

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

**August 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 - 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. In-person at Samaritan Health**

**Minutes**

**Facilitators: Edeia Lynch and 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.

<b>Present:</b> Brad Caison (DCoDPH), Elizabeth Brill (Samaritan Health), Edeia Lynch (DCoDPH), Bria Miller (DCoDPH), Sierra Elrehal (NC Consortium of Navigators), Dr. Martha Carlo (Samaritan Health), Mike Plant (NC Legal Aid), Krista Kicsak (DCoDPH)		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Project/Topic/Goal</b>	<b>Recommendations &amp; Action Steps</b>
	Welcome and refreshments	
<b>Welcome Icebreaker Introduction to Samaritan Health</b>	<p>Edeia and Brad introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of the agenda. Brad is a new co-chair of the Access to Care committee.</p> <p>Icebreaker: What is one success that you’ve had in the last month personal or professional?</p> <p>Elizabeth Brill has been a part of Samaritan for about 15 years. She has been on this committee for 10-12 years. They are a no-cost clinic. There is no requirement to pay for services. They do accept donations. They provide primary care for patients who don’t qualify for Medicaid nor Medicare and are under 300% of the federal poverty level (about \$43,000 per year for one person). There are four paid medical staff and 20 volunteers. They strive to provide the best quality care no matter how much people can pay.</p> <p>Samaritan Health’s clients speak many languages. Some patients have been going there over 12 years. They’ve served more than 200 new patients in 2025. People feel invested there. Their goal is to serve patients who are not accessing care elsewhere. They love partnering.</p> <p>Samaritan Health added a walk-in clinic for people who need to be seen one time, available Monday-Wednesday 12pm-3pm. They have full lab</p>	

	<p>services through LabCorp. They are also able to access radiology at no cost from partners.</p> <p>Q&amp;A: What kind of information do patients provide to prove they are eligible?  A: Proof of income is required. Samaritan Health often obtains that information from other providers the patient saw that had the same requirement. A letter from their employer would also suffice.</p> <p>Q: What can you provide patients needing more intensive care?  A: The patient navigator helps them to identify and access more specialty services. There are a lot of resources for people who don't have insurance in Durham, but a lot of people don't know about them.</p>	
<p><b>CHIPs Review</b></p>	<p>This is the action plan of Access to Care for 2025-2027. The committee has three goals and specific ways to achieve these goals. Edeia led the discussion on reviewing the current CHIPs</p> <p>Goal 1: Increase healthcare and health insurance access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The committee is making plans to host listening sessions. With priorities changing, members would like to shift the focus and think about barriers to access for patients more broadly. Participants would like to include clinicians, administrators, navigators, and Community Health Workers (CHW). We would like to capture what is happening at this time. These can be hosted one-on-one or in group settings.</li> </ul> <p>Goal 2: Advocate for a CHW workforce that has benefits and fair wages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding for CHWs has significantly decreased since these CHIPs were developed.</li> <li>○ Lean into teaching people how to work with and supervise CHWs. Think through ways to help people understand what CHWs do, how to recruit them, and how to design roles that capitalize on their strengths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The committee should also participants ask how we can help them.</li> <li>● Consider having opportunities for different clinics to participate in these walks around their clinics and would be in their community.</li> <li>● Krista will connect with Dr. Carlo on Walk with a Doc.</li> </ul>

	<p>Goal 3: Improve healthcare and health insurance literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need to figure out what the top languages spoken are in Durham after English and Spanish.</li> <li>○ Walk with a Doc- may need to pivot a bit. It has been challenging to find providers who have the capacity to participate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Carlo might have some medical students who would be interested in participating.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Re-evaluating and Re-imagining</b></p>	<p>Compile a list of helpful resources.</p> <p>Let's think about what our people power and community power is.</p>	