



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	October 24, 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; Eric Morse, Morse Clinic; Marc Strange, DCo JSD; Roshanna Parker, DCo JSD; Zandra Joiner, Milestone Healthcare Services; Kim Chansen, RII; Michele Easter, Duke Psychiatry; Tammy Vaughan, DCSO; LA Cuttler, Hope Centre for Advancement; Lawrence Greenblatt, Duke Population Health; Anjni Joiner, DCo EMS; Jesse Battle, TROSA; Kristen Patterson, DCoDPH; Lindsey Bickers-Bock, DCoDPH; Kay Sanford, NCHRC; Loftin Wilson, NCHRC; Pablo Silva, El Futuro; Fred Johnson, Duke; Quanesha Archer, DCoDPH; Anna Gaddy, BAART; Monica Washington, Oxford House; Paula Harrington, Oxford House; David Crispell, Jubilee Home; Timeka Harper-Purcell, Freedom House; Dee Gray, Freedom House; Micheal Edge, New Season Treatment Center; Jennette Mehta, Housing for New Hope; and others.

Current Activities:

June 2024 Meeting

Speaker: Aruthur Payne, Morse Clinic of Durham - New Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Federal Regulations and Updates

Peer Support Specialists Panel Presentation: Ronald Gary, Durham County Detention Facility; Keith Collins, RI International; Toni Edmondson, RI International

July 2024 Meeting

Group discussion on the following questions:

1. What are the key challenges or gaps you are currently facing in your program or workplace we need to address?
2. How can members of this committee collaborate as a team to address some of the key challenges mentioned?
3. Are there any other collaborative initiatives addressing these challenges within our organizations, systems of care, and community?
4. How can we ensure everyone feels heard and valued in our team meetings?
5. How is SUD and MAT data being collected, analyzed, and used to inform your program objectives?
6. Are there any specific guest presenters or subject matter experts we should invite to our future meetings?

August 2024 Meeting

Speakers: Dr. Carlyle Johnson, Alliance Health - Medicaid Co-Pays and Insurance Coverage of MOUD; Kay Sanford, NCHRC and Timeka Harper-Purcell, Freedom House - Housing Subcommittee Update

Follow-Up of July Meeting Discussion: Committee Co-Chairs presented a Strategic Planning Document based on the ideas generated from the group discussion that occurred during the July meeting.

September 2024 Meeting

Speakers: Lizzy Baum, Alera Health - Durham County NC ONECare; Dr. Carlyle Johnson, Alliance Health – Follow-up on questions from his August presentation on Medicaid Co-Pays and Insurance Coverage of MOUD

Strategic Planning Survey: The Co-Chairs introduced a new online survey created to get more feedback on strategic plans and possible collaborative activities for the committee. The questions on the survey were based on the priority areas identified by committee members during the July committee meeting and the strategic planning document that resulted from that meeting.

October 2024 Meeting

Speakers: Vera Reinstein, Alliance Health – Follow-Up on Medicaid Co-Pays and Insurance Coverage of MOUD; Jaeson Smith, Durham County Dept. of Public Health – Updates from Durham County Opioid Settlement Program Manager

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 are also working with Durham Rescue Mission (DRM) to provide information on MOUD and connection to treatment and recovery housing for residents who are leaving the shelter. DRM also recently allowed a resident to stay at the shelter for 30 days while receiving MOUD from the Durham County EMS Community Paramedics. Subcommittee members are continuing efforts to reach out to other housing providers in Durham that restrict MOUD, including Cub Creek Sober Living and Love and Respect. The director of Cub Creek Sober Living is now a member of the MHSUD Tx Committee and has committed to allowing residents who take MOUD to live in one of her recovery housing units.

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 barriers to treatment and housing for people with SUD and justice-involved populations.
- Updates from committee members on all programs and agencies as available.
- Updates from the Housing Subcommittee on efforts to meet with housing providers that restrict MOUD.

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:

- Discuss the results of the Strategic Planning Survey and plan action items based on the priorities identified
- Presentations on free phone programs for clients with SUD, Fresh Start and other local groups that provide basic necessities, and efforts to address racial disparities in SUD treatment access

Next Meeting & Location:

November 12, 2024 from 3:00-4:30 PM via Zoom