

A Regular Meeting of the Durham County Board of Health was held June 13, 2024, with the following members present:

Roger McDougal, DDS; Gene Rhea, PharmD, MHA; Rosemary Jackson, MD; James Miller, DVM; Josh Brown; Victoria Orto, DNP, RN, NEA-BC; Anthony Gregorio, MBA; LeRon Jackson, MD, MPH

Absent: Commissioner Nida Allam, Darryl Glover, OD, and Joshua Brown

Others Present: Rod Jenkins, Attorney Christy Malott, Kristen Patterson, Donna Murphy, Liz Stevens, Jeff Jenks, Chris Salter, Lindsey Bickers-Bock, Josee Paul, Micah Guindon, Rachael Elledge, Malkia Rayner, Jim Harris, Marcia Richardson, Josee Paul, Alicia Smith, Marissa Mortiboy

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Roger McDougal called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m. with a quorum present.

DISCUSSION (AND APPROVAL) OF ADJUSTMENTS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: There were no adjustments/additions to the agenda.

Dr. Jim Miller made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Victoria Orto seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING/ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL:

Dr. Gene Rhea made a motion to approve the minutes for May 9, 2024. Anthony Gregorio seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- There were no public comments.

Chair McDougal: Thank you, we will move on to the next agenda item.

STAFF/PROGRAM RECOGNITION:

Mr. Jenkins recognized:

- On Saturday, May 18th, the Men's Health Council of Durham Public Health was honored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Durham Alumni chapter. I was pleasantly surprised and delighted to accept the award on behalf of the Council members, including the leader, Mr. Dorsey, Vice Chair Mr. Bradley Long, and Coordinator Miss Joyce Page, among others. The event was a beautiful affair with a nice dinner and received significant media attention. I want to acknowledge Joyce Page for her hard work; she has been honored both individually and collectively for her contributions to the Men's Council.
- Additionally, last Friday, the Board recognized our Women's Health team for receiving the National Association of Counties Achievement Award. This award honors their work with the Women's Health Nurse Navigator setup, a significant accomplishment. The National Association of Counties recognizes the efforts of county commissioners and county work nationwide. We are grateful for the contributions of Tonya Luna, Tressa Thudumu, and Nurse Navigator Ebony Quick, all under the leadership of our Director of Nursing, Kiki Rayner. We wanted to give them their well-deserved recognition and kudos.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:
Opioid Settlement (*Activity 12.3*)

Kristen Patterson, Assistant Director, presented the board with an overview of the Opioid Settlement implementation in Durham County. This initiative is a collaborative effort involving key personnel such as Lindsey Bickers Bock, Dennis Hamlet, Micah Guindon, Helen Tripp, and others. The project emphasizes strategic planning and community involvement.

The team selected two evidence-based strategies from a short list and recognized the need to adopt additional strategies from a longer list. Fund management required commissioner approval and the creation of a special revenue fund. Efforts were made to avoid duplicating existing initiatives, and community input was sought through sessions and surveys. Community input sessions, attended by 68 stakeholders, aligned with the 554 survey responses, highlighting a focus on evidence-based treatment centers and recovery support housing. Durham County is set to receive \$21 million over 18 years for the opioid settlement. Approved strategies include Public Health Harm Reduction, Community Care Linkage, and an Opioid Settlement Manager Position.

Initial spending for FY 24/25 is projected at \$1,678,000, with an annual stabilized spending plan of \$1.3 million to ensure mindful spending and thorough approval processes involving Core NC. Specific programs and positions include a Harm Reduction Specialist, Narcan provision, a needle exchange program, and outreach workers. The Community Linkage to Care program will be expanded, and the role of Opioid Settlement Manager will oversee operations and grant writing.

The Community Paramedics team, led by Helen Tripp, focuses on opioid-related calls, with plans to add two more paramedics. The Drug Checking Program is on hold pending legal review, with potential collaboration with UNC to mitigate liability.

Future steps involve hiring an Opioid Manager, developing an Advisory Board, and creating a scorecard for transparency. Additional resources and updates are available on the manager's office departmental page and the NC state opioid settlement team web page.

Durham County's approach to the opioid epidemic emphasizes evidence-based strategies, community involvement, and careful financial planning using settlement funds.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Mr. Gregorio: Two questions. Would you remind me what Wave two is. I saw that in the Durham County process slide.

Kristen Patterson: Wave one is where certain counties were able to sign on. Wave two is where Durham County signed on, we were not able to be in Wave one, but were able to sign on in wave two. That is when we finished with the way the lawsuit was working.

Mr. Gregorio: Thank you. Do you have any comments on where the vending machines might be placed?

Kristen Patterson: There is one vending machine here in Public Health and there is another one in the jail. The third machine we are not really sure. Maybe one of the libraries because we have noticed that with risk management there was an uptick of individuals coming into the library who were either overdosing or the library staff noticed that people were coming in using drugs. So, we are trying to place a vending machine there, but all of our AEDs have naloxone in those as well.

Mr. Gregorio: I was thinking about the bus terminal. That might be a high traffic area.

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Kristen Patterson: Yes, I'm going to write that down.

Dr. McDougall: I had a question; with the settlement you had a slide earlier that listed three things that were already approved for funding the opioid settlement manager position, community linkage to care program. There was another one that was Reduction to Harm. Do we have an idea of when the medical director at the sheriff's department would be approved for funding or has it already been approved?

Kristen Patterson: If I'm not mistaken, that was in our budget for the county and that budget was approved last Monday.

Dr. McDougall: ok, so it's outside of this. Thank you.

Dr. LeRon Jackson: I have an additional question regarding plans for the development of recovery, housing and looking at that being a need expressed by many stakeholders and folks that have come to the input sessions.

Kristen Patterson: Actually, that would be a capital project that is one of the long-term projects. From my understanding, I think they are trying to revamp some apartments for housing or recovery housing.

Dr. LeRon Jackson: the funding from that would come from Opioids. How much has been earmarked for that, are we aware?

Kristen Patterson: Opioids. I'm not sure how much, but I can find out for you.

Dr. LeRon Jackson: one more follow-up question. Will the recovery housing be based upon any particular models that have been successful elsewhere, and other communities that are similar in size and character to Durham?

Kristen Patterson: I think they're still researching that piece, because that would be a capital project, and that would live in our judicial piece. I can also get that information from Assistant County Manager, Dwayne Brinson, because I think he's over that piece. He should be able to answer some questions, or even give us some thought to how the process will work. *(A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is attached to the minutes.)*

Telehealth at the Durham County Department of Public Health
(Activity 37.2)

The presentation was given by Marcia Richardson, IT Manager, and Dr. Jeff Jenks, Medical Director.

Dr. Jenks: Marcia and I are going to tag team this and I am going to let her talk a little bit about the current telehealth technology that we use at the Health Department.

Marcia Richardson: A little bit about the technology here within our department. We currently use our UNC EPIC instance. Tied into EPIC, we have a solution called am well. That is for our video visits. We're happy to say that beginning July 16th we will be able to have the functionality of video visits in Spanish. So, we are looking forward to that. Also, in our clinics we use our facetime for patients, and we use that for our direct observation therapy, which you'll hear about a little bit more with Dr. Jenks.

Dr. Jenks: Telehealth services at our Health Department began during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic out of necessity, similar to many places across the country. This initiative predated my tenure here. Previously, at the University of California, San Diego, we implemented telehealth services across all departments, which mirrored the approach taken here.

Initially, telehealth was widely used in various clinical settings, including our sexual health clinic, family planning clinic, and tuberculosis clinic. However, as COVID-19 vaccines became more available, in-person visits increased, and the reliance on telehealth services decreased. For most services offered by the Health Department, in-person visits are more efficient and effective. For example, immunization clinics require in-person visits for vaccinations, sexual health clinics need lab work, and

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family planning services involve procedures such as prescribing birth control, pap smears, and IUD placements. Therefore, in-person visits are preferable for most clinics.

An exception is the tuberculosis (TB) clinic, where telehealth, specifically video visits for directly observed therapy (DOT), remains crucial. This method is more convenient for both patients and staff, allowing for efficient monitoring without the need for daily in-person visits. North Carolina law requires five documented DOT visits per week for TB treatment, typically conducted Monday through Friday. Video visits make this process more practical, especially for patients who are difficult to track down or have daytime commitments.

Our telehealth policy has been updated recently, and we have found that telehealth usage is currently limited, primarily to the nutrition and TB clinics. Eligibility criteria for telehealth services include ensuring patients are not in a medical emergency, verifying their registration and prior visits to the Health Department, and obtaining verbal consent for telehealth visits. Language barriers present challenges, but we use language line phone services for telehealth visits and anticipate easier video visits through EPIC soon.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Dr. LeRon Jackson: It's good to see the progression of how things have been affected by the ebbs and flows of the pandemic. The question that I have moving forward is as we are out of the peak of the pandemic right now, what are some alternative ways that we can think about using telehealth maybe to those who may be in outlying areas or may have other difficulties in accessing the Health Department in situations where it may be applicable? Obviously, they need an in-person visit.

Dr. Jenks: That's a great question and we thought about this in the sexual health clinic for instance, and you could do this in family planning clinic as you well know just have asynchronous visit. So, someone maybe could do a telehealth visit and then come to the lab another day, when it's more convenient for them it wouldn't have to be all that day. So, there are other ways we could do this. As I alluded to earlier though for the most part what we do here at least in our area, outside of nutrition clinic and other clinical settings will typically involve getting an immunization or getting labs done or swabs done in the sexual health clinic. Typically, that would be necessary, it wouldn't have to happen on the same day so that could be an option for someone that says they can't get here that day, but I can come back to the lab another day and that's something we can think about rolling out.

Dr. McDougall: I did have a question. I was thinking about the TB clinic. We are not expanding this service to offer devices for those who don't have them, is that correct?

Dr. Jenks: We tried that with limited success. It became complicated with getting a phone plan. We have had people that do have transportation but not a phone or can't use the video component. They drive up to the curb and the TB nurse will walk out there, watch them take their medication and they drive away. So, we have had someone do that recently who lives very close to the Health Department. The TB nurse will go to the home it's just to do that every day is not efficient. If someone doesn't have a phone with video capability, then we will do it the old fashion way.

PUBLIC HEALTH VACANCY REPORT (*Activity 37.6*)

The board received a copy of the vacancy report for May 2024 prior to the meeting, showing a vacancy rate of 16.2% through the end of the month. This rate resulted from several factors, including some resignations, but also from promotions that left positions vacant. Promotions have allowed

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lower-level staff to advance, creating new opportunities for growth within the organization.

Several individuals were promoted or transferred to new roles, such as the cooperative extension food security coordinator position. The Nursing Division, led by Director Kiki Rayner, made significant progress in filling vacancies, resulting in the school health team being fully staffed. Efforts are ongoing to fill positions quickly.

The County Manager, Dr. Kimberly Sowell, announced an upcoming hiring freeze due to budget constraints. In response, there has been a push to fill and post positions rapidly. Despite the hiring freeze, there is assurance that public health will have a clearer path to unfreeze and fill essential positions due to the critical nature of their services.
(*A copy of May 2024 Vacancy report is attached to the minutes.*)

NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS (NOV) REPORT (*Activity 18.2*)

The board received a copy of the Environmental Health Onsite Water Protection Section NOV report through the end of May 2024 prior to the meeting.

(*A copy of May 2024 NOV report is attached to the minutes.*)

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Chris Salter: Last month one Notice of Violation (NOV) was brought into compliance, but a new one was also added. He mentioned having a productive meeting with attorneys Mallot and McKinney, discussing the NOV report and various environmental health issues, and exploring potential legal remedies. The attorneys provided some promising ideas that could lead to progress in addressing these issues.

The report highlighted that several NOVs are related to potential connections to the municipal sewer system. Specifically, about 8 out of the 29 active NOVs have either applied for or been approved to connect to the municipal sewer. While this is a positive development, Mr. Salter noted that the process typically takes six months to a year, and the timeline remains uncertain, which is a source of frustration.

- There were no questions asked by the Board.

Health Director's Report
June 13, 2024

Division/ Program: Administration – Durham County Opioid Settlement Funds
(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

- Last May, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) received an initial update on the Opioid Settlement funds and process. Several initial steps involved community input, which has been very useful.
- An online survey was developed and available from December 7, 2022, through January 31, 2023. We received 554 responses.
- On March 20, 2023, a community input meeting was held at Durham County offices, and 68 community members attended. The community meeting was beneficial as it was an interactive session to discuss gaps and strategies for funding.
- The three top strategies identified were (1) evidence-based addiction treatment, (2) evidence-based recovery support services, and (3) recovery support housing.

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Statement of goals

- As part of the May 2023 presentation, three items were identified as "time-sensitive spending authorizations."
- We are pleased to inform you that all three have been presented to and approved by the BOCC, marking significant progress in our efforts to utilize the Opioid Settlement Funds.

Issues

• **Opportunities**

○ **Opioid Settlement Manager position**

This position will manage the day-to-day opioid funds, community outreach and reporting. We are in this recruitment process and expect to have the position filled by the end of next month.

○ **Expand harm reduction efforts (through Durham County Public Health)**

Under the 'Expand harm reduction efforts' initiative, we are planning to hire a Public Health Harm Reduction Specialist. We will also provide medical supplies for harm reduction, including Narcan supplies to support DCo Public Health Pharmacy distribution, 3 vending machines, and safer syringe program supplies for DCo Public Health Pharmacy and community distribution. Additionally, we are considering potential contracts for outreach by an individual(s) with lived experience. We intend to carry this item forward into next year.

○ **Community Linkages to Care (through Durham County Public Health)**

The CLC initiative will connect individuals who are struggling with substance use disorder (SUD) with comprehensive, evidence-based care, which acknowledges social determinants of health and responds to current housing challenges. The goals are to:

- Reduce overdose hospital visits and fatalities in Durham County.
- Increase the number of naloxone opioid overdose reversal kits distributed to Durham County residents with SUD.
- Engage key stakeholders across Durham County to help respond to the overdose crisis and address social determinants of health for individuals affected by SUD.
- We intend to move forward with these items into next year.

• **Challenges**

- While the current spending plan will allow these funds to provide immediate help to our community, which are great "quick wins," we are also developing a long-term structure around this process.
- To ensure transparency and community involvement, an additional community meeting is being developed.

Implication(s)

• **Outcomes**

- This meeting will be a key opportunity for community members and organizations to learn more about Durham County Opioid Settlement Funds, current spending plans, and help develop a path for the future.
- Once an agenda and date have been set, we will widely publicize the meeting to ensure we are able to gather as much feedback as possible.

• **Service delivery**

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- In addition to the team preparing required documents for the Board of Health, County Commissioners, and CORE NC (Federal and State approvers) to approve, the Deputy Public Health Director, Kristen Patterson has created the job position for the Opioid Settlement Program Manager.
- Health Education Division Director, Lindsey Bickers Bock and Program Manager, Dennis Hamlet has created the job position for the Harm Reduction Specialist.
- Finance Director, Micah Guindon assist with the financial and other required documents for the respective Boards approval.
- Narcan has been purchased to fill the vending machines which are located in the lobbies of the Public Health building and the Detention Center. Narcan has also been purchased for the Public Health Pharmacy.
- **Staffing**
 - The Harm Reduction Specialist and Opioid Settlement Program Manager positions are posted.
 - Current work for the Opioid Settlement Program is being carried out by the following staff members Lindsey Bickers Bock, Lacie Scofield, Dennis Hamlet, Micah Guindon, and Kristen Patterson.
- **Revenue**
 - Durham County Government continues to fund these efforts through the Opioid Settlement Funds.
- **Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies**
 - Durham County Opioid Settlement Program are currently in the process of recruiting for open positions in order to hire staff.
 - Continue to expand our reach to the community through the Community Linkage to Care program (CLC) with the new funding source.

Division / Program: Population Health / Epidemiology
Accreditation Activity 38.1 BOH Review of Community Health
Reports. Requires evidence that the BOH/advisory committee on
health reviews health statistics of the communities served by the
department.

Division/Department: Population Health Team

Program Description

Each year, the health of Durham County residents is evaluated using the County Health Rankings model. This model uses health outcomes such as quality of life and length of life, as well as health factors such as health behavior, clinical factors, social and economic factors, and physical environment to determine how people are living and how well people are living. This model is applied to all counties in North Carolina and used to rank them, one through 100. In 2024 this changed, so that counties are no longer ranked but are described as above or below average. In 2024, Durham County was described as “faring better than the average county in North Carolina for Health Outcomes, and better than the average county in the nation.” From 2021-2023, Durham County was ranked in the top ten healthiest counties.

The purpose of these rankings allows public health workers to identify gaps and inequities in the health of Durhamites and to compare this

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health to other counties in North Carolina, the state of North Carolina, and the United States as a whole. Examining inequities allows public health workers to look closely at social determinants of health and how they are driving health outcomes. Because County Health Rankings evaluates counties yearly, a time-series analysis can be performed to identify trends in health outcomes and behaviors over time. This can also be used to identify inequities.

Statement of Goals

- Utilize the data found from County Health Rankings to identify gaps and inequities in the health and wellbeing of Durhamites.
- Identify trends over time to understand the long-term impact of certain health behaviors that can lead to good or poor health outcomes.
- Provide secondary data to reports, infographics, Story Maps, and presentations to inform Durhamites and county officials on Durham County's health and wellbeing.

Issues

• **Opportunities**

- Gain thorough insight into the health and wellbeing of Durhamites.
- Analyze disaggregated data, when possible, to understand how social determinants of health affect health outcomes.
- Identify areas of excellence and areas of opportunities with Durham County.

• **Challenges**

- Recent data is not available in all categories, some data points are from several years ago.
- Not all the data can be disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

Implication(s)

• **Outcomes**

- Durham County is one of the most diverse counties in North Carolina.
- Durham County residents reporting poor or fair health increased since 2023.
- Residents with poor physical and mental health days out of the past 30 days increased in Durham County.
- Low birthweight babies in Durham County did not increase or decrease.
- Diabetes prevalence increased from 10% to 11% and now matches the state of North Carolina.
- Drug overdose deaths in Durham County increased from 18 to 23 deaths per 100,000 residents.
- Life expectancy decreased for all races and Hispanic and Latinos since 2023 in Durham County.
- Infant mortality and premature deaths did not increase or decrease in Durham County.
- Black or African American infants die at a higher rate (11 per 100,000) than white (3 per 100,000) or Hispanic or Latino babies (4 per 100,000).
- Durham County continues to provide excellent mental and physical care providers to patient ratios than the state or country.
- Durham County has higher flu vaccination rates than the state.

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- There are still inequities seen in mammogram screenings by race and ethnicity.
- **Staffing**
 - Epidemiologist
 - Population Health division staff
- **Revenue**
 - None
- **Next Steps/Mitigation Strategies**
 - Continue to analyze data yearly to identify trends over time as well as gaps and inequities.
 - Incorporate this data into reports, infographics, StoryMaps, and presentations to paint a better picture of Durham County's health and wellbeing.

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 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 any emerging dental issues.
- After the screening, parents receive a letter with the results. The letters state whether the child has or may have caries. The documents note 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 will visit their child's school. In these instances, parents are provided information on how the child can be treated on the Tooth Ferry. (They also have the option to take 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 a child.
 - The screenings assist in collecting vital information to help improve children's dental health programs.
 - The screenings include education for children (and parents) via oral health presentations at the schools or Early Head Start Centers.

Challenges

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- There are often last-minute adjustments to the screening schedule when arriving at the sites, including finding space for the team.
- Despite many requests, the team does not have the ability to visit multiple Middle School sites, and requests are vetted on a case-by-case basis.

Implication(s)

• **Outcomes**

- The Division completed screening on 9,200+ children this past school year.
- The team was able to accommodate Brogden Middle School's request for screening, completing two days there in May.
- The State Oral Health Section completed a dental sealant project, also in May at Eastway Elementary. They saw 25 students and 19 needed/received sealants.

• **Service delivery**

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

• **Staffing**

- Fariba Mostaghimi, Public Health hygienist, completes the screening.
- Dental team members (typically the Tooth Ferry Coordinator or Driver) record results and assist in completing the letters to parents.

• **Revenue**

- N/A

• **Other**

- N/A

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

The Division will compile data and produce reports during the summer months.

Division / Program: Health Education & Community Transformation / Naloxone Vending Machines (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 County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) is partnering with the Durham County Detention Center to implement the “Naloxone Vending Machine Project.” Naloxone, also known as the branded medication, named Narcan, blocks opioid receptors and reverses the effects of opioids. Opioids are a highly addictive class of drugs. When someone is overdosed, naloxone can restore normal breathing when their breathing has slowed or stopped. The medicine, when distributed as a nasal spray, doesn’t require medical training to administer. Implementing naloxone vending machines is an evidence-based strategy for mitigating substance use associated morbidity and mortality via the dispensation of naloxone to people who use drugs, including overdose prevention resources.

The Naloxone Vending Machine Project provides a no-cost, stigma-free harm reduction strategy in a safe and discrete environment. The vending machines will increase access to naloxone outside of traditional brick and mortar settings.

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DCoDPH currently manages two naloxone vending machines in Durham County:

1. Machine #1 is located at the Durham County Human Services facility and is available during normal business hours.
2. Machine #2 is located at the Durham County Detention Center and community members can access the machines 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Statement of goals:

- Reduce opioid overdose deaths and improve the quality of life for people who use drugs by increasing low barrier access to naloxone. Low barrier access, for the purpose of this agreement, is providing free supplies with comprehensible messaging.
- Reach and engage communities, both geographic and demographic, disproportionately impacted by opioid overdose.
- Reduce stigma related to substance use.

Issues:

• **Opportunities**

- Naloxone vending machines will afford Durham County the opportunity to utilize a new, innovative approach to protect and promote the health and safety of individuals who use drugs.
- The addition of naloxone vending machines has expanded our naloxone distribution efforts as the machines are relatively inexpensive and cost effective compared to other modes of service.

• **Challenges**

- There is limited capacity for data collection. However, efforts to collect patient demographic and supply input and output data are in progress. Key staff across the Durham County enterprise are identifying strategies to improve our data infrastructure for county opioid response efforts. Once we have a Harm Reduction Public Health Education Specialist, we will have an increased capacity to collect additional data, such as machine utilization patterns, frequency of use and participation experience.
- As Durham County finalized their opioid settlement funding plan, opportunities to purchase bulk orders of naloxone were limited. This caused a delay in launching our Human Services vending machines.
- Although there are myriad benefits associated with naloxone vending machines, there is an inherent limitation of not being able to offer face to face service provision.

• **Outcomes**

- Over 600 naloxone kits have been dispensed across both vending machines since our initial launch – September 2023 for the Detention Center and February 2024 for the Human Services Building.
- Since launch, we've observed an increased interest in Durham County's approach to opioid response. Key staff have been invited to conduct community presentations and consultations related to the implementation of the vending machine project.

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- **Service delivery**
 - Machines are strategically placed at the Durham County Human Services facility and the Durham County Detention Center.
- **Staffing**
 - Until a full-time Harm Reduction Public Health Education Specialist is hired, the machine is stocked and monitored by the following Public Health staff.
 - Christopher Mack, Public Health Educator
 - Quanna Norman, Public Health Educator
 - Colin Moore, Health Education Administrative Assistant
 - The overall naloxone vending machine project is managed by Public Health Education Program Manager, Dennis Hamlet.
- **Revenue**
 - The naloxone provided through the vending machines is provided at no cost. During FY24, the naloxone provided through the vending machines has been purchased using Health Education County funding, as well as in-kind donations from Durham County EMS and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch.
 - Starting in FY25, naloxone supplies provided through the vending machines will be paid for with the County's opioid settlement funds.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies:

- Leverage Durham County opioid settlement funds to sustain and expand the vending machine project.

Division / Program: Nutrition

(Accreditation Activity 10.2 - The local health department shall carry, develop, implement, and evaluate health promotion/disease prevention programs and educational materials targeted to groups identified as at-risk in the CHA)

Program description

- Durham's Innovative Nutrition Education (DINE), part of the Durham County Department of Public Health, promotes nutrition in the community. DINE works with several Families and Communities Rising (FCR, Inc.) Head Start locations in Durham. A DINE nutritionist provides direct education with students at Leathers Meachem Head Start, Lyon Park Head Start, and Seminary Road Head Start and works with school staff to make policy, system and environment (PSE) changes.
- Double Bucks is a nutrition incentive program running at local farmers' markets that offers a dollar-for-dollar match to customers enrolled in SNAP, WIC, and those receiving housing vouchers. The program also doubles WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefits. Double Bucks runs at Durham Farmers' Market (DFM), along with three other markets in Durham and four other markets in the Triangle.
- Durham Farmers' Market hosted an Early Care and Education Day on May 1st, 2024. The event included \$5 vouchers for children to use at the market, \$5 vouchers for early care and education teachers, a cooking demonstration led by chef and farmer Skip Gibbs, and resource sharing, games and activities for families with young children.

Statement of goals

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- Increase awareness for families and early care and education (ECE) teachers about double bucks' programs and other programs that increase accessibility (such as Sprouts Club) at DFM.
- Increase access to and consumption of nutritious foods.
- Support local farmers and the local economy.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Partnerships between DINE, DFM, Durham Partnership for Children (DPfC), Welcome Baby, and Chef Skip Gibbs.
 - The event was promoted by email, social media, and face to face reminders by DINE, DPfC, DFM, and other community partners serving the early care and education community.
 - Accessible large public space at DFM, open to all in the Durham community.
 - DFM offers Sprouts Club funds, \$5 available weekly to any child who attends the Wednesday afternoon market.
 - DFM used its Double Bucks funds to provide \$5 vouchers to any early care and education teacher for this special event.
 - Staff from DFM, DINE, and DPfC delivered vouchers in advance to approximately 400 children and teachers at Head Start locations within 2 miles of DFM.
 - Costs for ingredients for the cooking demonstration were shared between DFM and DINE. In addition, some farms donated ingredients. Chef Gibbs brought some of his own equipment including a portable grill.
- **Challenges**
 - Barriers for attendance included scheduling conflicts for busy families and transportation to the market.
 - Staff at childcare programs offering extended care past 6pm were not able to attend due to market hours.
 - Special \$5 funds were only available to early care and education teachers at this onetime event.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - The farmers' market had a higher turnout than a typical Wednesday of approximately 530 people.
 - Chef Skip Gibbs did a cooking demo of chicken tacos with slaw utilizing market ingredients. 220 people attended the cooking demonstration and sampled local food.
 - As of 5/15/24, 60 of the vouchers have been used by families and ECE teachers. Because the vouchers do not expire, they may be used later at Wednesday and Saturday markets.
 - For the two weeks of the Wednesday market prior to Early Care and Education Day, the market averaged five Double Bucks transactions. On ECE Day, there were 18.
- **Service delivery**
 - Sprouts Clubs funds of \$5 per week are available to every child who attends the Wednesday afternoon farmers' market during its season (April through October).
 - The Double Bucks program is available at all Triangle Double Bucks markets. DINE nutritionist, Durham Partnership for Children staff, and Welcome Baby staff can reinforce messaging re: double bucks.
- **Staffing**
 - DINE nutritionist helped coordinate between Durham Farmers' Market, Durham Partnership for Children, Chef Skip Gibbs, and Welcome Baby.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

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- Continue to work with preschools served by DINE to teach families and staff about benefits available at local farmers' markets.
- DINE's Childcare Nutritionist and Double Bucks nutritionist will continue to collaborate on future projects with Durham Farmers' Market.

Division / Program: Nutrition / Double Bucks Updates
(Accreditation Activity 10.2 - The local health department shall carry, develop, implement, and evaluate health promotion/disease prevention programs and educational materials targeted to groups identified as at-risk in the CHA)

Program description

- Double Bucks is a Farmer's Market nutrition incentive program that is quickly expanding. It offers a dollar-for-dollar match to customers enrolled in SNAP, WIC, and those receiving housing vouchers. The program also doubles WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) benefits. In years past, Double Bucks was only offered at Durham Farmers' Market, South Durham Farmers' Market, the Black Farmers' Market in Durham County. DCoDPH DINE also provides support to the programs at Carrboro Farmers' Market, Chapel Hill Farmers' Market, Eno River Farmers' Market in Hillsborough, and the Black Farmers' Market in Raleigh.
- The following are updates that have occurred since September 2023:
 - North Durham Farmers' Market, a brand-new market which opened this spring near Oxford Manor, joined the Double Bucks team. The market began accepting SNAP and providing Double Bucks at their opening market on April 6th, 2024.
 - East Durham Market, a new grocery store operated by Communities in Partnership is accepting SNAP and offering Double Bucks for eligible food purchases to all SNAP customers. The market had its official grand opening on April 13th, 2024.

Statement of goals

- Promote the Double Bucks program among residents of Durham County.
- Increase access to and consumption of nutritious foods.
- Support local farmers and the local economy.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - North Durham Farmers' Market, which is conveniently located close to Oxford Manner and Braggtown neighborhoods, expands access to Double Bucks and local foods to the Northern region of the county. It also supports farmers and vendors that identify as BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+. The market managers strive to create a welcoming atmosphere that will improve food access and economic opportunity.
 - East Durham Market, the first brick and mortar store to offer Double Bucks, expands Double Bucks to people who prefer to shop in stores rather than a farmers' market. The market is in the East Durham neighborhood, where two grocery stores recently closed. It also supports BIPOC farmers and vendors, further extending the economic impact of the program.

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- Durham County ARPA funding is supporting both the opening of the East Durham Market as well as Durham Double Bucks programs.
- **Challenges**
 - Changing customers' shopping behavior and enticing them to shop at new stores is often difficult.
 - Due to USDA regulations, East Durham Market must run the program differently than other Double Bucks programs because it is a brick-and-mortar store. SNAP regulations require retailers that have storefronts to sign an incentive waiver and limits stores to only incentivizing fruits, vegetables, dairy, and whole grains. Conversely, any SNAP eligible food can be incentivized at a farmers' market, including meats, eggs, any grains, and even fruiting plants. This unfortunately limits customers' buying power at the East Durham Market and can make advertising more difficult.
 - Double Bucks, which has a budget of about \$200,000 per year in the Triangle, is funded through grants and donations. It takes a lot of time and effort to raise this money every year and the team is searching for funders willing to provide continued funding to the program.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - DINE expects that new customers will be reached by the Double Bucks program.
- **Service delivery**
 - North Durham Farmers' Market will be open and offering Double Bucks from April through November each year.
 - East Durham Market will be open and offering Double Bucks year-round. They are open to customers Monday-Friday, 9am-7pm, and on weekends 9am-5pm.
- **Staffing**
 - DINE Healthy Environments Nutritionist provides technical assistance, organization, evaluation, and marketing for the program. A DINE Nutrition Program Manager assists with grant writing.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- A new website is being designed and will be launched soon outlining all markets that offer the program and the times they are open. The website will allow for easy advertising of all new markets that join the program and explains the program to partners and participants.
- Continue to market the program and advertise new locations.
- Continue to search for funding to support the program.

Division / Program: Nutrition / DINE Family Cooking Events
(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

- DINE is a school- and community-based nutrition education program targeting SNAP-eligible Durham families.
- The DINE school team delivers a nutrition curriculum that includes instructions on cooking skills to students in many Durham Public Schools (DPS) elementary and middle schools. To reach the parents/caregivers with nutrition information, the lessons include

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an informational family handout that describes the key nutrition concepts covered in class.

- During the 2023-2024 school year, DINE provided family cooking events at Holt, Spring Valley, and Y.E. Smith Elementary Schools. Two other family cooking events were held for DPS families in collaboration with the DPS Hub Farm. At all the events, a brief nutrition lesson was delivered to the group, followed by a hands-on cooking activity. Parents and their students worked with other families to prepare a dish that everyone shared. Participants were also offered samples of infused water at the events.

Statement of goals

- To reinforce DINE's nutrition education and behavior change goals, including daily consumption of a variety of fruits and vegetables and decreased consumption of sugar sweetened beverages.
- To increase participants' nutrition knowledge and culinary skills.
- To increase self-efficacy in preparing and providing healthy meals.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - The family handouts that correspond to each DINE nutrition lesson in the schools are a passive method to deliver information and could be easily misplaced or discarded without being read. The family cooking events allow for in-person instruction and interactions with parents and caregivers who are the providers of food for elementary age children.
 - Parents/caregivers receiving nutrition information with their student(s) in conjunction with practicing cooking skills together encourages family discussions around food choices and promotes cooking more meals at home.
 - Participating schools and the Hub Farm provided space that accommodated family cooking events.

- **Challenges**

- The reach is smaller with this type of nutrition programming because the nature of family cooking requires limiting the number of participants to 10-15 families.
- Staffing requirements are greater for a hands-on family cooking event versus a nutrition class that simply offers a taste test to participants.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**

- The family cooking night events took place on the following dates:
 - September 27, 2023, at the Hub Farm with 23 participants,
 - October 26, 2023, at Holt Elementary School with 40 participants,
 - November 30, 2023, at Spring Valley Elementary School with 34 participants,
 - December 5, 2023, at Y.E. Smith Elementary School with 28 participants,
 - April 26, 2024, at Holt Elementary School with 30 participants, and
 - May 22, 2024, at the Hub Farm with 41 participants.

- **Service delivery**

- DINE coordinated with each host site regarding the event logistics.

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- DINE staff conducted a brief nutrition lesson on such topics as using MyPlate to plan a healthy meal, and tips on decreasing consumption of added sugar from food and drinks.
- Following the brief nutrition lesson, DINE staff led a hands-on cooking activity in which the participants prepared a dish or two to eat together. Examples of recipes used include Jicama Salad, Three Sisters Soup, Breakfast Burrito, Mediterranean Couscous, and Stove-Top Apple Crisp.
- Participants were given a “Chop-Chop” cooking magazine and a cooking utensil (liquid measuring cup, cutting mat, or spatula) as educational reinforcements.
- **Staffing**
 - Four DINE staff participated in the planning and workshop presentations.
 - Other partners involved in the workshop presentation were DPS staff from after-school programs and Hub Farm.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- DINE will ask DPS Hub Farm staff about feedback received from participants. This feedback will be used while developing future presentations.
- DINE has recently completed a community assessment survey of the DPS families whose children attend elementary schools receiving the DINE program. The purpose of the survey was to determine if more parents would be interested in attending programming like the family cooking nights, as well as nutrition topics the families would like covered at these events. DINE is currently planning to offer family cooking events to more elementary schools during the 2024-2025 school year.

Division / Program: Nutrition / DINE Gardening Project with Holt Elementary School and Durham Academy

(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

- DINE is a school- and community-based nutrition education program targeting SNAP-eligible Durham families. DINE has ongoing and long-lasting partnerships with Durham Public Schools (DPS), providing nutrition education to SNAP-eligible students and their families. DINE also facilitates policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) changes and social marketing campaigns at these schools that strive to improve the health environment.
- DINE works with Durham Public Schools (DPS) and community organizations on farm to school initiatives to promote local food/agriculture, school gardens, and healthy eating. Farm-to-school encompasses garden, nutrition, and agriculture education, and is a priority for USDA and SNAP-Ed.
- DINE was approached by 8th grade students from Durham Academy who wanted a location to conduct a vegetable planting project they had created as part of a food security lesson in their civics class. DINE has a longstanding relationship with the afterschool program at Holt Elementary School, so it was determined that this location would be a good place to partner with Durham Academy.

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- The Durham Academy (DA) students provided pots, soil, tomato and cucumber plants, as well as a pamphlet they created with instructions on how to care for the plants at home. DINE provided brainstorming and feedback to the DA students for their project, as well as hands-on support during the event. Each student in the afterschool program was able to plant both a cucumber and tomato plant and take them home.

Statement of goals

- To reinforce DINE’s nutrition education and behavior change goals, focusing on increasing the consumption of vegetables.
- To increase hands-on gardening opportunities in Durham Public Schools.
- To partner with community organizations to expand learning opportunities for DPS students.

Issues

- **Opportunities**
 - Hands-on growing projects help students understand where food comes from and increase their exposure to vegetables.
 - This project increased students’ time outdoors, which has been shown to be beneficial to physical and mental health.
 - This project created a new relationship between DINE and Durham Academy, which has the potential to create new projects and learning opportunities in the future.
- **Challenges**
 - The partnership with Durham Academy was a one-time event. DINE does not have the resources to replicate this project at other schools.

Implication(s)

- **Outcomes**
 - On May 8, 2024, 21 Holt afterschool students in grades K-5 were reached through this project.
 - Additional vegetables were planted for students who were not in attendance that day, expanding the reach to 30 students.
- **Service delivery**
 - DINE staff introduced the lesson, which was then led by the Durham Academy (DA) 8th grade students. The DA students showed the DPS students how to create labels for the plants, assisted each student in putting soil in their pots and planting cucumber and tomato plants to take home.
 - DINE provided gardening gloves for the DPS and DA students to wear during the planting activity.
 - DINE staff assisted the DA students in leading the planting activity.
- **Staffing**
 - Three DINE staff met with the DA students ahead of time to discuss planning and implementation.
 - One DINE staff member participated in the day-of execution of this project.

Next Steps / Mitigation Strategies

- DINE nutritionists will maintain partnership and communication with the Durham Academy Civics teacher to consider similar partnerships and projects in the future.



Durham Academy students assist Holt afterschool students with planting tomatoes and cucumbers.



Completed plants ready to be taken home.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Dr. McDougal: The Population Health report, I'm certainly glad to see that with the ranking system we are faring better than average. Some outcomes were a little concerning with residents reporting poor health, diabetes prevalence increasing, drug overdose and so forth with things going in the wrong direction. Are we seeing that trend? Do you know on the national level or even on the state level?

Rod Jenkins: We don't know since the information is still fresh. Our reports are usually two years behind from when the State gives us the reports.

Dr. McDougal: There are a number of requests to have Dental screenings at middle schools, is there any consideration with partnering with UNC or soliciting private practitioners to volunteer to meet more of the demand.

Rod Jenkins: I'm going to say yes, and I think the opportunity to present itself is when the new school superintendent is named. I am going to ask for an audience with this individual to discuss some issues that we face, be it with school health nursing, oral care, risk behavior surveys. This is a community that is all about working together to improve.

Dr. McDougal: Any other questions or comments?

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business discussed.

- **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- Results of our CLIA inspection

Mr. Jenkins: The Board is requested to approve a budget ordinance and spending ordinance amendment to allocate \$923,866 in opioid settlement funds awarded to Durham County. The Health Department will use these funds to advance two identified strategies: collaborative strategic planning and recovery support services programs, as outlined in Exhibit A of the memorandum of agreement between the State of North Carolina and local governments regarding the opioid litigation settlement proceeds.

Of the allocated funds, \$145,111 will be used to create the new County Opioid Program Manager position, which Kristen discussed earlier. Additionally, \$436,179 will continue funding the Community Linkages to Care peer support program under Lacey Scofield. Furthermore, \$342,028 will support Durham's harm reduction initiative. This allocation includes the salary and benefits for a Public Health Education Specialist focused solely on harm reduction, as well as funding for contract staffing to conduct outreach, with the requirement that these individuals have lived experience with substance abuse.

Dr. McDougal: If we don't have any questions about that budget amendment, I will entertain a motion to accept the amendment.

Dr. Jim Miller: Made a motion to accept the amendment.

Dr. Victoria Orto: seconded the motion.

Dr. McDougal: This has been moved and properly seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. McDougal: I wanted to give time for an informal discussion to our director for a few moments to share an idea with the Board about modifying our meeting schedule. He and I discussed this, and we can mull it over and vote on it at the next meeting.

Mr. Jenkins: We know how busy you all are and respect your time. Looking at the size of our county and at our downtown county jurisdiction to see who does meet quarterly, like size health departments similar to Durham don't meet quarterly it's really the smaller ones. However, Forsyth and Randolph counties meet every other month. This affords the board members a little more flexibility. There are lots of pros to this. The only con is of course, when we do meet the meetings may be a little bit lengthier. I think it's safe to say that Durham Public Health has mastered the ways of being brief and being straight to the point. So, we would like the Board to consider moving the meetings to every other month. We will still be fulfilling

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our statutory obligations but in a shorter period of time. We ask the Board for your consideration.

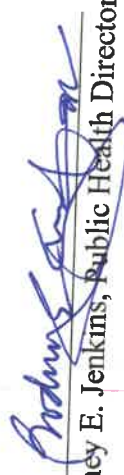
Dr. McDougal: We will allow you to think about this over the summer and we will come back together in August and entertain a motion to make that change. If it fails, it fails. If it passes, we will move to a different schedule.

Dr. McDougal: made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:05
Dr. Gene Rhea: motioned to adjourn.

Dr. Orto: seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the board members as identified in the attendance roster above.



Roger McDougal, DDS, Chair



Rodney E. Jenkins, Public Health Director