

# **Durham Joins Together to Save Lives Task Force**

## **Mental Health Treatment Committee**

### **Minutes**

**January 8, 2019**

**Attendees:** Elijah Bazemore, Stephanie Eucker, Joanie, Ross, Carlyle Johnson, Rita Hunter, , Karen Verhaeghe, Tremaine Sawyer, Gayle Harris, Fred Johnson, Cindy Haynes, Katie Mallette, Lauren Brinkley-Rubinstein, Evan Ashkin, Crissi Rainer

The group convened and began introductions. The minutes were approved as submitted. Joy Brunson informed the group that the contract was approved and signed the Peer Support Specialist (PSS) position(s) were posted today. The Durham Recovery Response Center (DRRC) is non-hospital detox 16 bed detox facility that operates 24/7. They cater to law enforcement and first responders and only treat adults in their facility. The contract per the grant is for inviting peer support specialist into the Duke Emergency Department. DRRC will hire and supervise the PSS. There will be 3 PSS working 10-hour days. DRRC will serve as the back up to the PSS.

Dr. Eucker reported that we are making progress with Duke ED. The PSS will be allowed to enter the ED. The process for this is to do the following:

- The PSS will need to register in Duke Vendormate system.
- Establish procedure and train ED staff to have patient to execute DUHS authorization to share patient name and substance abuse diagnosis with PSS (no introduction to PSS without executed authorization).
- DUHS staff awareness to share only de-identified information with the PSS.

The group agreed that we need to decide how we would market that there is a PSS available to the ED. Providers are our key audience. We want to be sure they are aware. We also need to know how we contact the PSS. Also we need to follow up with Duke Regional.

Cindy informed the group the Georgi Counseling will help conduct the PSS Training. Becky Georgi has asked to be a part of the interview process if possible. Ryan Bell from the data committee will be the evaluator for this project. I have shared a list of key outcomes for the program and Ryan will work with us to collect data track progress.

Major Bazemore provided a draft workflow handout for review and feedback from the group. He reached to Rutherford County Detention Center about their program. They have been working for 2 years and program has not been very successful. Rutherford's program includes housing and they use vivitrol. Vivitrol is expensive about \$1,000 per dose. Wellpath uses suboxone. Major expressed concern about resources for the long term for these individuals.

Dr. Lauren Brinkley-Rubinstein spoke on her work with Rhode Island and offered to work with Major Bazemore to update the workflow process. Major Bazemore will coordinate meeting

discuss this more detail. The timeline for implementation in the jail is in 3-6 months. Wellpath new doctor joining in January and will need to be waived. Rhode Island started with methadone, then received funding to implement suboxone and vivitrol. Major added that vivitrol is more time consuming should begin at least 60 days. Gayle asked Rita for project cost or the medication. Rita stated that buprenorphine \$14, suboxone 2mg (\$30), 8mg (\$71), and Vivitrol (\$1,000 per dose).

Evan spoke briefly on the FIT (Formerly Incarcerated Transition) Program. He also reported that Dr. Jamie Carter at Lincoln has some capacity to take on referrals. Cindy asked Evan to present on FIT during next meeting.

Gayle also informed the group that Durham County has secured a lawyer to sue pharmaceutical companies for the damage of the Durham Community. If successful it will put money back in the Durham community (handout provided).

Major Bazemore suggested that the group meet earlier than 5:00 PM for future meetings. He proposed possibly meeting at 3:00 PM. The group voted and agreed to the new time. Future meetings will be held from 3:00 PM -4:30 PM.

**Next steps are:**

- Cindy will check with the health department to secure meeting rooms for new time.
- Cindy to coordinate a conference call with Duke ED team and reach out to have Duke Regional represented on the call.
- Major Bazemore to coordinate a meeting with the jail MAT team by early February.

Please note, our meeting time has changed. We will begin at **3:00 PM** instead of 5:00 PM at the Durham Department of Public Health in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

**Our next committee meeting is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM, Location TBD**