



Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2024 (5:30PM-7:00PM)

Via Zoom

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

Attending: Wendy Jacobs-DCo BOCC; Dr. Wanda Boone-Director, Together for Resilient Youth (TRY); Helen Tripp-DCo Community Paramedics;

Monique McKithen-DCo OES; Dave Crispell-Jubilee Home; Kay Sanford-No Affiliation; Lacie Scofield-DCo DPH; Donna Rosser-DCoDPH;

Carolyn Renee Shaw-DCo Justice Services Department; Leticia Thomas-Jubilee Home; Tanya Stancil-Orange Co Health Dept.

Monica Washington-Oxford House; Vera Reinstein-Alliance Health, Tailored Plan; Ashley Bass-Mitchell-Alliance Health, System of Care;

Dwane Brinson-Assistant County Manager, Community Safety; Tamica Harper-Purcell-Freedom House Recovery Center; Brian Harris-TRY.

Dennis Hamlet-DCo DPH; Lindsey Bickers-Bock-DCoDPH

The minutes below contain time stamps of quotes entered in “Chat”. An example is: “17:36:14 From Dave Crispell, Jubilee Home (he/him): This is a positive group!”

| AGENDA ITEMS | MAJOR DISCUSSION POINTS |
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| Welcome and Introductions 5:30 pm - 5:35 pm | Dr. Wanda Boone, Task Force Co-Chair NOTES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Boone started the meeting with an icebreaker, asking everyone to rank how they feel, on a scale from 1 to 10. • She welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting of the Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Task Force. • She introduced herself and Co-Chair of the DJT Task Force, Commissioner Wendy Jacobs. |

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| <p>Presentation/Discussion</p> <p>5:35 pm - 5:50 pm</p> | <p>Jubilee Home’s Low-Barrier Community-Based Model: Plans for Expansion and Vision for the Future – David Crispell, Executive Director and Leticia Thomas, Director of Wellness Navigation, Jubilee Home</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <p>Dr. Boone introduced Leticia Thomas and Dave Crispell with Jubilee Home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leticia Thomas began the presentation with a centering activity, asking everyone to take 5 cleansing breaths and return to the group. <p>17:36:14 From Dave Crispell, Jubilee Home (he/him): This is a positive group!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leticia introduced herself and shared that Jubilee Home’s mission is to collaborate with justice involved individuals to foster belonging, promote healing, and build wellness in our community through quality, low barrier, supportive housing. • She added they are striving to create an environment responsive to their vision by making sure that their approach and space are low-barrier, uses a community-based model, is trauma-informed and responsive to unique needs of justice involved individuals. • Jubilee Home serves individuals involved in the legal judicial system, from both jail and prison release to probation. They do not discriminate based on those charges; however, unable to serve registered sex offenders at present. • They do serve residents with history of substance use; especially those on MAT. Also serve individuals with a variety of mental illnesses, whose treatment may require antipsychotic medications, and mood stabilizing antidepressants • They serve the unemployed, underemployed and those not ready for employment. Which means finance is not a barrier to housing. • They welcome men from age 17 to 99. They can stay up to 1 year. There is also some opportunity for permanent supportive housing. • Houses have stairs. Important that potential residents with physical disabilities are aware of this barrier. • Receive referrals through client self-referral, word of mouth, probation officers, facility case workers, Local Re-entry Council and other agencies. • She also shared information on services, support groups and educational sessions available to residents. • Commissioner Jacobs asked if they could share information on the event scheduled for May 31. • Dave Crispell announced that there would be an open house on Friday, May 31, 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There will be a panel discussion beginning at 11:00am, at the W.G. Pearson Center. Following which, guests are welcome to visit Jubilee Home properties. ○ If you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend, contact Dave or Leticia to be added to the headcount for food. • Dave also shared information on where Jubilee Home is headed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They just purchased a transitional property for women and are currently working on trauma-informed design with a therapeutic built environment for that space. Hoping to have it running by the fall. ○ They are pushing into more permanent housing options for residents who still have the need. |
| <p>5:50 pm - 5:55 pm</p> | <p>Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>NOTES:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacie shared that Jubilee Home is one of the few housing options that is truly low barrier, allowing individuals on Methadone and Buprenorphine. There is also no threat for those who have relapsed to lose housing. She is happy to know that Jubilee Home is opening a house for women. She asked if this house would allow pregnant women or women with children, because they are having the most trouble finding housing. • Dave said this house will allow children and pregnant women. They are having policy discussions on how to manage this from an organizational standpoint. They have been working with a new organization, “This is Our House,” interested in working with housing for women and children. Jubilee Home has been supporting them as they get up and running. • Kay Sanford had a question about Jubilee Home’s inability to accommodate persons with physical disabilities, due to stairs. Concerned that they may face consequences by not being ADA compliant. • Dave confirmed that this is true because their transitional facility was built in 1944 and is not ADA compliant. He added their permanent housing options will be easier to navigate. He also said that once they can find office space outside the transitional housing location, they will be able to convert current office space into bedrooms which are on the first floor and more accessible to people with disabilities. <p>18:01:57 From Monique McKithen: Is there an aftercare component to Jubilee House for on-going support after participants move on?</p> <p>18:02:25 From Dave Crispell, Jubilee Home (he/him): switching to my phone so I can begin moving towards the baseball field.</p> <p>18:06:13 From Leticia: Thank you all for having me. I do have to step away. Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any further inquiries (Leticia@jubilee-home.org).</p> |
| 5:55 pm – 6:00 pm | <p>NC IVP Branch Durham County Overdose Mortality Report - Dr. Wanda Boone, Task Force Co-Chair</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <p>Dr. Boone reported on Overdose Emergency Room Visits in Durham as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since her last report, the needle has moved slightly for Black/African Americans, from 62% to 58%. Overdoses for Hispanics in Durham have risen from negligible (too few to appear in the report), to 1%-2%. • Overdoses for ages 25 and under has increased slightly. For ages 25-34, remaining the same, with 35-44 edging up. • Prevention and Education/TRY is doing work on alcohol and opioids in the Black/African American community. She mentioned the presentation shared by the NC IVP Branch highlighting this commonality in overdoses among Blacks/African Americans in Durham. • They have also created an Opioid Abatement Community Guide, on which to train health ambassadors, community health workers and community members. This will allow them to share information on opioids and overdose, as well as other substances, ACEs, trauma, resilience and other subjects she talks about often. |
| 6:00 pm – 6:10 pm | <p>How Recovery and Prevention Work Together – Brian Harris, TRY</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <p>Dr. Boone thanked guest presenter, Brian Harris, for his willingness to talk about recovery and prevention at the Durham Rescue Mission and his work with the Prevention and Education Committee/TRY.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian said he came to Durham in 2019 seeking a better life. He went through the TROSA substance use treatment program. • He said that during his 5-years in recovery, he has experienced parts of recovery that can give hope to individuals like him. He added that recovery in Durham is powerful and shared that he had gone through many programs that aided him in his recovery, like TROSA, Re-entry, STARR, Drug Court, Oxford House, NA and AA. • He said his introduction to TRY helped him make a connection between the ACEs that prevented growing in certain areas of life and addiction. He added that he was able to see himself in much of what he has learned while working with TRY. • Brian shared that through recovery, he was able to get custody of his daughter. He talked about how difficult this was for a father in recovery, with his background to do. This was especially true because it was a daughter, rather than a son. He gave credit to Dave, with Jubilee Home, for making this possible. He shared that he tried to open a Daddy and Me home in Durham, but it was prohibited by North Carolina law. • He said he embraces recovery out loud. He said that he has remained spiritual and asked God, “Where can I be most effective now with my child?” He added that the spiritual part allows him to see how he was affected and where it started with him, as a child. He thanked Dr. Boone for providing him with the tools to make the connection. • Brian said he plans to further his education. He wants to pursue a degree in psychology and a minor in criminal justice. He hopes to have a career helping children. |
| 6:10 pm - 6:15 pm | <p>Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jacobs thanked Brian for sharing his story. She said she thinks he has so much to give to our community. <p>18:16:27 From Monica work: So proud of you Brian.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Boone said they are proud of everyone in recovery and working with their prevention efforts. |
| 6:15 pm – 6:30 pm | <p>Stepping Up Initiative’s Sequential Intercept Model – Carolyn Renee Shaw, DCo Justice Services Department</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jacobs introduced Carolyn Renee Shaw, with the Justice Services Department. She shared that Renee leads Mental Health Court and the Stepping Up Initiative. • Renee introduced herself as the Mental Health Substance Use Program Manager, of the Durham County Justice Services Department. She oversees Mental Health Court and the Substance Use Program for the Justice Services Department. She is also chairperson for the Stepping Up Initiative, which is a national initiative to reduce the number of individuals with mental illness in the jails. • Renee shared that Durham is an innovator county. We are 1 of 48 counties nationally, that meets the following 3 criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have a shared definition for mental illness. ○ Everyone in the Durham County jail is screened using a brief jail mental health screening. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We track and analyze our data. ● Committee has developed a Sequential Intercept Model. This model looks at the resources and gaps in the county and comes up with a plan to address the gaps and services for missing resources. ● In 2019, the committee came together and listed all the resources and services in Durham County, for individuals in the justice system. ● Renee shared the intercept map, showing 6 intercepts (See slides). ● Once COVID-19 happened, the committee was able to address a couple of priorities from the map. ● The Community Education Committee felt that Durham County residents were not aware that there are services and support for individuals with mental health in Durham. ● Access Housing-The committee wanted to increase accessibility for those with mental health issues, collaborate with all housing initiatives and make sure that they were aware of every resource and service to help individuals to access housing. ● The committee also wanted to address the length of stay within the Durham County jail for individuals with substance use and mental health. ● The committee wanted to help identify services for Mental Health Court participants. Although they were getting individuals into Mental Health Court, a number were waitlisted or would complete the program prior to coming up on the waitlist. ● In 2022, the committee updated the resources and services for each of the 6 intercepts from 2019. They realized because of COVID, many of the resources and services listed previously, had gone away. The priority areas in 2022 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access to services- Develop a contract for a Community Forensic Support Team to address individuals in the justice system who go on a waitlist and do not get the services they need. ○ Develop a brochure to educate the community. They distributed them in the library and to CIT officers. ○ Develop a Familiar Neighbor Pilot between Durham County and the City of Durham. Justice Services has a clinician and case manager that works with HEART clinicians to address clients familiar to the community and connect them to resources and services. ○ Housing- Joined the Local Re-entry Council’s Housing Subcommittee to address the housing needs of those in the justice system. ○ Peer support services- Research programs and providers to find out who is using peer support services and what services they offer. ● Renee shared that in 2024, the committee again decided to update the 2022 Sequential Intercept Map. She shared some of the programs they have identified. They will continue identifying agencies, programs and services that can address the needs of those in the justice system. ● Renee included a list of acronyms at the end of the presentation. She will share her slides and welcome calls to help with updates to the Sequential Intercept Map. |
| 6:30 pm – 6:35 pm | Discussion / Q&A NOTES: |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jacobs thanked Renee for the presentation and asked if she could send Donna the mental health resource list that Stepping Up Initiative created. She added that everyone could help get it out to the community. • Renee said she also has hard copies she could drop off to Donna. • Dr. Boone asked Renee if community resources like TRY are included in the resource lists. • Renee said she thought that TRY was listed, but if not, she would be willing to add it. |
| <p>6:35 pm – 6:50 pm</p> | <p>New Harm Reduction Program at Public Health – Lindsey Bickers-Bock, Director of Health Education & Community Transformation, and Dennis Hamlet, Public Health Education Program Manager, Durham County Department of Public Health.</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jacobs introduced Lindsey Bickers-Bock and Dennis Hamlet for the final presentation on the new harm reduction program funded by Durham County opioid settlement dollars. • While waiting for Lindsey to arrive, Commissioner Jacobs shared additional information about the Sequential Intercept Map. She said it is used to map our entire crisis system. The idea is to try and intervene at the start of a mental health, substance use crisis. The further you go down the map, the closer you get to interacting with the justice system. Over 40% of people in the Durham County Detention Center, have serious mental illness. It is a terrible travesty that people must end up in the detention center to get help. She added, to Dr. Boone’s point, they should be able to access help from resources in the community. The goal is to act at intercept 0, to keep people out of the detention center, emergency rooms and homeless shelters. • As Lindsey was delayed, Dennis introduced himself as the Communicable Disease, Maternal and Child Health Program Manager for the Durham County Department of Public Health. He manages Maternal and Child Health programs, the Community and Jail HIV Testing program, and the Opioid Response and Harm Reduction Education program. • Dennis provided a status update concerning the Public Health Education Specialist, who will specialize in harm reduction work in Public Health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key responsibilities of the position will include overseeing internal and external opioid response work ○ The individual will coordinate harm reduction activities on behalf of the Durham County Department of Public Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Run department’s Safer Syringe Program (SSP) ▪ Stock Naloxone vending machines across Durham County ▪ Act as point of contact for Naloxone education requests from community partners • Dennis said they received 89 applications for the position and advanced 15 applicants to the first stage of the interview process. • They are currently conducting the first round of interviews and are excited to get someone onboard to lead harm reduction efforts in Health Education. • Dennis also provided an update on DCo Public Health Pharmacy’s Naloxone and SSP work. • For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, 655 Naloxone kits were distributed to community members from the pharmacy. |

- In September 2023, Dennis presented the Naloxone Vending Machine Project. At which time, the first machine was launched at the Durham County Detention Center on September 12, 2023. Since then, a second machine was launched at the Durham County Human Services Building on February 2, 2024. He is pleased to announce that both are active and doing well. Since the launch, 600 kits have been dispensed, with an average of 40 kits dispensed weekly.
- They currently have 280 kits in inventory. Dennis thanked Helen Tripp with EMS and Lacie Scofield with CLC, for providing Narcan kits for the machines. They have used a combination of county and opioid settlement funds to purchase additional kits.
- Dennis provided an update on the DCo Public Pharmacy SSP Program.
- During the 2023-2024 fiscal, the pharmacy distributed 677 safer syringe kits. Dennis said the program is doing well. He says they hope the new Harm Reduction Specialist will be able to bolster SSP efforts in Durham County.
- Lindsey spelled out the goals of her presentation as follows:
 - Provide some context to the health promotion and harm reduction programming that Durham County Public Health has to offer.
 - Set some context and provide a framework for where they are headed over the next fiscal year.
 - Focus on what Durham County Public Health is doing in prevention, talk about CLC and harm reduction and talk about plans for collaborating and coordinating efforts with the DJT Task Force.
 - She explained that this is a continuum of work, starting with prevention.
- Prevention
 - The Prevention and Education Committee of the task force is doing lots of prevention work in the community.
 - There are specific ways the county is thinking about this work outside and as a part of its opioid response. Preventing initiation of substance use, delaying its early use and stopping its progression to problematic use by focusing on protective factors.
 - Preventing adverse childhood experiences.
 - Durham County has its own Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resilience Coordinator, seated within the Department of Public Health.
 - This allows for the start to finish response that starts with parental engagement and can lead to decreased likelihood for substance use in youth.
- Education and Medication Recovery
 - Durham County Public Health works on educational campaigns and supports medication recovery in partnership with the Public Health Pharmacy and community partners, allowing for proper disposal of medications and reducing access to substances, especially for youth.
 - Medication recovery is always available using the drop box in the Human Services Building lobby.
 - Medication takeback events are held at least twice a year with DCo Public Health's partners.
- Recovery Support
 - Community Linkages to Care (CLC) is the primary way that DCo Public Health is thinking about recovery support

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCo Public Health does not provide primary care for adults in the general public, but its CLC program is a way people are able to access peer support, as they navigate the process of recovery and treatment. ○ Although Durham County Detention Center provides recovery support through their Medication Assisted Treatment program, for the general public, CLC is the primary source of recovery support services offered by DCo Public Health ● Harm Reduction Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These are focused on 2 strategies named in the opioid settlement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Naloxone distribution, and 2. Safer Syringe Programs (SSPs) ○ DCo Public Health uses those 2 strategies as the framework for the Durham Harm Reduction Initiative proposed and has received funding this year from the Opioid Settlement. ● Lindsey provided an overview of the Durham Harm Reduction Initiative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There will be 1 new fulltime position – A Public Health Education Specialist, focused on harm reduction. ○ There will be contract staffing, allowing individuals with lived experience with substance use to do community outreach, with Duke and NC Harm Reduction Coalition. ○ There will be funds for supplies, like educational materials, mileage reimbursement for outreach and medical supplies (Naloxone, syringes and test strips). ○ There are plans to purchase 2 additional vending machines for naloxone and other harm reduction supplies. Also thinking about where to place them in the community. ○ This is envisioned to substantially increase the number of resources going to harm reduction in Durham County, through the Department of Public Health. |
| 6:50 pm – 6:55 pm | <p>Discussion / Q&A</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helen said Lindsey mentioned MOUD and MAT. Her Mobil Integrated Health program is doing field inductions post overdose and looking for partners. She asked Lindsey to keep them in mind, if and when they get to this point. ● Lindsey said Kudos to Helen and the Detention Center for their work with MAT and MOUD. She was just emphasizing that DCo Public Health is not doing that work. She thanked Helen for the offer to partner. ● Dr. Boone asked Lindsey if the prevention work that Public Health is doing is funded with Opioid Settlement funds. ● Lindsey said that they are not currently. All work on the prevention side is funded with Public Health, Health Education, existing Durham County dollars. ● Dr. Boone said that TRY has funding and has talked about partnering with Public Health on the efforts they plan to start in schools and in the community. She added that she will get in touch with Lindsey. ● Lindsey said she knows that Dr. Boone is already partnering through the ACEs and Resilience Task Force. She said there are always opportunities to collaborate. ● Tanya asked if with the Opioid Settlement Funds, there has been an advisory board set up. She also asked which option is Durham County following. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jacobs said Durham County is pursuing Option A. They have already gone through the interest survey and town hall process. The next steps are to complete the hiring process and the staff person will take over from there. <p>19:01:32 From Helen Tripp: We do have an internal working group also.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jacobs thanked Helen for mentioning that. • Lindsey added that opioid settlement funds are distributed at the county level. There is a county level internal group that met a couple times. <p>19:01:58 From Vera Reinstein: wondering about budgeting for harm reduction supplies to include wound care supplies for treating xylazine wounds. With xylazine an expanding adulterant in the drug supply and the horrific and resulting disfiguring wounds, this is an important need.</p> <p>19:02:02 From Helen Tripp: We are working on the next town hall now.</p> <p>19:02:18 From Dwane - iPhone: I'm happy to chime in as well if needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jacobs asked ACM Brinson to respond. • ACM Brinson verified that there is an internal working group, mainly department heads, that are helping to get some quick wins. Long-term, trying to establish a structure (Advisory Board). As of now, there is a harm reduction budget, Community Linkages to Care, Hiring the Opioid Settlement Manager, talking about the FDIR Spectrometer, and the Medical Director at the Detention Center is earmarked for opioid settlement funds. He also added that he will present a working budget for the next fiscal year to the BOCC during a work session on May 30, 2024. ACM Brinson also provided a basic explanation for how the FDIR spectrometer works. <p>19:05:32 From Dr. Wanda Boone: GC/MS Technologist Sr. in my past.</p> |
| <p>Updates and Closing 6:55 pm</p> | <p>Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, Task Force Co-Chair</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jacobs asked if anyone had announcements. She read Dr. Boone's message in the chat. • Dr. Boone said she was a GCMS Specialist in her past. • Ashley shared 3 announcements as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shred-a-Thon/Medication Takeback from 1PM-4PM, on Friday, June 7, 2024, at the Durham Center for Senior Life. ○ District 3 PAC (Partners Against Crime) is holding a community resource fair from 10AM-1PM, on Saturday, June 8, 2024. ○ Virtual Child and Family Team training from 9AM-4PM on Tuesday, June 11-12, 2024. Contact Ashley for the meeting link. • Dr. Boone asked Ashley to share announcements with Donna. • Commissioner Jacobs asked that Leticia and David, Renee, Dennis and Lindsey share slide presentations with Donna. • Dr. Boone announced that the next meeting is TBA and adjourned the meeting. |
| <p>Next Meeting</p> | <p>TBA</p> |

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Schedule for Durham Joins Together Committees:

- Prevention/Education – 2nd Wednesdays, 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