

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

**October 10, 2023, Meeting Notes**

**Present: Lacie Scofield, Helen Tripp, Timeka Harper-Purcell, Kay Sanford, Megan Moore, Amy O’Regan, Jacklyn Sledge, Carlyle Johnson, Dave Crispell, Jason Tatreau, Alex Rubenstein, Donna Rosser, Roshanna Parker, Melissa Easter, Rodney Jenkins, Stephen, Dee Gray, Marc Strange, Kimberly Chansen, Quanesha Archer, Lourdes Garcia, Paula Harrington, Helen Trip, Kristen Patterson**

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Co-Chair Lacie Scofield called the meeting to order and asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.

**Review of September Minutes:**

The minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**Medicaid Expansion and Alliance Health Updates-**

Carlyle Johnson, Alliance Health, shared that we are in the transition from LME MCO’s to Tailored plans. This transition was supposed to start October 1, 2023, but has been delayed and they do not know when this will move forward. Currently they have Standard plans that manage whole person care, LME MCO’s that manage that manage only behavioral health, and Medical which is managed by the State. Once they transition to Tailored plans, they will be managing whole person care. Carlyle shared that they are also in the process of determining funding for this fiscal year. They are expecting funding cuts from the federal government and are working to maintain funding and expansion through these cuts. Opioid Treatment programs are changing from a daily rate to a weekly rate, this comes with a rate increase. One of the things they have been working on is understanding the upcoming Medicaid expansion enrollment process and anticipating the needs of providers and disseminating information to the public and the uninsured.

Carlyle shared that there was a notice on October 5, 2023, about the new Medicaid expansion website with a plethora of information and guides. Carlyle briefly walked the committee through the website and shared the link with the committee. Based on new income guidelines, there is the anticipation of many in the recovery arena qualifying for Medicaid and the need to assist in enrolling. There is the additional concern that those in recovery who are doing well may no longer have qualifying incomes and there will be a need to assist these individuals as well.

Carlyle shared that they are still learning all that will come with this expansion but, they are excited about new opportunities for SUD.

Dr. Tatreau asked if people could start the application process now or do they have to wait and how long before the individuals Medicaid is active. Carlyle shared that he did not have that answer but would bring that answer back to the committee.

For more information please visit <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2023/10/05/medicaid-expansion-website-toolkit-and-sign-form-available>

**Resource Fair on Medicaid enrollment for formerly incarcerated individuals-**

Megan Moore, Policy analyst from the Wilson Center at Duke Law, shared that because Medicaid expansion has such a large potential impact for justice involved citizens, they want to aid the community. To do this they are planning a resource fair in late January to help individuals enroll.

Megan shared that in NC, 50% of people lacked insurance at the time of their arrest and come from low-income backgrounds. 36% of individuals in NC, prior to entering prison, have experienced homelessness at some point. Incarcerated individuals have a statistically higher rate of Hypertension, Hepatitis, Asthma and Mental Health illnesses, 65% have a substance use disorder. Megan shared that evidence from other expansion states shows that a decrease in rearrest for drug and violent offenses.

Megan shared that their vision for the Resource Fair is to aid justice involved individuals enroll. This fair will be held at their office, and they are receiving assistance from LRC, Morse Clinic, and many other programs throughout the community. They will update the committee when they have a scheduled date.

**Program Updates**

**MAT Programs-** Stephen shared Durham Treatment Centers is currently open enrolling and continuing to look for new programs and form relationships within the community.

Odinaka shared that Reliable Health services has a MAT program and have the ability to see patients regardless of their ability to pay and are currently looking to enroll patients.

Timeka Harper-Purcell shared that Freedom House has opened their Durham clinic and accepting walk-ins and referrals.

**JSD-** Marc Strange shared that Roshanna Parker was named the Director of Justice Services Center. Roshanna shared that we have recently received the SAMSA grant to increase the Drug Treatment Program and are continuing to strengthen our partnerships with in the community.

**EMS-** Helen Tripp shared that they are still running their MAT program but have not had any recent inductions. They are working to determine where the issues are with induction and have reached out to other counties to try and find solutions. Helen also shared that they are a few weeks away from hiring their Peer Support Specialist.

**CLC-** Lacie Scofield shared that they hired their new Peer Support Specialist, Tony Edmonson. People can now start referring individuals again. A new Program Evaluator has been hired and they are excited to be able to interview clients again.

**DUKE-** Dr. Tatreau shared that Dr. Logan Adams stated September 1, 2023 and is able to see patients. Dr. Adams will be managing patients in the DUKE outreach clinic and patients that are already in the Psychiatric outpatient clinic. He will not serve as a referral source but will be present in upcoming meetings.

FIT- Quanesha Archer shared that Mr. Clayton will be transitioning to the National Program that FIT is based on. Due to this FIT is not accepting new referrals and will notify the committee when they are open to take new referrals.

**Announcements**

Dona Rosser shared that Public Health in conjunction with their partners will be holding a medication take back event on October 28, 2023 at Peace Missionary Baptist Church from 10am-2pm.

Amy O’Regan shared that she works on a technical assistance team with NC Fit and the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition to provide technical assistance to programs across the state to programs that support justice involved individuals who are at risk of overdoes or have some kind of substance use in their background. They have received a grant from DMH to take the project more broadly to assist anyone working with these projects can request assistance from their group. Amy shared their plan to share more information when they go live.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:15pm