

**Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Committee**

**June 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Carlyle Johnson, Gudrun Parmer, Dr. Lawrence Greenblatt, Sheriff Clarence Birkhead, Kristen Patterson, Cindy Haynes, Donna Rosser, Helen Tripp, Jane Crowder, Kay Sanford, Keischa Lovelace, Lacie Scofield, Leticia Ross, Marc Strange, Melissa Walker, Michele Easter, Sean Barnes, Susan Kornett, Anna Rickey, Tremaine Sawyer, Tammy Vaughan, Roshanna Parker, LA Cuttler, Timeka Harper-Purcell, Stephen Loney

**Welcome & Introductions:** Co-Chairs Gudrun Parmer and Carlyle Johnson called the meeting to order, welcomed all present and began introductions.

**Review of May Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed; correction was made regarding Rev. Tart in real time. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

**The Hope Center:** LA Cuttler shared that The Hope Centre is operated by a private, for-profit organization. Some of the treatment approaches used by Hope Centre for Advancement LLC include relapse prevention, substance use counseling and 12-step. Hope Centre for Advancement LLC provides regular outpatient treatment, IOT and outpatient services. It also provides treatment for substance use and treatment for addiction and mental health diagnosis. Thanks to a grant through Alliance, uninsured clients are seen free of charge. This grant covers doctor’s visits, medication, groups as well as individual counseling. Referrals come from various entities i.e.: the Jail, Detox units, Alliance, Holly Hill. They also utilize community connections. They do not take walk ins; appointments are made on Thursdays and Fridays when clients see providers. Hope Centre is not a day-to-day program, clients typically receive their suboxone 1 week at a time. Given time they progress clients to monthly. They also accept Medicaid, Medicare, Aetna and are currently working towards accepting TriCare.

Turn around is 7-14 days and their capacity is 275, they have room to grow and are always looking towards expansion. The Hope Centre works closely with peer support services (Southlight) to continue to serve their clients. LA shared their wish for expanded units (this encompasses all services offered) to provide more services to the community. LA acknowledged that there are always gaps, in an effort to fill those, due to lack of units, many services are being provided without payment to providers.

When a referral is received for Alcohol only, they notify the client there are several options for treatment. The most effective is the vivitrol shot however, this medication is very expensive if you are uninsured. The Hope Centre works with their pharmacist to provide grant funding to cover this medication, which is covered for individuals on Medicaid and Medicare. These individuals still go through individual counseling.

Hope Centre is located on 701 Morrene Road Durham NC. While they do not take walk ins, they do provide preliminary intakes via phone (919-383-0426).

**Freedom House:** Timeka Harper-Purcell shared that Freedom House’s philosophy is Rebuilding Lives and Reconnecting Families. The mission of Freedom House is to promote, enhance, and support recovery for women, men children and families with behavioral health needs and/or substance addiction by using an integrated, person-centered approach. Freedom House serves over 14,000 individuals a year, 83% were unemployed, 65% were homeless or faced deep poverty, 1,800 were children and adolescents. Client Profiles are as follows: 55% Male, 45% Female, 48% Caucasian, 49% African-America, 2% Hispanic, 1% other.

Freedom House is one of a few agencies in the 10-county service area that continues to provide services to homeless, uninsured, and indigent individuals. Freedom House has a Detox Facility, Outpatient Clinics and halfway houses. Freedom House accepts clients that are dually diagnosed but SUD must be the primary diagnosis.

Freedom House offers Comprehensive Clinical Assessments, Psychiatric Evaluation/Medication Management, Group and Individual EBPs: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Wellness Management and Recovery, Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment, Seven Challenges, Trauma-informed Care, Family Education and Counseling, Relapse Prevention, Community Supports and Life Skills Training, Transportation, Housing, Education, Employment/Job Training and After Care Planning. Freedom House also provides services for families and children.

Freedom House also provides Mobile Crisis Services. These services are provided 365/24/7 and can be reached via 866-275-9552.

Timeka shared the Freedom House also provides an Opioid Treatment Program on all of their campuses. Providers are on staff seeing clients and handling medication management. To receive these services, you must complete a clinical assessment. The typical turnaround time is 7-14 days, once they have seen the provider they can participate in the program. Individuals are required to participate in treatment as well as medication management. Individuals are referred through RI, Duke Behavioral Health and many others within the community. Clients are primarily uninsured, Medicare and Medicaid. Freedom House has a partnership with Dominion Diagnostic and utilize their hardship program. Medication is provided through Gurley’s Pharmacy in Durham.

Freedom House is currently at 40% capacity with their newest provider and can receive referrals for their MAT Program. Timeka Purcell can be reached at [Timeka.h@fhrecovery.org](mailto:Timeka.h@fhrecovery.org), 919-251-8806.

**Updates:**

Leticia Ross shared that **Jubilee Home** has been awarded a grant from DHHS from the Opioid Settlement, which provides 2 years of funding. Jubilee Home is excited to expand their capacity to serve women and provide low barrier housing.

**115 SUD Waiver:** Carlyle Johnson shared that the initial waiver objectives expanded benefits to offer complete ASAM continuum, obtained waiver of IMD exclusion for SUD services, evidence-based program and licensure standards, building SUD provider capacity, strengthening care coordination and care management for individuals with SUD, and improving NC RX monitoring program (PDMP). Waiver Milestones are access to critical levels of care for SUD, use of evidence-based SUD-specific patient placement criteria, use of nationally recognized SUD specific program standards, sufficient provider capacity, implementation of comprehensive strategies and improved care coordination. Upcoming activities are as follows: New amended clinical coverage policies (July-Dec 2022), review/revision or development of licensure rules for SUD services, DHHS assessment of access to different levels of care, development of care management services in alignment with waiver objectives, evidence-based care transition programs, working relationships with justice system and DSS to support smooth transitions. Carlyle explained that they are still waiting to see exactly what this will mean and if funding will follow.

**CLC Grant Program** – Lacie introduced the new Peer Support Specialist, Anna Rickey. Anna shared her excitement to join the team. Lacie shared ‘CLC’ stands for Community Linkages to Care for overdose and prevention response. Lacie is the project coordinator and employed by Public Health. The program was the result of a project developed by this committee sought grant opportunities to fund more peer support and proposed the CLC. CLC works with both Duke Hospitals and EMS to provide peer support and warm hand offs throughout the community. The Peer Support Specialists are housed at the Durham Recovery Response Center (DRRC) and work in conjunction with the DRRC to provide clients with services.

Lacie shared that CLC is fully staffed again and as a result they have seen an increase in the number of participants. May saw 20 new participants, 11 became enrollees, 6 participants came through PORT and 2 became enrollees. CLC continues to set up meeting with Duke to provide warm handoffs. Lacie shared that their data analyst position has been filled via a connection through Michele Easter and law students at Duke.

Lacie announced the Substance Use Disorder Resource Guide that was funded and published via the grant has been published in Spanish and is ready for distribution.

**Detention Center MAT Program** Tammy shared that Phase 1 has served a total of 130 inmates with suboxone and 68 with Methadone, in Phase 2 they have a total of 4 inmates on suboxone and 2 on Methadone. 101 were male and 29 were female.

**EMS** Helen Tripp shared that they are averaging 76 opioid related calls per month and can contact 13% of those due to lack of contact venues. They continue to issue around 21 naloxone kits monthly. Available statistics show 55% of overdoses are African America, 41.4% Caucasian, 3.9% Hispanic.

Gudrun welcomed Stephen Loney Dr. Loney shared that he is the clinical director for Clinical Addiction Professional Services (CAPS) and that he is excited to participate and learn via the committee. Dr. Loney also represents the Recovery Communities of Durham.

**Next Meeting**

Gudrun and Carlyle polled the group in reference to skipping the July meeting, the committee agreed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, from 3:00pm - 4:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.