

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

May 14th, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Virtual

Minutes

Facilitators: 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: Bria Miller, Angel Romero, Shelisa Howard-Martinez, Gabe Gibson, Elshona Hudson, Tinesha Smith, Edeia Lynch, Charita McCollers, Vickie, Pam Purifoy		
Time	Major Discussion Points	Recommendations & Action Steps
9:00 - 9:05	Icebreaker – What's your favorite springtime activity or memory	
9:05 - 9:10	Last Meeting Recap, Note Review, Access to Care Co-chair updates The meeting minutes are approved. Brad Caison is no longer a co-chair of the Access to Care committee. Shelisa will be stepping in to help Edeia in the interim. We are now opening the Access to Care nominations. If a person is nominated, they will be notified to verify if they are interested in the co-chair position. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVL89Z5	
9:10 – 9:15	CHW Roundtable updates The next CHW networking roundtable is on June 3. Edeia facilitates this group of CHWs and Peer Support Educators from Durham County. They get updates from the statewide CHW leadership, training, and support. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish is always available. The CHW Networking event was April 30-May 1. They trained 55 CHWs in disaster management, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and mental health first aid. They had the networking portion on May 1 with the theme 'knowledge to action on advocacy'. They want to make sure people are aware of what they can do to move the needle forward. There were updates from the NC CHW network, networking, line dancing, and food. They will start planning in the fall for the next event in the Spring.	
9:15 - 9:25	May is ... Health literacy around Women's Health Awareness Month	Next step- harm reduction. Connect Morgan from

	Mental Health Awareness Month Older Americans Awareness Month The group discussed these and what they wanted to talk more about more. Health literacy is a priority in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), along with healthcare access and CHW work. Are these topics that should be discussed, or areas to work towards improving literacy? Other topics the group thought about for potential discussion: 1. Women's health. There are a lot of gaps in information about women's health and what to expect when seeing doctors a. Questions to ask your OBGYN before you go and what to advocate for during your appointment. b. Topics such as menopause, health and wellness, PAP smears, reproductive health 2. Gun violence prevention 3. Older Americans Awareness Month: a Partnership with the Senior Center on education, opportunities, technology divide, and resources for Seniors (housing, programs that help make things affordable, tax relief programs). This group is one of the growing populations for first-time homelessness. It would be helpful to highlight resources, services, and other supports. a. Environmental safety and substance use would also be great 4. Drug use. Opioid use is common with older adults. a. Substance use is no longer a qualifying event for disability, which can now prevent people from getting benefits. b. Increasing knowledge about and access to naloxone to older women who have prescription medications. 5. Food access for seniors in public housing (discussion around creating a pantry in these areas) a. There is a food redistribution pantry at JJ Henderson (senior housing). Residents can provide food they do not want so that other people can access it. 6. Refugee resettlement programs Some next steps: • Connect Morgan Culver (Durham County Department of Public Health, Harm Reduction) for naloxone training. Shelisa and Charita are particularly interested in working on something. • Obtain information from a long-term ombudsman for senior's rights in long-term care facilities • Share healthcare/health insurance information in health adjacent (non-clinical) settings • Collaborate with Samaritan Health	DCoDPH to Pam, Shelisa, and Charita.
9:25 – 9:50	Medicaid updates from Gabe Gibson • We are now outside of the open enrollment period for Marketplace enrollment. To enroll now, an applicant would have to have a qualifying life event. ○ Life events include, but are not limited to, changes in household, such as getting married, divorced, having a child, etc. or loss of health coverage in the last 60 days. • We are still seeing cases of fraud. Many cases involve unknown Ambetter coverage due to them having a \$0 premium plan that can go unnoticed since users don't see the charge. Auto enrollment can sometimes seem like fraud even though it isn't. • The enhancements to Advanced Premium Tax Credit did not get extended, so there's less tax credits available than there were before.	

	• There was a 23% decrease in enrollments this year compared to last year in NC, much higher than the national average. • HB696 ○ This bill was passed on April 28. It fully funded the \$319 million need for the Medicaid rebase. NC remains the only state that doesn't have a state budget. ○ This limits the acceptance of self-attestation to provide proof for Medicaid eligibility. Before, people could just tell the caseworker how they qualify. They will start requesting more documentation from folks starting October 1, 2026, to prove eligibility. ○ Copayments will rise for NC Medicaid from \$4 to \$35. This goes into effect July 1, 2027. This is the maximum allowed by federal law. • New work reporting requirements ○ This will now require people to participate in qualifying activities for at least 80 hours per month unless a person is making as much as they would be if they were working and making \$580 per month. This will be a requirement to receive Medicaid. ○ Work reporting requirements should be implemented on January 1, 2027. Federal guidance is expected June 1, 2026. This could delay implementation for up to 2 years.	
9:55 – 10:00	Announcements & adjourn • There is a pause on work with NCCARE360 • The Aging Gracefully Resource Fair will cover important topics, such as Long Term Medicaid, Social Security, food insecurity, mental health, decluttering, moving and more. This event is Saturday, June 13th at the Human Services Bldg. from 10 am-2pm.	