



Treatment and Harm Reduction (THR) Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2025

Attending: Lacie Scofield, Tremaine Sawyer, Kay Sanford, Helen Tripp, Eric Morse, Carlyle Johnson, Jennifer Carroll, Michele Easter, Kim Chansen, Jaeson Smith, Lisa Finley, Noel Ivey, Marc Strange, LA Cuttler, Quanesha Archer, Dave Crispell, Nicholas Barnard, Jess Mira, Jacob Schonberg, Zandra Joyner, Kellie Ross, Carolyn Crowder

Minutes Approved: Helen Tripp motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting (May). The motion was seconded by Jacob Schonberg, and the minutes were approved.

Presentations:

Southlight Healthcare - Kellie Ross, Director of Operations Cumberland County

Southlight Healthcare is expanding treatment services in Durham. Southlight provides access to high-quality mental health and substance use treatment, fostering a resilient community by supporting individuals in their recovery.

Over 900 people come to the Southlight Raleigh hub every day, starting at 5:30am. We are open 365 days a year providing access to treatment. We serve over 100 Cumberland County residents at our Fayetteville location.

We are the only OUD treatment program in our state offering evening hours, enabling people needing treatment to go to work, school, or care for their families during the day. Visit www.southlight.org to view hours, including walk-in hours. The Durham location does not offer evening hours at this time.

We have locations in Raleigh, Durham and Fayetteville.

Southlight was awarded CCBHC status in 2022. Certified Clinical Behavioral Health Clinics must provide at least 9 of the key areas to the community. There are only 500 CCBHC in the US.

Tailored Care Management is a team-based community program that helps members manage their care, improving overall health, wellness, and providing empowerment. It connects members to medical, mental health, substance use, and SDOH services, and bridges the gap between multiple providers that support the same member.

DURHAM JOINS GETHER

To Save Lives

The Women and Children Residential Program in Wake County provides treatment for women who are pregnant and women with children ages 3 months to 11 years old. Each woman who comes into the program receives treatment for substance use and/or mental health disorders.

Adult Outpatient Services offered in Durham include:

- Medication Management
- Office-Based Opioid Treatment (buprenorphine and Sublocade)
- Adult Outpatient Substance Use Intensive Outpatient program (SAIOP)

Community Programs Include:

- Assertive Community Treatment
- Community Support Teams (CST)
- Peer Support
- SOAR - Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance.

Buddy check programs:

- Veterans- Once a month (11th or nearest weekday)
- First Responders – Once a Month (25th or nearest weekday)

Southlight offers enhanced veteran programs to meet the needs of those individuals who have served our country. We believe that the best care should be accessible to all of the members of our community.

Medetomidine in Durham's Drug Supply –

Dr. Jennifer J. Carroll, Associate Professor of Anthropology, North Carolina State University; Editor, Law Enforcement and Incarceration; Harm Reduction Journal Convener

In Durham, two Alpha-2 agonist (sedative) adulterants are commonly found in illicit fentanyl – Xylazine and Medetomidine.

XYLAZINE

It appeared in the continental US drug supply in 2020. It is virtually always in combination with fentanyl. It causes sedation, changes in OD presentation, complex withdrawal syndrome, and slow healing soft tissue injury.

DURHAM JOINS GETHER

To Save Lives

MEDETOMIDINE

It appeared in the continental US drug supply in 2023. It is virtually always in combination with fentanyl. It causes sedation, changes in OD presentation, complex withdrawal syndrome, and potentially major blood pressure changes (rise and fall).

Major concerns now that medetomidine is here:

1. Raising awareness about the presence of medetomidine and understanding how to detect it (most folks have never heard of it)
2. Raising awareness about the impacts of medetomidine on the drug-using experience (especially heavy sedation)
3. Raising awareness about the priorities of effective OD response.
4. Appropriate withdrawal/toxidrome management, especially in healthcare settings, during incarceration, and when transitioning to MOUD (dexmedetomidine)

General info sources on medetomidine are:

- The Center for Forensic Science Research and Education
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Street Check Community Drug Checking
- UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab
- NCHRC
- Penn Medicine
- Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Evolving OD Response Guidance:

- No drug is “naloxone resistant”
- Sedation may be more extreme with medetomidine. Folks may be sedated for a long time...long enough to wake up in full withdrawal.
- The goal of OD response is breathing, not alertness

Drug Checking and Clinical Awareness:

- Community-validated test strips are available for purchase
- UNC mail-in drug checking is available through any participating organization (including NCHRC)
- Point-of-care drug checking from NCHRC is available to the public 3-6 pm Fridays at the Elizabeth St. Methodist Church

DURHAM JOINS GETHER

To Save Lives

Please contact us for more info:

- Jennifer Carroll (Assoc prof at NC State) – jjcarro3@ncsu.edu
- Reid Getty (Outreach and drug checking at NCHRC) - reid@nchrc.org
- Elyse Powell (NCHRC Exec Director) - executive.director@nchrc.org

Committee Member Updates:

Kay Sanford shared the sad news about the recent passing of Louise Vincent, one of the most active and well know harm reduction advocates in North Carolina. Kay gave a heartfelt eulogy to honor Louise and spoke about her impact. Prior to the meeting, Lacie emailed the committee a message about Louise from the NCSU and NSU board. Donations in her memory can be made here: <https://www.ncsurvivorsunion.org/donate>.

Timeka Harper announced that Freedom House is having a job fair in Chapel Hill for anybody looking for work. The event is on Tuesday, Sept 23 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Lacie Scofield announced that the Durham Local Reentry Council and several other local organizations are hosting a job fair on September 18 for people who have been formally incarcerated. There will be background-friendly employers at the event.

Kim Chansen reminded the group that the CLC Program would like to partner with all committee members' agencies. The three CLC Peer Support Specialists can provide free peer support to anyone with any kind of SUD. If you have a client or patient who might benefit from this service, call 919-695-3246 to reach one of the peers.