

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

### **Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2026**

#### **Attendance**

Tremaine Sawyer (DCoJSD), Lacie Scofield (DCoDPH), Tony Brown (SouthLight), Lucius Wilson (SouthLight), Wade Adair (SouthLight), Irving Hewitt (Oxford Houses), Cynthia Staten (Oxford Houses), Dana Clifton (Duke University), Nicole Poole (Milestones Healthcare), Zandra Joiner (Milestones Healthcare), Jaeson Smith (DCoDPH), Kim Chansen (RI), Carlyle Johnson (Alliance Health), Vera Reinstein (Alliance Health), Lisa Finley (TROSA), LA Cuttler (Hope Centre for Advancement), Michele Easter (Duke University), Arthur Payne (Morse Clinics), Eric Morse (Morse Clinics), Nichole Shackelford (Hayti Reborn Justice Movement), Jackie Hodges (Duke University), Paula Harrington (Oxford Houses and Freedom House), Page Carter (DCo Detention Center), T. Caldwell (DCo Detention Center), Shahonda Pittman (RREPS)

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

- Meeting opened by Co-Chair Tremaine Sayer.
- March meeting minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously. April minutes were unavailable due to staffing absence.

#### **Presentation – Morse Clinics Mobile Medication Unit**

**Presenter: Eric Morse, MD - Chief Medical Officer, Morse Clinics**

Dr. Morse presented on the implementation and success of North Carolina's first Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Mobile Medication Unit (MMU).

#### **Mobile Medication Unit Overview**

The mobile medication unit operates through Morse Clinic in partnership with Healing Transitions in Raleigh.

Current Sites:

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- Healing Transitions Men's Campus - 6:30-9:30 AM
- Healing Transitions Women's Campus - 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

The men's site began operations in July 2025, while the women's site opened in February 2026. Dr. Morse explained that nearly all services available in a traditional brick-and-mortar OTP can be performed directly on the mobile unit.

The mobile unit provides:

- Methadone treatment
- Buprenorphine treatment
- Sublocade injections
- Brixadi injections
- Naltrexone services
- Counseling
- Medical evaluations
- Urine drug screening
- Intake assessments
- Telehealth services

## **Program Capacity and Operations**

The mobile unit currently serves approximately 120 men and approximately 27 women. Services operate Monday–Friday, with weekend dosing coordinated through take-home protocols and nursing support.

The unit includes:

- counseling space,
- provider office,
- dosing area,
- secure medication storage,
- and telehealth capabilities.

Discussion emphasized the highly regulated nature of the mobile unit, including:

- DEA compliance,
- secure storage requirements,
- GPS tracking,
- chain-of-custody medication procedures,
- and designated approved service locations.

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## Outcomes and Program Impact

Dr. Morse reported substantial increases in treatment engagement after implementation of the mobile unit. Prior to the MMU, approximately 50 individuals were connected to MOUD services through existing transportation methods. Currently, approximately 147 individuals are receiving services through the mobile model.

Additional positive outcomes discussed included:

- increased retention in shelter programs,
- reduced transportation barriers,
- improved continuity of care,
- increased treatment engagement among unhoused individuals,
- and stronger collaboration between treatment and housing systems.

Healing Transitions leadership reported that residents receiving MOUD:

- remain in programming longer,
- experience fewer withdrawal symptoms and cravings,
- and demonstrate improved program completion outcomes.

## Continuity of Care Discussion

Dr. Morse and Arthur Payne emphasized:

- continuity between clinic sites,
- guest dosing capabilities,
- and flexible transfer coordination across OTP locations.

Patients connected to the mobile unit may also receive services at:

- Healing Transitions locations,
- Morse Clinic in North Raleigh,
- or other OTPs nationally if relocation occurs.

Discussion highlighted the importance of reducing barriers to treatment access and maintaining uninterrupted medication services.

## Expansion and Future Opportunities

Dr. Morse shared plans for a second mobile medication unit through Vance Recovery in Vance County. Other planned expansion areas include:

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- Oxford area in Granville County,
- Franklin County,
- and other underserved communities lacking OTP services.

Potential Durham expansion opportunities were discussed, including:

- partnerships with recovery programs,
- shelter-based models,
- and telehealth-supported intake services.

## **Funding and Regulatory Challenges**

Funding for the initial mobile unit was supported through:

- Wake County Opioid Settlement Funding,
- operational partnerships,
- and grant support.

Discussion also addressed barriers related to:

- limited DHSR inspection capacity,
- state regulatory approval delays,
- staffing shortages among inspectors,
- and challenges scaling OTP mobile services statewide.

## **Telehealth and Detention Center Collaboration**

Arthur Payne and Dr. Morse discussed:

- telehealth intake models,
- hospital-based OTP referrals,
- and remote intake capabilities.

Examples included partnerships with:

- Duke Hospital COMET program,
- Freedom House,
- and county detention facilities.

The possibility of telehealth-facilitated methadone intake services for Durham County Detention Facility was discussed as a future opportunity. Committee leadership indicated the information would be shared internally for further consideration.

## **Committee Discussion**

Committee members discussed:

- reducing treatment access barriers,
- scaling low-barrier MOUD services,
- telemedicine opportunities,
- mobile treatment models,
- and sustainability strategies.

Representatives from Duke University Health System shared additional perspectives regarding:

- free clinic models,
- mobile Suboxone outreach,
- telemedicine innovations,
- and app-based engagement strategies for low-barrier treatment access.

## **Presentation – Hayti Reborn – Justice Movement: Resources and Support**

**Presenter: Nichole Shackelford - Resource Development Department Specialist, HRJM**

Nichole Shackelford presented an overview of Hayti Reborn Justice Movement and its reentry, workforce development, and wraparound support services.

### **Organizational Mission and History**

The organization described itself as a community-based hub focused on:

- reentry,
- workforce development,
- resource coordination,
- and community partnership building.

The organization's mission centers on:

- addressing systemic gaps,
- supporting individuals and families,
- rebuilding trust,
- and improving outcomes for Durham residents across socioeconomic backgrounds.

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Leadership backgrounds include:

- former law enforcement leadership,
- correctional administration,
- and community advocacy experience.

## **Wraparound Service Model**

Services discussed included:

- reentry support,
- employment assistance,
- housing navigation,
- mentorship,
- education support,
- entrepreneurship,
- life skills development,
- and care coordination.

The organization emphasizes:

- individualized support,
- ongoing participant engagement,
- and long-term continuity without formal discharge from services.

## **Referral and Intake Process**

The organization's referral and onboarding structure includes:

- community referrals,
- partner referrals,
- intake screening,
- care management assignment,
- background reviews,
- and comprehensive assessments.

Nichole emphasized that assessments are used to:

- better understand barriers,
- identify support needs,
- and improve individualized service planning.

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## Workforce Development Partnerships

Partnerships discussed included:

- NCWorks
- Durham Technical Community College
- digital literacy training initiatives
- computer training programs
- entrepreneurship support

Programming includes:

- weekly employment support events,
- resume assistance,
- workforce readiness training,
- digital literacy courses,
- and paid participation stipends for some educational programs.

## BRIDGE Program

Nichole reviewed the “BRIDGE” workforce program developed with Durham Tech. The six-week program includes:

- career readiness,
- professionalism,
- workplace etiquette,
- career exploration,
- educational advising,
- technology training,
- and workforce development support.

Participants may receive:

- stipends,
- laptops,
- and direct workforce pathway support through the program.

## Committee Member Updates

### Milestones Healthcare:

Zandra Joiner announced an upcoming recovery coaching training facilitated through EMS

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support. It will include community outreach and vendor participation opportunities. Zandra also reported expansion of peer support and recovery-oriented programming at Milestones Healthcare.

**Morse Clinics**

Arthur Payne announced the launch of a new naloxone vending machine in partnership with Durham County Department of Public Health. It is located outside of the Morse Clinic of Durham at 4119 Capitol St. This machine is full of free naloxone available to anyone 24/7. Arthur also announced the opening of a new Morse Clinic in Orange County and a community pharmacy that provides pharmacy-based methadone.

**The next THR Committee meeting is scheduled for June 9th, 2026 at 3:00-4:30 PM.**