

## **Treatment and Harm Reduction (THR) Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2026**

#### **Attendance**

Tremaine Sawyer - Justice Services Department; Lacie Scofield – Durham County Department of Public Health; Helen Tripp – EMS; Chenelle McInnis – Duke University Hospital; Kristen Patterson – Durham County Department of Public Health; Donna Rosser – Durham County Department of Public Health; Kim Chasen – Recovery Innovations; Carlyle Johnson – Alliance Health; Amy O’Reagan – NCDHHS; Michelle Easter – Duke University School of Medicine; Vera Reinstein – Alliance Health; Nicole Shackelford – Hayti Reborn Justice Movement; Renée Shaw– Justice Services Department; Roshanna Humphrey – Justice Services Department; David Crispell – Jubilee Home; Lisa Finley – TROSA; Crissi Rainer – Florida State University; Sarah Sterling – Duke University Hospital

#### **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

- Meeting opened by Co-Chair Tremaine Sawyer.
- Previous meeting minutes were presented and approved following a motion and second from committee members.

#### **Presentation – Community Supply Inventory**

**Presenter: Nichole Shackelford, Care Management Organizer and Resource and Youth Services Coordinator, Hayti Reborn - Justice Movement**

Nicole presented an update on the Community Supply Inventory project, an initiative developed by the committee to improve coordination of harm reduction supplies across Durham organizations.

#### **Purpose of the Inventory**

The inventory was created to:

- Collect information from agencies, nonprofits, volunteers, and providers regarding available harm reduction supplies.
- Identify organizations that need supplies and those that have supplies to donate.
- Improve collaboration between providers to ensure needed supplies reach appropriate organizations.

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- Track trends in supply needs within the community.

## Survey Overview

- The survey contains 11 questions designed to capture information about supply needs and available donations.
- More than 100 organizations received the survey, with approximately 25 responses received so far.
- The survey collects contact information so organizations can connect directly regarding supply exchanges.

## Categories of Supplies Tracked

The inventory currently tracks needs and donations across several categories: Medical / Harm Reduction Supplies, Clothing Items, Hygiene Supplies, Resources and Health Supplies

## Survey Participation

Committee members were encouraged to:

- Complete the survey if their organization has supplies to donate or needs supplies.
- Share the survey with additional providers or community partners.
- Contact Nicole directly or complete and submit the survey again if their organization's inventory changes.

## Key Findings

- Current responses show a higher demand for supplies than available donations.
- Many organizations reported a need for fentanyl test strips.
- Durham County Public Health has begun fulfilling some of these requests.

## Discussion: Expired Harm Reduction Supplies

Committee members discussed the issue of expired naloxone and test strips.

Key points:

- Research shows that naloxone remains highly effective even after its expiration date.
- Organizations were encouraged not to discard expired naloxone.
- Expired supplies can be donated and distributed through harm reduction programs such as NC Harm Reduction Coalition.
- The inventory tool may help identify organizations willing to distribute near-expiration supplies.

## **Committee Member Updates**

### **Crissi Rainer:**

The Adolescent Trials Network is actively recruiting participants for the IMPACT study. The focus is on reducing HIV risk among youth who use stimulants. Participants receive sexual health counseling and evidence-based talk therapy. The study is fully virtual and enrolling nationwide.

#### Eligibility

- Ages 15–24
- Stimulant use within the last 30 days in connection with sexual activity.

A recruitment flyer will be shared with committee members.

### **David Crispell:**

Members are invited to attend Jubilee’s annual storytelling event, which focuses on recovery, healing, and community experiences. The event is at the Carolina Theatre at 7:00 PM on March 10, 2026.

### **Vera Reinstein:**

Updates were provided regarding funding challenges for buprenorphine treatment for uninsured individuals.

#### Key Updates

- Current funding for medication access is running low.
- Long-acting injectable medications (e.g., Sublocade, Vivitrol) will be limited.
- Uninsured patients may only receive the first injection dose followed by oral medications.
- Other forms of buprenorphine will continue to be temporarily available.

#### Potential Solutions

- Seeking support from opioid settlement funds.
- Encouraging providers to enroll all eligible patients in Medicaid, especially following Medicaid expansion.
- Continuing advocacy to maintain access to medications for uninsured individuals.

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## **Kim Chansen:**

The Community Linkages to Care (CLC) Peer Support program recently completed its first Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) class with the STARR program at the detention center.

Highlights included:

- A graduation ceremony for participants.
- Graduates shared poems and letters reflecting on recovery and personal growth.
- Participants reported the experience as powerful and inspiring.

Kim also mentioned that the North Carolina Recovery Conference will be held next month in Greensboro.

Highlights:

- Three-day conference
- Networking and educational opportunities

Members were encouraged to consider sending staff.

## **Discussion - Housing Access Challenges**

Members from Duke University Hospital discussed challenges in placing individuals in:

- Sober living homes
- Residential treatment programs

Issues reported include:

- Difficulty understanding referral requirements
- Patients are being declined without a clear explanation
- Need for improved communication between treatment providers and housing programs

A member from Freedom House shared that many referrals are declined because the clients' primary diagnosis is severe mental illness rather than substance use disorder. Freedom House requires substance use disorder to be the primary diagnosis. This

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highlights a broader service gap for individuals with co-occurring severe mental illness and substance use disorder.

**The next THR Committee meeting is scheduled for March 10th, 2026 at 3:00-4:30 PM.**