

**Partnership for a Healthy Durham  
Access to Care Committee  
Durham County Human Services Building, 414 East Main Street  
October 12, 2017  
MINUTES**

**Facilitator: Angel Romero Ruiz**

**Access to Care:** This committee's activities include advocating for changes that will affect health care coverage for residents across all ages and developing community and agency-based strategies to make measurable improvements in access to care for the uninsured and underinsured residents of Durham.

**Meeting Outcomes**

- Outcome 1: Educate committee members on the Community Health Center (CHC) Financial Cliff and how it could affect our county's CHC, Lincoln community Health Center and access to care.

<b>Present:</b> Tricia Smar, Lloyd Schmeidler, Kimberly Alexander-Bratcher, Angel Romero, Jen Meade, Kimberly Monroe, Sally Wilson, Camille Grant, Gina Upchurch, Charita McCollers, Genna Cohen, Jen Isherwood <i>Guest:</i> Larry Trachtman			
Project/Topic/Goal	Major Discussion Points	Recommendations	Action Steps
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> <i>Angel, &amp; All</i>			
<b>Review &amp; Approve September Minutes</b> <i>Angel, &amp; All</i>	No changes to the minutes.		
<b>Community Health Center Financial Cliff update and discussion</b> <i>Lawrence Trachtman (Lincoln)</i>	<p>The Lincoln Community Health Center (LCHC) receives one-third of its funding from federal government.</p> <p>Legislation that includes federal funding from community health centers was not renewed by Congress by September 30, 2017. This issue was overshadowed the healthcare debate.</p> <p>Funding has expired, but money for LCHC exists through Dec 31, 2017 (and has grant cycle of June 1).</p> <p>Funding cliff refers to the legislation regarding community health center funding that wasn't renewed by September 30, 2017. Community health centers could lose up to 70% of federal</p>		<p>Larry encouraged people to contact their North Carolina representatives to educate about the CHIME bills.</p> <p>Jen Isherwood will share minutes and talking points about the CHIME Bill with the</p>

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	<p>funding if resolution not passed. This would lead to reductions of care, consolidates services, etc. Two bills in the U.S. House and Senate would impact community health center funding. One is called CHIME – Community Health Investment Modernization and Excellent Act (S. 1899; H.R. 3770) which would reauthorize funding for community health centers for five years and the other is H.R. 3770 which includes reauthorizing funding for Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).</p> <p>North Carolina representatives Price &amp; Butterfield have signed on. North Carolina senators Tillis &amp; Burr have not yet. The hope is the CHIME bills will pass by end of 2017.</p> <p>Talking points are on HCAAdvocacy.org</p>		<p>Access committee and maybe Partnership listserv if people want to educate Congress.</p>
<p><b>Oral Health Subcommittee update</b> <i>Sally Wilson</i></p>	<p>LCHC, Samaritan Health Center, CAARE, and Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH) all have dental clinics (serve total of 4k adults annually).</p> <p>Dental not covered in traditional Medicare plan, so this is a problem for seniors. Medicare plans often have just small allowances for dental care.</p> <p>The workgroup’s strategy is to find ways to expand coverage and seek funding to expand dental staff at LCHC. The workgroup also wants to find a dental champion in the community and make sure oral health is part of the conversation.</p> <p>The workgroup wants to make a Project Access-like system corollary for dental care. Money is needed to hire a coordinator who can make this happen.</p> <p>There is a non-profit in Durham working to do this as well. The nonprofit and the Oral Health workgroup need to coordinate.</p> <p>Gina put out call for funding and cash flow for this proposed program.</p>		

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	<p>The book Teeth talks about dental care. Gina said author would talk to Access committee.</p>		
<p><b>Announcements</b> <i>All</i></p>	<p>Medicare enrollment period is 10/15/17-12/7/17. Senior PharmAssist is coordinating the program for Medicare.</p> <p>Medicare is rolling out new cards in 2018 without social security numbers. New IDs will be issues instead.</p> <p>United AARP is out of network for Duke University Health Systems Medicare Advantage plans, as is new plan WellCare (both will be advertising in Durham).</p> <p>Two Medicare Advantage plans (Aetna Premiere PPO with \$0 monthly premium; Advantra Gold) are leaving Durham County, 60% of public on these plans will be affected.</p> <p>In-network at Duke hospital is Aetna, BCBS, Humana, &amp; Gateway.</p> <p>Bull City Fresh Start (homeless) started meeting for event on 1/25/18. There will be meeting two Fridays a month at City of Durham Office of Community Development until event. They still need more volunteers. The homeless count occurs on 1/24/18. The next planning meeting is 10/20/18 at 10-11:30 am.</p> <p>Healthy Durham 20/20 has decided to focus on early childhood education &amp; development, housing and food security.</p> <p>Next Thursday, 10/19, 6-8pm, Durham Farm Food Network is having celebration and progress updates at ReCity (112 Broadway St.). All are welcome. There will be a buffet with locally sourced foods.</p>		<p>Gina will send electronic copies of Medicare options to committee (and also on Senior PharmAssist website).</p>
<p>Next meeting: November 9, 8:15 am, will be at City of Durham Office Community Development (Golden Belt).</p>			