



**Partnership for a  
Healthy Durham**

**Partnership for a Healthy Durham Quarterly Meeting**

January 17, 2024

12-1 pm via Zoom

Minutes

Facilitated by: Jess Bousquette

Topic	Major discussion points	Action steps and responsible parties
<p><b>Welcome</b> <i>Jess Bousquette, Overall Partnership Co-Chair, Durham County Department of Public Health</i></p>	<p>Jess Bousquette welcomed everyone and introduced the agenda.</p>	
<p><b>Partnership Committee Updates</b> <i>Partnership Committee Co-Chairs</i></p>	<p>Physical Activity, Nutrition, Food Access (PANFA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee continues their work on bringing the MEANS Database (Matching Excess and Needs for Stability) to Durham to connect local excess food (e.g. leftover catering dishes, food from dining halls) with food recipients.</li> <li>• PANFA continues work with school nutrition services (SNS) at Durham Public Schools (DPS). They are finalizing a purchase of smallware for DPS SNS and are also</li> </ul>	

staying updated with Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) changes that may occur due to some changes at the federal level and funding. CEP is the program that provides free school meals.

- Related to physical activity (PA), the group is working to implement evidence-based initiatives (EBIs) and programs related to PA in Durham.

#### Health and Housing:

- The committee is planning an event that would bring together service providers and folks working on housing and health to discuss the intersection of health and housing. The conversation would cover barriers particularly for those living with disabilities who need housing modifications for their disability. Originally, this was going to be a big event, but the committee decided to start with small round table discussions in March, April, and May. To begin, providers and landlords will be invited to the meetings. Later, the committee plans to invite community members after they have identified what resources are currently in the community.

#### Communications:

- The next meeting is Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> instead of their usual first Tuesday of the month meeting, due to the holidays. At this meeting, there will be a special presentation by Bike Durham on social media. All are welcome at the meeting next Tuesday at 9am. They will pick back up the regular meetings on the first Tuesday of the month in February.

#### Mental Health:

- Valon Alford, co-chair, shared that fellow Mental Health Committee Co-Chair Raven Brooks will be taking some time to mourn the loss of her mother.
  - In lieu of flowers, Raven has requested donations be made to McConnell-Raab Hope Lodge

<https://raiseyourway.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.page&id=1228>

- The committee is striving to increase the membership base. Although they have a devoted and active group, they want to make sure that people know everyone can be involved; not just those who are clinicians or those navigating community mental health services. They meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month on Zoom.
- The Mental Health committee plans to amplify and support mental health trainings in the community. If your organization is sponsoring a training or you know a trainer, please share with Raven or Valon. The goal is to have a central hub where people can see when training is available and who the target audience is (community health workers, mental health clinicians and administrators etc.).
- They also want to engage current Community Resilience Model (CRM) cohort members so that they can offer training for community members.
- The group is collecting workplace wellness best practices to compile then later share as recommendations. If there is an initiative that has worked well (or not) for your organization, please share it with Valon Alford at [valonalford@gmail.com](mailto:valonalford@gmail.com).

Access to Care:

- The group met over several sessions to make changes to the Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs), as they were originally quite long and some of the goals had not been addressed.
- Several guests attended meetings, such as representatives of prepaid health plans.
- The committee published the 2023 Flu Vaccination Guide, a guide that includes locations for a flu shots in Durham County, including clinics, pharmacies, Durham County Department of Public Health, etc. and the cost associated with each. For those that are uninsured or underinsured, there are very low cost or free options if they qualify.

In lieu of flowers, Raven has requested donations be made to McConnell-Raab Hope Lodge

<https://raiseyourway.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.page&id=1228>

Flu Vaccine Guide:

[Spanish version](#)

[English version](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group updated the Health Resources for Uninsured and Underinsured Individuals brochure, which will be available in print and electronically. The next steps are to translating it in Spanish, print, and distribute the resource.</li> <li>• The Community Health Worker Workgroup, led by Sally Wilson with Project Access, continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month at 8:30am.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Medicaid Expansion Updates</b></p> <p><i>Maggie Cveticanin, Director, Department of Social Services</i></p>	<p>Maggie Cveticanin has been with the Department of Social Services (DSS) since April of 2023, after working in Florida. She is excited to be working in a state that is rolling out Medicaid expansion. Some updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> of 2023, 30,000 people filled prescriptions due to expansion. These include lifesaving medications for blood pressure, diabetes, and cancer. Overall, in the state, 272,937 people have been enrolled since expansion started on December 1, 2023.</li> <li>• Since Medicaid expansion launched, 7,033 people in Durham have enrolled. The majority of these are 19–29-year-olds, the second largest group is 30–39-year-olds.</li> <li>• Maggie shared the NC Medicaid Expansion Dashboard, which shows data and trends related to the expansion. This dashboard can be filtered by county, health plan, age group, sex, ethnicity, race, and rurality. <a href="https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/reports/medicaid-expansion-dashboard">https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/reports/medicaid-expansion-dashboard</a></li> <li>• One of the biggest successes has been assisting adults with adult children who have disabilities. DSS staff works with these families to get their children enrolled.</li> </ul> <p>Questions/Answers:</p> <p><i>Is there any data to support individuals living in the Rescue Mission and other related entities and if they are enrolled?</i></p> <p>Not currently, no, but we (DSS) are working with these different agencies in Durham to see if we can have staff in these areas to reach more people, which they and we are open to.</p>	<p>NC Medicaid Information: <a href="https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/">https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/</a></p> <p>Durham Medicaid information: <a href="https://www.dconnc.gov/county-departments/departments-s-f-z/social-services/family-economic-independence/medicaid">https://www.dconnc.gov/county-departments/departments-s-f-z/social-services/family-economic-independence/medicaid</a></p>

*Is there any data to support young adults coming out of LINKS (services to you in foster care) that may have applied, as sometimes they do not follow up with additional support awarded to them?*

Currently, no. The state is only tracking the general populations. Durham County DSS will have to work on tracking specific populations in the future. This is a priority, but DSS has not been able to start this yet. The county granted 35 new staff members with expansion, so that is something DSS would be interested in looking into.

*Gina Upchurch, with Senior PharmAssist, mentioned that older adults' federal poverty limit is lower than others trying to access Medicaid. Is there a way to get access to some of the tracking systems so that we can help DSS with some of these applications?*

Maggie is open to anything that DSS can do to make the process easier and help more people.

*Is there a deadline to sign up?*

No, anyone can always sign up. It does take about 45 days to process an application. The best/quickest way to apply is online through EPASS, which gets directly processed by the state. DSS expects around 30,000 people to apply in Durham over the next year, but that includes those that will not receive any of the benefits/who do not qualify. That means DSS has to process around 30,000 applications, even they know the individual will not qualify. People can also apply in person, through the mail, or over the phone but the quickest way is online through EPASS.

*Is there a different process for kinship or foster care families, is that an automatic process that they will be enrolled, or is there a separate piece? How can we help family partners across the state?*

Maggie is unsure as of now, as that is separate from Medicaid expansion, but will research. That group was always eligible.

*Are you seeing high utilization of services by Spanish speaking people? Or by others who speak different languages, not English?*

Maggie's Email:  
[mcveticanin@dconc.gov](mailto:mcveticanin@dconc.gov)

DSS has not seen a significant increase. With the expansion of Medicaid, unless individuals are documented, they cannot apply which might be why Durham hasn't seen a huge uptake in other groups. DSS reached out to this community through radio ads and will continue to do so to make sure they are all aware.

To be eligible for Medicare, one must be a citizen OR legal permanent resident with 10 years (40 quarters) of work history paying into social security. This can also be based off spouse's work history and the spouse can be alive, dead, or divorced.

*How many of our Latino/Latina/Latinx and other Immigrants whose children who were born in the United States or teenagers who are working, if they are aware their kids may be eligible for Medicaid. Our group and Duke Community Health have been working with community health workers on this but many families are unaware their young adult children may be eligible. I think this is a community we need to approach and inform.*

DSS will connect with Viviana Bianchi to help with community events and activities.

\*Other members suggested community centers as other locations for this.

*Thinking about EPASS being the fastest way to do things, has there been any outreach to libraries or other places people can access the computer?*

Yes. DSS has been reaching out to the libraries and other spaces, like Lincoln Community Health Center and will continue to do this. As a new director, Maggie's goal is to get into the community instead of people always going to their office downtown. If anyone has ideas of other places to increase DSS' footprint in the community, they are open to suggestions.

*How can the Access to Care committee support you and your department and connect more people with Medicaid?*

Maggie asked the co-chairs to invite them to the standing meetings and she will make sure the right staff are there to figure out the best ways to collaborate.

*Once someone is approved for Medicaid, what are the next steps they need to go through and how do they request transportation?*

Once they are approved, they go through the process and receive their card. DSS arranges Medicaid transportation.

*Once they are approved, they must choose a plan from five insurance providers, correct?*

Case managers are responsible for helping patients go through the plans and identify the best/most appropriate plan for them.

*When patients receive Medicaid with no PCP (primary care provider) assigned, can they schedule with any Medicaid provider?*

Maggie doesn't know but I will try to find that out.

**\*\*Answer from Gina Upchurch (Senior PharmAssist):** If you are signing up for Medicaid Advantage Managed Care Plan and do not specify your PCP, one is assigned to you, and you will have to pay a socialist fee if you go to your PCP/what was not assigned to you. It is important with an Advantage plan that you specify your PCP.

*If someone doesn't choose a plan, are they automatically in Medicaid Direct?*

Yes. They are in the Direct plan until they choose but care managers work to help them so they have a plan and these issues don't happen.

*If there are one or two ways we can support the rollout of Medicaid Expansion, what are those?*

DSS would love to work with the Access to Care committee and other agencies that are working on this issue. Maggie also likes the idea of working together to reach the target

	<p>populations and locations. Please continue to provide DSS with ideas of how we can reach people.</p>	
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p>Duke’s Office of Community Health is hosting their Community Health Summit, focused on food security, on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Durham Convention Center. If you have any questions, you can email Scott Brummel at <a href="mailto:scott.brummel@duke.edu">scott.brummel@duke.edu</a>.</p> <p>2024 Durham Point in Time Count, where people go out in areas of Durham where people are experiencing homelessness., is happening next week. They are searching for volunteers for January 24<sup>th</sup>. Housing for New Hope is coordinating this; contact them at <a href="mailto:volunteer@housingfornewhope.org">volunteer@housingfornewhope.org</a>.</p> <p>For those who are Duke patients or work regularly with Duke patients, they are making some changes to Duke MyChart, it will be changed to something called My Duke Health. Everything will stay the same, such as login and password, but it is a new and improved medical record system for patients to view their own health information.</p> <p>NCCARE360 Advisory Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month. Please contact Catrina Lloyd if you'd like to receive the invitation: <a href="mailto:calloyd@dconc.gov">calloyd@dconc.gov</a></p> <p>NC Coalition to Promote Children’s Health Insurance Quarterly Meeting  01/18/2024 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm Join Zoom Meeting  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87243696974?pwd=K1VQa3NGODJqOmVydzJCRVQzMxIUUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87243696974?pwd=K1VQa3NGODJqOmVydzJCRVQzMxIUUT09</a>  Meeting ID: 872 4369 6974  Passcode: 528957</p>	<p>Sharon Munez email:  <a href="mailto:sharonmunoz2003@gmail.com">sharonmunoz2003@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Edeia Lynch email:  <a href="mailto:elynych@dconc.gov">elynych@dconc.gov</a></p> <p>Community Health Promotor interest form:  <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1kFzDUQ4l5Cf-tXPN0CSIoUam-McoYdR7a4Tvwq6UBwu7VQ/viewform">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1kFzDUQ4l5Cf-tXPN0CSIoUam-McoYdR7a4Tvwq6UBwu7VQ/viewform</a></p>



The Women's Health Awareness Conference is taking place on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Hillside High School. This is a free event-register prior or at the event.

[https://www.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/main\\_flyer\\_v03\\_508.pdf](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/main_flyer_v03_508.pdf)

Recent NCDHHS townhalls about Medicaid Expansion; The Spanish one featured NC Justice attorney, Kate W. with specifics on Immigrant Eligibility.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/F0cwpqEppbM?si=xxvfheViihLNDC3m>

<https://www.youtube.com/live/l0TBcxMsyoM?si=VsuW0DvOhDQXEjhS>

Durham County Community Health Worker Roundtable will resume on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Please spread the word

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86380303623?pwd=eml3dCt3WkdHZk1oaGczbi9BUUdQOT09>

Bull City Strong, which Latin19 is part of, is starting cohort 8 on January 30<sup>th</sup> with 10 classes on Zoom. The overall goal of Bull City Strong is increasing health literacy, limiting misconceptions on Covid 19 and related issues, and improve health literacy skills in community health promoters. We will train 20 people and in just 24 hours we had over 100 applicants interested! As soon as we have the final calendar, we will share this with our networks and ask for you to share this and increase awareness of our campaign.

Bull City Strong is also available in English and Haitian/Creole. We pay community health workers (CHWs) for their time, which is very important. Please reach out to us via email and attached is the registration link for the English cohort starting in two weeks.

The latest NCDHHS bilingual newsletter, Noticias, available at <https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?u=58ec19aeea4630b1baad0e5e4&id=16f70766ae>

NC Medicaid Managed Care - Meet the Health Plans and More! (Also, in Spanish) Date: 01/18/2024 Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm Web link: <https://maximus.zoom.us/j/91668556880>

	2024 Donald T. Moore, MD, Endowed Lecture A panel discussion on combating disparities in maternal health care open to all community members. 3/20/24 <a href="https://obgyn.duke.edu/news-events/donald-t-moore-md-endowed-lecture-2024">https://obgyn.duke.edu/news-events/donald-t-moore-md-endowed-lecture-2024</a>	
<b>Next meeting</b>	Wednesday, April 17 <sup>th</sup> 12pm-1pm. Register in advance for this meeting: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsdO-grDwrGN3HiZL8vizx6gEtBAyDefou">https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsdO-grDwrGN3HiZL8vizx6gEtBAyDefou</a>	