



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	June 12, 2025

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, RI; Michele Easter, Duke Psychiatry; Tammy Vaughan, DCSO; LA Cuttler, Hope Centre for Advancement; Meredith Niess, Duke Outpatient Clinic; 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:

March 2025 Meeting

Ryan Bell, Senior Research Scientist at Duke University School of Medicine, presented 5 years of demographic and clinical questionnaire data from the CLC Peer Support Program. Ontario Joyner, Durham’s Local Reentry Council (LRC) Coordinator at the Justice Services Department, spoke about the support services that LRC offers to justice involved individuals and the process for getting clients connected to those services.

April 2025 Meeting

Dana Clifton, Co-Medical Director of Project COMET at Duke University Hospital, discussed the history of the program, demographics and outcome data from patients, and future directions. Drew Woten and Sean Hardy, Executive Director and Assistant Director of Open Table Ministries, spoke about Free Store which is a weekly outreach event every Tuesday morning where unhoused individuals can get coffee, a warm shower, clothing, shoes, coats, toiletries, and other practical items. They also discussed Open Table’s partnership with the City of Durham to provide overflow shelter during winter emergencies (White Flag Nights) and future plans to provide additional housing options and healthcare assistance to Durham’s unhoused population.

May 2025 Meeting

Durham County Commissioner Wendy Jacobs spoke about recent federal funding cuts and how potential cuts to Medicaid could affect Durham County residents. She mentioned that the Durham County Board of Commissioners sent a letter to US members of Congress urging them to strengthen Medicaid and reject any proposals that would cut services, increase costs, or decrease participation. Brian Scott, Executive Director of OurJourney, discussed how his organization supports individuals with substance use disorder who are returning from incarceration, including offering free reentry kits and assistance with finding housing, work, transportation, clothing, food, and mental health care.

Housing Subcommittee

The Housing Subcommittee continues to meet monthly. Freedom House and Morse Clinics have signed an MOU to work together towards allowing residents at Freedom House to take methadone. Morse Clinics is in the process of training each Freedom House location. The Housing Subcommittee recently decided to take on a new initiative to encourage housing agencies to stock naloxone and distribute free kits to residents. Subcommittee members will schedule meetings with housing agencies to discuss the importance of naloxone, answer questions, and work out logistics of distribution. Funding from the CLC Program was used to purchase wall and window signs that say, "Naloxone Available Here" and "We Have Naloxone in Case of Overdose." Subcommittee members plan to give the signs to the housing agencies that agree to stock or distribute naloxone to their residents.

MOUD Providers Subcommittee

Timeka Harper and LA Cuttler have volunteered to create and co-chair a new subcommittee specifically for MOUD providers. They are still in the process of identifying a time and location that works for everyone who is interested in participating in the subcommittee.

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.
- 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 and the MOUD Providers Subcommittee.

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:

- Planning and organizing the new MOUD Providers Subcommittee
- Scheduling meetings to encourage housing agencies to stock naloxone and distribute free kits to residents
- Expanding the Oxford House rental assistance program funded by Alliance Health
- Finalizing the fact sheet on free phone distribution discussed at the Nov 2024 committee meeting

Next Meetings:

June 10 and July 8, 2025 from 3:00-4:30 PM via Zoom