Partnership for a Healthy Durham
Access to Care Committee

October 15th , 2026 - 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Virtual

Minutes

Facilitators: Angel Romero and Edeia Lynch

Access to Care: This committee's activities include advocating 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.

Present: Edeia Lynch, Gabe Gibson, Bria Miller, Angel Romero, Nancy Santos, Pam Purifoy, Sonia Barnett, Liv Gladlin, Howard Eisenson, Shelisa Howard-Martinez, Gina Upchurch

Time	Project /Topic/ Goal	Major Discussion Points	Recommendations & Action Steps
9:00 - 9:05	Icebreaker – What team are you rooting for this Fall		
9:05 - 9:10	Last Meeting Recap, Note Review, Access to Care Co-chair updates		Nancy Santos helped with the updates from DSS.
9:10-9:30	Medicaid Updates- Durham County Department of Social Services (DSS)	Medicaid Updates- Durham County Department of Social Services (DSS) Pam Purifoy and Nancy Santos provided some updates and information on communicating changes related to Medicaid Elim Lee and some people from Duke created some documents to help provide community members information. When DSS went over the documents created, they had several recommendations. • One of the problems is that the specific changes are the Medicaid Expansion verbiage. This is 17,000, not the 77,000 in Durham, people who are on Medicaid via Medicaid Expansion. This does not apply to all people on Medicaid. • The state's Medicaid documents should clarify even more that this applies to people on Medicaid Expansion and not everybody. They still read as if this applies to all folks on Medicaid. The folks who are receiving benefits through Medicaid Expansion have been communicated with directly by the state.	ppurifoy@dconc.gov Pam Purifoy, Sr. Public Information Officer at DCoDSS please send her community collaborators re: Medicaid

		Question: Is the recertification process taking place every six months only for those who got coverage through Medicaid Expansion?
		Answer: Yes
		
		Question: Do you all find most people who got Medicaid via expansion know that's how they got Medicaid? Do you have tips for helping people understand whether that's the case for them/these changes apply to them?
		
		• It is not always clear what type of Medicaid a person has. One way they can check is by calling the Medicaid Contact Center - (888) 245-0179 and asking
		  ○ Here's the phone tree when you call that number - press 1 - 2- 1 - 1 - 2
		The state is currently developing policies for recent changes and are encouraging people to reach out to a DSS caseworker due to every case being unique.
		
		The state is developing two forms:
		1) Ine DSS 8209, which is the medical report form for those who are medically frail and say they are not able to work. Doctors will determine if they qualify for medical exclusion.
		2) DHB2403-the community service and volunteer form. Those who are able to work 80 hours will complete this form
		  a. 80 hour work requirement includes caregiving for a family member or friend
		
		Due to so much nuance, many people will need to speak directly to a caseworker.
		
		During the week of November 16th, DSS will have a virtual learning session for those who work with folks on Medicaid. There will be an in-person meeting for the public so that people can learn from DSS what is expected and what the roles are.
		
		DSS has been preparing for the increase in workload and is confident they will be able to help the community.
		
		Related to volunteering:
		There is broad concern with the capacity of organizations to take volunteers on. Shelisa is meeting with someone	

		from the Triangle Nonprofit and Volunteer Leadership Center on how we can easily connect organizations that need volunteers with those who need volunteer hours. Shelisa will also invite this person to this committee's November meeting. Parameters for eligible volunteering are the organization being a community organization or 501©3 nonprofit organization *Important: Encourage people to keep records of the hours they are working and utilize epass.nc.gov Are there parameters around eligible sites for volunteering? Community organization or 501(c)3 • Encourage people to keep records of the hours they are working. epass.nc.gov	
9:30- 9:50	Quick updates Durham Marketplace Navigator - NC Navigator Consortium	Quick updates Durham Marketplace Navigator - NC Navigator Consortium Gabe Gibsom shared additional information regarding Medicaid and health insurance. - For new folks **applying for Medicaid**, they have to prove three consecutive months of work. - For folks who are **going through recertification**, three months can randomly be selected out of six. - Open enrollment for marketplace coverage is coming up. If there are people you're talking to who need marketplace coverage, remind them that **open enrollment is November 1-January 15.** ○ For a January 1 start, people have to apply by December 15. Anything later will result in a February 1st start. - If folks applied for Medicaid before and were denied, they could apply for insurance through Marketplace. Immigrants will feel these changes the most because so many will immigrants are now excluded from these benefits. - For Marketplace, go to Beyond the Basics. They have a timeline of the changes. Question: Are there projected numbers of folks who will be impacted by these changes?	

		Answer: There have been unofficial numbers thrown around, but Gabe will look for official numbers. - The following article from KFF provides some numbers but is not NC specific: https://www.kff.org/immigrant-health/1-4-million-lawfully-present-immigrants-are-expected-to-lose-health-coverage-due-to-the-2025-tax-and-budget-law/	
9:50 – 10:00	Announcements & adjourn	Announcements & adjourn Flu Shots Now Available at the Durham County Department of Public Health- Flu season is here! The CDC recommends getting your flu shot by the end of October for the best protection. Visit the Durham County Department of Public Health's Immunization Clinic Monday through Friday for flu shots—no appointment needed, though appointments are available. Call 919-560-7608 to schedule. Insurance is accepted. Flu shots are available at reduced or no cost for people who are uninsured or underinsured. More information is available at www.DCoPublicHealth.org/FluSeason. Medicare's Open Enrollment Period (like early voting) began TODAY - we will see about 1400 folks in 7 weeks...so busy! Medicare Open Enrollment Period is 10/15 to 12/7. For folks who need outreach materials - Senior PharmAssist is the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) coordinating site for Durham- should email info@seniorpharmassist.org for resources . Senior PharmAssist works by appoinment only - 919.688-4772 (they have to match staff/volunteer and their training with person's needs). LOTS of changes with Medicare so "it pays to compare." - Access to Care has materials from the state. If you are going to a community	

		event soon and would like to distribute the information, please let us know.	