for those who use drugs.
- Studies show drug checking programs drive safer drug use.
- Individual Level-Program is a service to clients of Public Health Departments, SSPs, MAT clinics etc. to inform and/or validate what is in the drug supply.
- Community Level-Program monitors drug supply in micro and macro. Approach centered around Public Health and harm reduction.
- Drug Checking in Practice-Program leads through lived experience and science, hiring those with lived experience and aligning science with community needs.
- Sends drug checking kits to agencies to collect samples and information from individuals donating samples. Provided with code to retrieve results of test from UNC website.
- Reach
 - Distributed 4,465 kits
 - Collected 3,668 samples.
 - Currently operating in 30 states, across 136 programs, of which 37 in NC.

5:50 pm - 5:55 pm	<p>Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Boone asked about results in NC, specifically in Durham. • Colin said the lab has been taking samples from Durham for over a year. Will pull results together and share. Interesting findings in NC. • Xylazine was detected using FTIR a couple years ago after strange wounds seen in individuals who use drugs. • Out of 700-800 samples taken in NC, a quarter were positive for Xylazine. • Fentanyl found in more samples of powdered Methamphetamine, than in Crystal Meth. Also found in more samples of powdered Cocaine, than in crack Cocaine. • Lindsey asked Colin for breakdown of types of agencies UNC’s Drug Analysis Lab partners with. • Colin said partnering with harm reduction organizations, public health departments, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHS). Program received funding from NC Collaboratory, using Opioid Settlement Funding, which allows services to be provided to nearly any entity in NC, for free. • Lindsey asked if there are limits on quantities of samples they can process. • Colin said the lab is in growth mode, about to purchase its own GCMS, and can handle requests for large quantities of tests. • Arthur said Morse Clinic is a partner. • Co-Chair Jacobs thanked Colin and UNC Drug Analysis Lab for their work and hopes others will take advantage of this service.
5:55 pm - 6:10 pm	<p>Update on Use of Opioid Settlement Funds: Durham County Process Dwane Brinson, Assistant County Manager, Community Safety</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Jacobs introduced Dwane Brinson. ACM Dwane Brinson provided brief update on where Durham stands with opioid settlement funds as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 27, 2023-Deadline to have all reports on OSF spending into the state. ○ Opioid Settlement Manager Position-Approved by BOCC, will be posted soon. Will administer program going forward. ○ Taking time to identify the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Program Structure ▪ Oversight Committee ▪ Community Partners ▪ Process to Apply for Funds

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategies and Initiatives • Goal - To get funds into the community and make an impact • ACM Brinson will meet with Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH), Justice Services and others, and turn in resolution to state on plans to spend funds for next year. • Durham County fortunate to have funding for 18 years. • Hopes that by the next quarterly meeting of the DJT Task Force, can report on the good work Durham County is doing with funds.
6:10 pm - 6:15 pm	<p>Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Jacobs added that 2 time-sensitive items have moved forward on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding for Community Linkages to Care Program ○ MAT Director in Detention Center • Also mentioned presentation by Public Health concerning harm reduction and the need to bring service back to Durham County. • Thanked Dwane for his update and said she looks forward to hearing from him during the meeting in January.
6:15 pm - 6:25 pm	<p>Naloxone Distribution in Public Health and the Detention Center via Vending Machines Dennis Hamlet, Public Health Education Program Manager, Durham County Department of Public Health</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Boone introduced Dennis Hamlet, Health Education Program Manager with DCoDPH. • Dennis introduced himself as Communicable Disease/Maternal-Child Health Program Manager for Health Education Division, within DCoDPH. • Shared information on Naloxone Distribution via Vending Machines as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since invited to present during this meeting, successfully launched Durham County’s Naloxone Vending Machine Project-Narcan Near Me. A new and innovative approach to protect the well-being of community members. Provides leverage to protect the lives of individuals who use drugs. ○ Goal of Narcan/Naloxone Vending Machine at Detention Center - Provide free Narcan/Naloxone, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detention Center safe and discrete location ▪ Located at front of building, allowing access to medication without human interaction ○ Shared background on Narcan Vending Machine Project, which started in LA County Detention Center in 2019. ○ In 2021, SAMHSA, Opioid Stimulant Substance Abuse Project, CDC Overdose Data to Action Grant and other non-profits funded projects in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Durham 8th or 9th

	<p>County in NC to implement Narcan Vending Machine Project. Although not grant funded, able to learn from counties that were, and learn from their mistakes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overarching Goal of Naloxone Vending Machine Project - Improve the quality of life and increase the length of life for people who use drugs, by increasing low-barrier access to Naloxone. ○ Provide free supplies, without human interaction, and comprehensible messaging. ○ Why detention centers? - Overdose leading cause of death for individuals recently released from incarceration. ○ Project goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce overdose and overdose deaths. ▪ Increase community education and awareness. ▪ Reduce stigma related to drug use. ▪ Reach and engage communities disproportionately impacted by overdose. ● Name of Project: Narcan Near Me <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Narcan #1- Partnership between DCo Sheriff's Office/Detention Center and DCo Public Health. ○ Narcan #2 -Will be located at DCoDPH. ○ Narcan Near Me #1 was launched September 12, 2023. ○ Project funded by DCo government and grant funds. ○ Future Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narcan #2, presently located at DCoDPH. Not currently functional due to the need for more Narcan kits. Plan to find funding to keep machines full. ▪ Bolster evaluation efforts ▪ Have all materials written, digital and translated into Spanish. ▪ Consider the need to fit machines for Narcan, Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips, safe syringes, condoms, and other harm reduction supplies. ○ In 2023, DCoDPH Pharmacy distributed 970 Narcan kits. ○ Narcan #1 is approximately 80% full. ○ Getting about 3 clients/day, each taking 2-3 kits. ○ Dennis thanked the leadership and others from DCoDPH for supporting the project. Also thanked leadership from DCo Sheriff's Office and Detention Center.
6:25 pm - 6:30 pm	<p>Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arthur Payne suggested messaging to let clients know if machine empty. Morse Clinic, and other Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) have Narcan/Naloxone. ● Dennis said would like to talk to Arthur following meeting. ● 18:28:27 From Lindsey Bickers Bock (she/her) To Everyone - Love that idea Arthur! ● Co-Chair Boone pointed to Carlyle's message in chat.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18:25:23 From Carlyle Johnson (Alliance Health) To Everyone - Naloxone is available through the DHHS portal until tomorrow if Durham County or others are interested in requesting nasal naloxone. Here's the link: https://naloxonesaves.org/where-can-i-get-naloxone/ • Nancy thanked Dennis for the presentation. Added good way to have access to medicine, without stigma. • Co-Chair Jacobs thanked Dennis for great work. Asked with cost of Narcan at \$44/kit, if there is a reason (Policy) injectable Naloxone at \$5/kit, cannot be used instead? • Dennis explained DCo Detention Center does not allow needles/syringes on premises. Only Narcan allowed in that machine. Less expensive option, Naloxone, considered for machines at DCoDPH, Library and other sites. • Hilda asked if there is a way to ensure that individuals do not take more than they need with intentions of selling the kits. • Dennis responded that resale of Narcan and other expensive harm reduction supplies is possible and had previously been a cause for concern. However, Loftin, at NC Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC), advised back in 2016, that this is something beyond the control of those doing harm reduction, and should not be a concern above that of saving lives. Dennis added that they were also advised by others doing Narcan distribution via vending machines, to keep the machines at about 60% capacity to discourage hoarding the kits. • 18:36:37 From Dennis Hamlet, DCoDPH To Everyone: Dennis Hamlet, dhamlet@dconc.gov, 919 560 7766
6:30 pm - 6:40 pm	<p>Naloxone Distribution in the Community via Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Capt. Helen Tripp Durham County EMS, MIH Program Manager</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Boone introduced Capt. Helen Tripp to talk about Naloxone Distribution in the Community via Mobil Integrated Healthcare. • Helen thanked everyone for the opportunity to provide update on grant work. Shared update as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year, received a 4-year SAMHSA grant called First Responder Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act Grant. Approved for year 2. ○ Distributed Naloxone to 2 groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First responders-Police, Fire ▪ Community ▪ Especially places at risk for overdose on premises ○ Educate ○ Proud of what they have accomplished, despite delays due to setting up infrastructure. ○ Distributed 1200 Narcan kits. • Distributing Fentanyl test strips and micro-scoops.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Responders-Includes Durham Police Department (DPD). Had already gotten grant from NC HRC to get Narcan out to officers earlier this year. Only had 250 kits. Able to provide them with another 200 and restock as needed. Will receive training from Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). • Working with NC Central Police Department, Duke Police Department and Durham Tech (DTTC) Police Department to supply kits and training through NC HRC). • Partnered with Dr. Boone to get Narcan into Durham Public Schools via Resource Officers. Provided some Narcan kits. • Community Sector-MIH provided Narcan to Durham Center for Senior Life, Butterfly Effects, DCo Community Safety Department, J.J. Henderson Senior Apt. Community Health Influencers, DCo Justice Services Department, Durham Neighborhood College. • NC Harm Reduction Coalition- According to Loftin, injectable Naloxone can be intimidating to people who do not use drugs, providing 100 Narcan kits/month to NCHRC to add to outreach. • DCoEMS-Crews on ambulances have Narcan kits onboard to distribute at emergencies or in community upon request. Community Paramedics have Narcan to distribute during Post-Overdose Response Visits. • Provided education to several groups - DCoDPH provided Narcan to DCo Library. • MIH program worked with NCHRC to provide training on the use of Narcan kits. • NC Central U Student Health received Narcan kits from DCoDPH. MIH provided training on the use of kits. • Helen provided training to RTI International on the risks of Fentanyl to researchers, while studying the effects, and the use of Narcan. • Focus for year 2 will be to reach sectors of community not likely to purchase their own Narcan and getting Fentanyl test strips out to the community. • Program Manager, Monique McKitchen, is excited about working on this for the next year. • Co-Chair Boone thanked Helen for her presentation.
6:40 pm - 6:45 pm	<p>Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Jacobs asked Helen if she could share the amount of funding received. • Helen responded \$1.5 million. • 18:47:16 From Wendy Jacobs To Everyone - Great work Helen!!!! Can you provide your contact information for folks who want to partner with you? • 18:47:44 From Helen Tripp To Everyone - Capt. Helen Tripp, htripp@dconc.gov, 919-475-3991
6:45 pm - 6:55 pm	<p>Naloxone Distribution in Schools and the Community Dr. Wanda Boone, Task Force Co-Chair</p> <p>NOTES:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-Chair, Dr. Wanda Boone, shared presentation on Narcan Distribution in Schools and Community as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has been working with Monique to expand outreach efforts. ○ Provided Naloxone to all SROs in DPS middle and high schools, NCCU, and in public housing. ○ In 2018, Dr. Boone and some others were trained in harm reduction and Naloxone administration. Resulting in several trainers in Durham. ○ Work in public housing has more to do with expanded Health Ambassador Leadership Program. Individuals in public housing will receive information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adverse Experience and Selfcare ▪ Opioids, Overdose, and Narcan Use ▪ Substance Use and Violence Prevention ○ The Power of Working Together-Ubuntu. What does this look like for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals ▪ Community Relationships ▪ Interpersonal Relationships ▪ Changing Social Norms ○ A mom who lost her son due to a Fentanyl overdose was among those trained in harm reduction at UNCG. Makes topic near and dear. ○ Happy with all the information and ways we can use harm reduction. However, Dr. Boone is concerned that failure to consider prevention, may result in our ending up in same place. ○ Cohort 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes individuals in public housing ▪ Includes a scholarship to attend DTTC, to receive Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification ▪ Free to individuals living in public housing ▪ Cohort 1 program is full ▪ Public housing residents positioned, excited and ready to be trained in prevention measures and to administer Naloxone ● Cohort 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes other community members ○ Working with Monique has been a pleasure ○ Looks forward to expanding Naloxone distribution in public housing with further concentration in Districts 1 and 4, Districts of most color in Durham.
6:55 pm - 7:00pm	<p>Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nancy shared that work TRY is doing with Districts 1 and 4 are having great outcomes. ● TRY's CHW program is working to reduce stigma associated with Naloxone distribution in public housing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18:54:17 From Dr. Wanda Boone To Everyone: Thanks everyone - Nancy 😊 yes, Prevention is key. Dr. Wanda Boone 919-491-7811 Wanda.durhamtry@gmail.com • Co-Chair Jacobs, as a follow-up to Nancy’s comment and considering Colin’s information, asked general question concerning thoughts on effectiveness of test strips and other measures the group has found effective to prevent overdose from Fentanyl. • Helen responded that although Fentanyl test strips have false positives, could be enough to keep someone from using substance at that moment or using a lesser amount. Test strips are not that expensive. • Arthur added test strips about \$2/strip. If anyone is interested in purchasing, Loch Ness Medical is a premiere test strip distributor. • 18:55:15 From Helen Tripp To Everyone - Our fentanyl test strips were \$63 per 100 strips. • Co-Chair Dr. Boone asked Co-Chair Jacobs what her thoughts are on prevention, and where does she think prevention fits into the whole scheme of opioid overdose and other substances. Wondering about impression of where prevention fits in Durham County’s quest in overdose prevention and harm reduction. • Co-Chair Jacobs responded that education and prevention are important but sees harm reduction tied to education as well. Sees Colin’s mention of testing drug supply to empowering people as education. Sees the work TRY does as empowering people as well. Does not see one as more important than another. It is all vital. • Co-Chair Boone responded she was not making a point of prevention over harm reduction. Mentioned a presentation she had done on previous week on Why, Where, and How our youth are using substances. According to data, really need to look at this, and talk about it before a child turns 8-years-old. Suggests we keep our thoughts around this.
<p>Updates and Closing 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Dr. Wanda Boone, Task Force Co-Chair</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Boone asked if there were any announcements or updates. • Helen welcomed Dr. Logan Adams, with Duke Addiction Medicine in Duke Outpatient Clinics. • Dr. Adams added working to integrate addiction medicine with primary care practices. Also partnering with DTCC to provide addiction medicine services via mobile unit. He and Whitney Young are partnering with NC Harm Reduction to integrate that service there as well. • Helen introduced Whitney Young, who has overseen DTCC’s Mobile Medical Van for a few years. • Whitney thanked Helen for the introduction and said she was happy to dive into this realm. Working with mental health in schools and sees a need as Dr. Boone mentioned. • 18:59:22 From Wendy Jacobs To Everyone - Welcome Dr. Adams and Whitney! Co-Chair Boone said she is looking forward to contacting Whitney. • Co-Chair Jacobs thanked everyone for attending and hopes others can find opportunities to network and form partnerships.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18:59:48 From Nicole Schramm-Sapyta To Everyone - Great Presentations from all tonight!! Thanks to all!
Next Meeting	Thursday, January 25, 2024 Location: Zoom

Schedule for Durham Joins Together Committees:

- Prevention/Education – 2nd Wednesday 10:30 AM Virtual
- Mental Health SUD/Treatment and Data – 2nd Tuesdays 3:00 PM Virtual
- Policy – To be determined

Committee Chairs:

- Prevention & Education – Dr. Wanda Boone
- Mental Health Substance Use Disorder Treatment –Tremaine Sawyer & Lacie Scofield