

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

**August 8, 2023, Meeting Notes**

**Present: Tremaine Sawyer, Lacie Scofield, Jesse Battle, Sheriff Birkhead, Ronald Gary, Keith Gibson, Jonathan Gildart, Monica Washington, Roshanna Parker, Lynn Williams, Jackie Sledge, Tammy Vaughn, Marc Strange, Dr. Morse. Captain McKinney, Helen Tripp, Cindy Haynes, Quanesha Archer, Alex Rubenstein, Kristen Patterson, Michele Easter, Jane Crowder, Stephen Smith**

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Chair Tremaine Sawyer called the meeting to order and asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.

**Review of May Minutes:**

The minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Presentations/Discussions

* **Oxford House**- Jackie Sledge, with Oxford House, shared that Oxford house is Peer-Run, Self-Sustaining, Substance-Free housing. Oxford house first opened in MD, in 1975. Oxford house has expanded to over 3,500 houses in 46 states and 5 countries. Oxford house has 305 houses in North Carolina. Individuals can lice in an Oxford House if they want to. Provided they remain clean and sober, stay current with the house financially and are not disruptive. When a house fills, another house is opened. Houses are available Nation Wide to Men, Women, Women & Children and Men & Children. The Oxford House Model is based on three core principles-Each house must be democratically run, the house membership is responsible for all household expenses, the house must immediately expel any member who returns to using alcohol or illicit drugs. Oxford house members make every effort to provide safe options for their members who are leaving. To become a member of Oxford House an individual simply fills out an application at [www.oxfordhouse.org](http://www.oxfordhouse.org). Once the application is completed, they call a house to set up an interview. If they receive 80% yes vote via members, they may move in immediately. All houses follow a set structure consisting of House Officer, Weekly House Meetings, Parliamentary Procedure, Financial Decisions, Contracts, and Majority Rules. Members receive: 24/7 peer support, accountability, responsibility, stability, safety, greater chance of success, and self-efficacy.

Jackie shared that they collect data through National research via DePaul University studies funded by NIDA and NIAA and North Carolina Research through annual State Evaluations and Ongoing Monthly Reports.

Jackie Shared the following statistics in the Alliance catchment area for FY’23:

*139 houses, 1123 beds, number occupied-869, occupancy rate 77.4%, abstinence rate 93.3%*

Houses are in the following cities: *Carrboro, Cary, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville, Raleigh, Smithfield, Garner and Matthews*

Keith Gibson shared that funding is available for members, however an individual must be admitted to the house prior to determining availability of funds. Once a new resident is approved and moved in the client will be added to the funding list. Keith shared that when invoicing is done, it is done for the entire Alliance catchment area. Keith shared that currently there are no funds.

Johnathan Gildart shared that Oxford house is in renewal and currently working with Alliance to renew their previous contract. Once the contract is executed, they will be able to offer scholarships again.

Lacie Scofield asked that she and Tremaine be notified when funds are available, they would be happy to notify the group on behalf of Oxford house. The funds will cover first month’s rent and deposit for people who are accepted into an Oxford house.

Sheriff Birkhead asked what the average length of stay was and what kinds of contracts are used. Keith shared that individuals stay 12-18 months. Jackie shared that there are several contracts, such as house terms, behavioral contracts, and financial contracts. Tremaine asked if expelled individuals who are approved to return to the home would qualify for scholarship again. Jackie shared that it is a one time offer to her knowledge and that they have not seen individuals funded twice.

* **Housing Subcommittee**- Lacie Scofield shared that the goals and objectives of the Housing Subcommittee are as follows:
* Develop ideas and actions to address financial and other housing barriers for people with SUD and justice-involved populations.
* Work with agencies in Durham who currently do not support or allow housing to patients taking MAT to find ways to expand housing for the challenging population.

Lacie shared that this subcommittee was formed by Cindy Haynes in 2021, with the original goal to work with Alliance to create a program to provide financial assistance to people with SUD seeking Housing. This resulted in funding for Oxford House. Lacie shared that after the TROSA presentation at the 2/2023 MHSUD TX meeting and finding policy updates regarding treatment utilizing Sublocade, Kay Sanford suggested keeping this momentum going by MHSUD committee working with TROSA and other Housing agency work through policy and barriers so that residents will be allowed to take MAT. The Housing Subcommittee meets every 2-3 weeks. Lacie shared the current list of Housing Agencies that Restrict MAT and asked that committee members feel free to notify her of any other agencies that should be added to their list. The group has developed a plan and talking points to help elicit policy change. The subcommittee is first meeting with TROSA and Cub Creek Sober Living to help work through barriers. Lacie said that any committee member is welcome to join the subcommittee. If interested, committee members should send her an email at lfscofield@dconc.gov.

Lacie also shared access to the Durham SUD housing guide with the group and gave a brief overview of utilization of the website.

<https://www.dcopublichealth.org/services/health-education/opioid-substance-use-and-addiction-services/substance-use-disorder-resource-guide>

**Program Updates**

* Captain McKinney shared that the SMART Program has served 436 detainees since inception. In phase 1 they served 305 detainees and in Phase 2 they served 134 detainees. Captain McKinney shared that participants are eager to share their testimonies.
* Eric Morse, Morse Clinic, shared that they have been accredited for the next 3 years. This means they can now accept Medicaid and Medicare.
* Helen Tripp, Durham County EMS, shared that a total of 5 individuals have been inducted with 2 allowing follow up. They are currently interviewing for the Peer-Support specialist, this position will take over referrals and post overdose response. Helen shared that they are still averaging 67 overdoses per month.
* Stephen Smith, New Seasons Durham Treatment Center, shared that they still have their grant program in place for the under insured via Alliance. Their recent open house was a success, and they plan to host another in the spring. Stephen shared that Blue Cross Blue Shield will start in October and they look forward to continuing to expand for those in need.
* Lacie Scofield, CLC Program, shared that they are still enrolling participants. Lacie shared that while the grant has ended, Durham County has picked up funding and they are receiving $400,000 for FY24. This allows them to add positions and expand their program.

**Meeting Adjourned 4:03pm**

**Next meeting**

09/12/2023 3:00pm-4:30pm