



Durham Joins Together Taskforce Meeting Report

Committee	Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Committee
Committee Chair or Co-Chairs	Tremaine Sawyer, Durham County Justice Services Department Lacie Scofield, Durham County Department of Public Health
Date	May 23, 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, Duke; Anjni Joiner, Duke; Population Health; Amy O'Regan, Duke; Kelley Waggy, DCo JSD; Jesse Battle, TROSA; Kristen Patterson, DCoDPH; Lindsey Bickers-Bock, DCoDPH; Kay Sanford, NCHRC; Eric Morse, Morse Clinic; Pablo Silva, El Futuro; Ana Bonilla, DCoDPH; Fred Johnson, Duke; Quanesha Archer, DCoDPH; Monica Washington, Oxford House; David Crispell, Jubilee Home; Timeka Harper-Purcell, Freedom House; Logan Adams, Duke Outpatient Clinic; and others.

Current Activities:

February 2024 Meeting - Invited Speakers: Averyl Edwards, NC Dept. of Health and Human Services and Dr. Logan Adams, Duke Outpatient Clinic

Averyl Edwards spoke about Family Planning Medicaid, including its eligibility requirements, the services it covers, how to apply, and the benefits for justice-involved individuals and people with substance use disorders. Dr. Adams discussed the benefits of low-barrier buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder. He also introduced the group to Project MAPS which provides primary care services, wound care, low-barrier buprenorphine treatment, and other services to underserved populations in Durham through a mobile unit.

March 2024 Meeting - Invited Speakers: Loftin Wilson, NCHRC and Kay Sanford, NCHRC

Loftin Wilson discussed data that show that smoking or snorting drugs is safer than injecting drugs. He provided an overview of the safer smoking/snorting supplies that some SSPs currently provide and explained how distributing these supplies helps SSPs reach more people who use drugs, particularly those from BIPOC communities. Kay Sanford discussed the history of harm reduction, the rationale behind Overdose Prevention Centers, and the critical services provided by these centers. She also presented impressive data from the first annual report of OnPoint NYC, which is the first Overdose Prevention Center opened in the United States.

April 2024 Meeting - Invited Speakers: Dr. Wanda Boone, Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) and Renee Shaw, Justice Service Department

Dr. Boone discussed the Opioid Abatement Community Guide, Health Ambassador Leadership Program, Achieving Health Hand in Hand (AHHH) Program, Champions of Change, and several other TRY programs. She also spoke about rates and trends in substance use and overdose among Black people in North Carolina and how increases in trauma and adverse experiences contribute to elevated risk of substance use and other adverse health outcomes. Renee Shaw discussed the Stepping Up Initiative and efforts that are underway to update the Sequential Intercept Map (SIM) for Durham. She also mentioned the priority areas that were revealed by the 2019 and 2022 SIMs.

Housing Subcommittee – The Housing Subcommittee continues to meet monthly. Members of the subcommittee from Freedom House Recovery and Morse Clinics are still working together to iron out the logistics of providing residents at the various Freedom House locations with the option to take methadone, when indicated. Members of the subcommittee also recently met with the directors of the Durham Rescue Mission (DRM) and had a productive conversation about the benefits of MAT. While they are not willing to change the policy that prohibits residents at DRM from using MAT at this time, they were interested in building relationships with other treatment and housing providers in Durham and possibly making referrals to those providers. They were also interested in meeting with subcommittee members again to continue the conversation in several months' time. Subcommittee members are continuing efforts to reach out to other housing providers in Durham that restrict MAT, including Cub Creek Sober Living and Love and Respect.

On-going activities:

- Provide status updates on Durham County's National Opioid Settlement 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.
- Updates from the Housing Subcommittee on efforts to meet with housing providers.

Metrics/Measures:

CLC Program – Program numbers and survey data reports

Detention Center - MAT program numbers

EMS - Opioid-related calls and buprenorphine induction numbers

Next Steps:

- Discussion of new federal guidelines for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) that reduce barriers to both methadone and buprenorphine
- Panel presentation from peer support specialists
- Discussion of challenges reported by committee members and opportunities for collaboration

Next Meeting & Location:

June 11, 2024 from 3:00-4:30 via Zoom