

**Partnership for a Healthy Durham
Access to Care Committee**

October 9th 2025 - 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Virtual

MINUTES

Facilitators: Brad Caison

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.

Attendees: Bria Miller, Brad Caison, Karin, Krista, Angel Romero, Sierra Elrahal, Jaemin Kim, Jeff Jenks, Shelisa Howard Martinez, P Purifoy, Charita McCollers, Marissa Mortiboy, Howard Eisenson, Elizabeth Brill

Time	Project/Topic/Goal	Major Discussion Points	Recommendations & Action Steps
9:00 - 9:05	Icebreaker – What’s your favorite fall flavor?		
9:05 - 9:15	Last Meeting Recap & Note Review	Reviewed minutes.	Group reviewed and approved.
9:15 - 9:35	COVID Vaccine Updates – Dr. Jeff Jenks	<p>Overview of COVID-19 Vaccines (2025 Update)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available Vaccines: Four COVID-19 vaccines are currently available, including one that is not mRNA-based. All vaccines have been updated to target the latest 2025 variant. <hr/> <p>Eligibility & Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA Eligibility: Eligibility varies by age group and vaccine type. Refer to FDA guidelines for specific age approvals. • CDC Risk Factors: The CDC provides an extensive list of risk factors. Most individuals will meet at least one criterion for vaccination eligibility. • ACIP Recommendations (Sept 18–19 Meeting): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended COVID-19 vaccination for everyone aged 6 months and older. • Emphasized shared clinical decision-making between patients 	<p>Brad will ask about the slides for reference.</p> <p>Flu flyer from partners?</p> <p>Another issue with the pharmacy is the combo of COVID and flu vaccines costs \$160 if you do not have insurance. Walgreens has a coupon for \$40 off.</p>

		<p>and providers (physicians, pharmacists, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved by the Acting CDC Director on the following Monday. • Professional Association Guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 2–17 months: Recommended for those with underlying conditions. • Ages 6–23 months and all pregnant women: Strongly recommended. • Ages 18 and older: Recommended for all adults. • Flu Vaccine: Everyone 6 months and older should also receive the seasonal flu vaccine. 	
		<p>Access & Availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where to Get Vaccinated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and pharmacies are the main access points. • In Durham, NC, access is expected to be readily available. • No significant pushback reported from providers. • Insurance & Cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uninsured individuals can access vaccines through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincoln Community Health Center • Duke Health • Samaritan Health Center • Mobile clinics (some offer free flu shots) • Pharmacies may require proof of service or insurance. 	
		<p>COVID-19 Trends in NC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater Surveillance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 levels are currently decreasing following the summer peak. • Expected to rise again in late November to early December. • Now is a good time to get vaccinated. 	
		<p>Common Questions & Answers</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Do pharmacies carry all vaccine types? A: Most pharmacies will carry the three main vaccines. Call ahead or check online to confirm availability. • Q: Do I need to bring my vaccine card? A: Pharmacies may have your record, but it's a good idea to bring your card just in case. • Q: A parent was told they need a PCP appointment first—true? A: This should no longer be an issue now that ACIP has approved vaccines for all individuals 6 months and older. • Q: Where can uninsured individuals get vaccinated? A: Besides PCPs and pharmacies, safety-net providers like Lincoln, Duke, and Samaritan Health Centers are key resources. Some mobile clinics may also offer free flu shots. 	
<p>9:35 - 9:50</p>	<p>Discussion: Integrating Information & Committee Interests into CHIP Driven Action</p>	<p>Emerging Needs & Information Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs are hearing diverse needs from their groups, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for timely information on topics such as COVID-19, Medicaid changes, and other public health updates. • A desire for clearer communication and actionable guidance. <p>Turning Interest into Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Question: How can we translate interest and concern into concrete, actionable items? • Discussion Prompt: Review of content shared by Dr. Jenks—what should be the output or next step from this information? <p>Proposal for Moving Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad's Suggestion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a small working group to develop action items. • This group would bring recommendations back to the full committee for review and implementation. <p>Urgency & Decision-Making</p>	<p>Suggestions – Fact Sheet, one pager, Kate B Reynolds fact sheet is a great resource https://kbreynolds.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/KBR-Access-to-Care-Fact-Sheet.pdf</p> <p>Talking points for the community, advocacy - community health work. https://publichealthcollaborative.org/communication-tools/understanding-acetaminophen-tylenol-and-safe-use-during-pregnancy/?utm_id=PHCC&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANgtz-B0srsktGDCY-hDKmOJCjB6g-1V7awP7E4ch8NpeZsbPReDjeu246Lkx9Sun4y1AV5EQSV7QrRAXcHMS3w1mE9kQISg&</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for Timeliness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on how the committee defines urgency. • If a decision is needed in less than one month, how will the committee respond quickly? • Group feedback requested on preferred process for urgent matters. • Communication Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Raised by Angel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquito spraying due to increased West Nile virus activity was initiated by Public Health. • Community members were not informed, leading to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about lack of communication. • Issues related to bee safety, family health, and environmental impact. • Highlights the need for improved public communication strategies. 	hsmi=383918846&utm_source=Newsletter PIO from Durham - https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FUaJvc8ti/ Break out work volunteers - Sierra, Shelisa, Charita. Brad will reach out to them to move that group forward. Also suggested a shared document for members to access between meetings. (ie Google doc) Marissa and Brad spoke to press releases that were sent that media did not seem to pick up and that the Public Health Dept did speak to bee keepers and tried to mitigate impact as much as possible.
9:50 - 9:55	Listening Session Update	Update – there are a few participant interests and Angel translated it into Spanish. We welcome everyone to disseminate them to their contacts. Also looking for volunteer facilitation help for the sessions.	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KJK7BGV Access to Care Listening Session sign-up https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RHRYDZD Access to Care Listening Sessions sign-up in Spanish
9:55 - 10:00	Announcements & Adjourn	In Person Partnership Meeting – Wednesday, October 15 th Stanford L. Warren Library Angel announced resource for toys and holiday gifts for families in need. A spreadsheet that has Durham agencies and application process. NC Ink put it together. He will share if you reach out to him.	Quarterly meeting 12-1:30 and there will be food and legislative changes. Please join us. Register no later than tomorrow at noon. Link here - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MHF63TV
Next meeting: Thursday, November 9th, 2025, at 9:00 am via Zoom.			