



## Durham Joins Together Taskforce Meeting Report

<b>Committee</b>	Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Committee
<b>Committee Chair or Co-Chairs</b>	Tremaine Sawyer, Durham County Justice Services Department Lacie Scofield, Durham County Department of Public Health
<b>Date</b>	January 22, 2024

### Committee members:

Carlyle Johnson, Alliance Health; Sheriff Clarence Birkhead, DCSO; Rodney Jenkins, DCoDPH; Cindy Haynes, Duke Population Health; Donna Rosser, DCoDPH; Helen Tripp, DCo EMS;Carolynn Crowder, Lincoln CCHC; Arthur Payne, Morse Clinic; Lacie Scofield, DCoDPH; Marc Strange, DCo JSD; Kim Chansen, RII; Michele Easter, Duke Psychiatry; Tremaine Sawyer, DCo JSD; Tammy Vaughan, DCSO; LA Cuttler, Hope Centre; Lawrence Greenblatt MD, Duke Population Health; Amy O’Regan, Duke; Kelley Waggy, DCo JSD; Jesse Battle, TROSA; Kristen Patterson, DCoDPH; Lindsey Bickers-Bock, DCoDPH; Kay Sanford, NCHRC; Alicia McKinney, DCSO; Eric Morse, Morse Clinic; Pablo Silva, El Futuro; Ana Bonilla, DCoDPH; Wendi Watson, NCCU; Fred Johnson, Duke; Quanisha Archer, DCoDPH; Paula Harrington, Oxford House; and others.

### Current Activities:

**October 2023 Meeting** - Invited Speakers: Carlyle Johnson, Alliance Health and Megan Moore, Wilson Center at Duke Law

Carlyle Johnson shared recent updates from Alliance Health and discussed Medicaid expansion. Carlyle briefly walked the committee through the Medicaid expansion website and shared the link: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/north-carolina-expands-medicaid>. Megan Moore discussed a resource fair on Medicaid enrollment for formerly incarcerated individuals scheduled for late January. She invited committee members to contact her about partnering and/or participating in the fair.

**November 2023 Meeting** - Invited Speakers: Dr. Nicole Schramm-Sapyta and Dr. Michele Easter, Duke University School of Medicine.

Dr. Schramm-Sapyta and Dr. Easter presented data from 6 years of research on the interplay between the justice system, health system, mental health, and substance use disorder in Durham County. They found that diagnoses of serious mental illness (MI) and substance use disorder (SUD) predict frequent re-arrest in the Durham County Detention Facility. In addition, community/neighborhood factors are important in both re-arrest and health system usage. The Durham County Justice System has made efforts to improve outcomes for those incarcerated with MI and SUD.

**January 2024 Meeting** - Invited Speakers: Dr. Dasherline Johnson, North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and Averyl Edwards, Family Planning Medicaid Program Manager at NCDHHS

Dr. Johnson showcased the new NCCU Opioid-Abatement Toolkit which can be found at the following link: <https://opioid-abatement.com>. Averyl Edwards gave an informative presentation on Medicaid expansion using the slide deck on the Medicaid Expansion website, which can be found here: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid-essentials-powerpoint-english/download?attachment>.

**Housing Subcommittee** – The Housing Subcommittee continues to meet monthly. Members of the subcommittee from Freedom House Recovery and Morse Clinics have been working together to iron out the logistics of providing residents at the various Freedom House locations with methadone, when indicated. Members of the subcommittee also set up meetings with staff at Cub Creek Sober Living and TROSA, two housing providers that currently prohibit residents from taking most forms of MAT. The purpose of these meetings was to dispel MAT myths and address perceived barriers. As a result, the director of Cub Creek Sober Living is now considering allowing people who take MAT to live in a new house that will be open soon. Two subcommittee members have offered to assist with this effort and provide MAT resource materials. Finally, the subcommittee has finalized a Fact Sheet on Housing and Medication for People with Opioid Use Disorder, which is now posted on the DJT Task Force website.

**On-going activities:**

- Discuss current MOUD and MAT treatment options in Durham County and the effect of Medicaid expansion on these options.
- Provide status of Durham County's NOS funding decision process.
- Discuss ways to increase access to Peer Support for SUD and to provide a support network for Peer Support Specialists.
- Develop ideas and actions to address housing barriers for people with SUD and justice-involved populations.
- Updates from all programs and agencies as available.

**Metrics/Measures:**

CLC, regular data reports

MAT, program numbers

**Next Steps:**

- Receive updates from Housing Subcommittee on efforts to meet with housing providers
- Presentations/discussions on expanded MOUD initiation in the community, Family Planning Medicaid and SUD, Opioid Prevention Centers (OPC), and other novel harm reduction strategies

**Next Meeting & Location:**

February 13, 2024 via Zoom