

**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	Project/Topic/Goal	Major Discussion Points	Recommendations & Action Steps
9:00 - 9:05	Icebreaker – What’s your favorite springtime activity or memory		
9:05 - 9:10	<p>Last Meeting Recap, Note Review, Access to Care Co-chair updates</p> <p>The meeting minutes are approved.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVL89Z5</p>		
9:10 – 9:15	<p>CHW Roundtable updates</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The CHW Networking event was April 30-May 1. They trained 55 CHWs in disaster management, SNAP, and mental health first aid. They had the networking portion on May 1. The theme was 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. There was information, networking, line dancing, and food.</p> <p>They will start planning in the fall for the next event in the Spring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CHW Networking Event - CHW Roundtable meetings- June 	

<p>9:15 - 9:25</p>	<p>May is ... Health literacy around Women's Health Awareness Month Mental Health Awareness Month Older Americans Awareness Month</p> <p>We were discussing this and thinking about what we want to talk more about. Health literacy is a priority in the CHIP along with healthcare access and CHW work. Are these topics we want to discuss or areas where we want to improve literacy?</p> <p>When discussing women's health, we realized that there are a lot of gaps in information about women's health and what to expect when seeing a doctor or doctors about these.</p> <p>From the chat:</p> <p>Pam Purifoy- Gun violence prevention</p> <p>Charita McCollers 9:24 AM Older Americans Awareness Month-Partnership with Senior Center-education, opportunities. technology divide, resources for Seniors-housing, programs that help make things affordable-tax relief programs Older Americans are also a growing populations for first time homelessness. Highlights on resources, services and supports!</p> <p>Environmental safety for seniors, substance use would also be great!</p> <p>Pam Purifoy 9:28 AM Charita we're having The Aging Gracefully Resource Fair that will cover from soup to nuts: Long Term Medicaid, Social Security, food insecurity, mental health, decluttering and moving, etc. Saturday, June 13th at the Human Services Bldg. 10 am-2 p</p> <p>People would like to focus on older adults and drug use. Opioid use is common with older adults. It might be helpful to connect to Morgan with the health department.</p> <p>Substance use is no longer a qualifying event for disability. That can now prevent people from getting benefits.</p> <p>Questions to ask your OBGyn before you go/ what to advocate for during your appointment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there health literacy gaps within these topics in the community? - Discussion on potential women's health topics - Possible collaboration in ways to support access to care (ie. Menopause, health and wellness, PAP smears, reproductive health, know before you go) 	<p>Next step- harm reduction. Connect Morgan from DCoDPH to Pam, Shelisa, and Charita.</p>
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	<p>The other discussion about older adults, drug use and overdose is increasing knowledge about and access to naloxone to older women who have prescription medications</p> <p>There were conversations about creating a pantry in public housing for seniors.</p> <p>There is a food redistribution pantry at JJ Henderson. The residents provide food that they do not want so that other people can access it.</p> <p>People might be interested in connecting Morgan with the groups for naloxone training. Shelisa and Charita are particularly interested in working on something.</p> <p>Maybe obtaining info from one of the long term care ombudsman for seniors rights in long term care facilities</p>		
<p>9:25 – 9:50</p>	<p>Medicaid updates by Gabe Gibson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are now outside of the open enrollment period for Marketplace enrollment. To enroll now, they would have to have a qualifying life event. • 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 they 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. There's less tax credit 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This bill was passed on April 28. It fully funded the \$319 million for the Medicaid rebase. We are still 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. • Work reporting requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This will now require people to participate in qualifying activities for at least 80 hours per month unless a person is making as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share healthcare/health insurance information in health adjacent (non-clinical) settings - Refugee resettlement programs. - Collaborate with Samaritan health? 	

	<p>much as they would be if they were working and making \$580 per month. This will be a requirement to receive Medicaid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. <p>NCCARE360 pause</p>		
9:55 – 10:00	Announcements & adjourn		