

Partnership for a Healthy Durham Quarterly meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

12 – 1:00 pm, Zoom

The meeting will be livestreamed on the [Partnership Facebook page](#) if the meeting exceeds the 100-person capacity.

Attendees: Anisa Eshraghi, Ashley Bass Mitchell, Azmen Johnson, Bailey Igoe, Bobi Gallagher, Andrae Banks, Andres Parraguirre, Bridgit Sult, CHarlene Reiss, Cierra Hamlet, Cindy Haynes, Colin Moore, Daniel Tounsel, Deborah Dolan, Dennis Hamlet, Derrick Stanfield, Don Bradley, Edeia Lynch, Elaine Hart-Brothers, Elizabeth Brill, Elshona Hudson, Heather Mountz, Idia Enogieru, Ijeoma Uwandu, James Davis, Jasmine St Denny, Jolie Jemmott, Kamina King, Kat Combs, Katie Lipe, Kia Campbell, Kelly Warnock, Kimberly Monroe, Kla Brannon, Kourt Royster, Leah Whitehead, Manuel Hyman, Marissa Mortiboy, Mary Vinson, Meghan Brown, Mel Downey-Piper, Michelle Lyn, Mysha Whitley, Najla McClain, Nasim Youssefi, Osborn Owusu Ansah, Pamela Perry, Raina Goldstein Bunnag, Scott Brummel, Shawna Murrie, Shelisa Howard Martinez, Sicily Johnson, Susan Hertz, Tricia Smar, Uzuri Holder, Valon Alford, Velu Karicheti, Victoria Mosey, Viviana Martinez-Bianchi, Wanda Boone, Willa Allen, Krista Kicsak, Bria Miller, Jess Bousquette Rhodes, Jacob Shomali, Leonardo Williams, Sebastian Rios, Lloyd Michener, Kelsey White, Kathryn Pollack, Elaine Hart Brother

Minutes

Topic	Discussion Points	Action Item(s)
Welcome <i>Jess Bousquette, Overall Partnership Co-Chair, Durham County Department of Public Health</i>	Jess Bousquette Rhodes welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the sharing of progress on Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) of the various committees. Co-chairs of the committees will have two minutes to provide updates and progress with the group. If anyone is interested in any of the work, please reach out to join that committee at their next meeting!	
Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) Updates	<u>Health and Housing</u> James Davis, co-chair of the Health and Housing committee, introduced the committee's overall CHIPs results statement, or goal, and objectives.	



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<i>Committee Co-Chairs</i>	Results statement: All residents of Durham County, particularly those who are experiencing disadvantage due to rising costs and a lack of high-quality affordable housing, live in safe, accessible homes and in communities that support their health and well-being throughout their lifespans. Objective 1: Individuals have safe and adequate housing (free from interior hazards) that supports their health and wellbeing Initiatives include: • Identify organizations that provide services for healthy housing conditions, such as lead abatement, installing play equipment, child lead testing, etc. • Connect with organizations that provide health-adjacent resources to people's homes to share healthy housing resources • Launch a neighbor-to-neighbor campaign that encourages people to care about the condition of their neighbors Objective 2: Advocate for health promoting housing policies and procedures Initiatives include: • Partner with the Coalition for Affordable Housing to provide data and presentations to advocate for specific interventions and funding • Identify existing dashboards and tools to share with community members, neighborhoods, organizations, grassroots movements, etc. for advocacy efforts • Review existing strategic plans and priority lists to make sure this committee is in alignment • Policy initiatives that focus on people with disabilities, mental health concerns, etc. • Review tenant retaliation and actual retaliation of landlords and unsafe housing conditions • Research information from landlords on tenants' sentiment of landlord	
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	retaliation Objective 3: Strengthen the network of those providing housing resources to promote safe and adequate housing for people who live in Durham Initiatives include: • Build relationships with organizations that support healthy housing conditions • Support existing efforts and identify gaps in resources that need advocacy and build a network • Utilize existing methods for sharing information from other organizations • Identify funding sources to support those who need healthy housing resources James noted that the committee does not have any strategies specifically focused on <i>affordable housing</i> directly, because they will be supporting the work of other organizations in and around Durham that are focused on that piece. <u>Access to Care</u> Angel Romero (co-chair) shared that the committee broke up strategies to work on among the different Quarters of the year. Strategies that will be focused on in the first and second Quarter include: Objective 1: Increase healthcare and health insurance access • Collaborating with Mental Health committee to disseminate resources • Support the availability and capacity of community clinics (safety net) to accommodate demand and raise awareness of local options such as Lincoln Community Health Clinic (LCHC), Project Access, Samaritan Health Center, Duke Hospitals, and charity care. • Expand navigation services for Affordable Care Act plans, Medicaid,	
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	and other services; collaborating with Senior PharmAssist, LCHC, Samaritan, project access on this • Connecting uninsured individuals with a medical home and resources; especially those ineligible to immigration barriers Objective 2: Advocate for a community health worker (CHW) workforce that has benefits and fair wages • Connect allies to provide allies and allyship to CHWs Objective 3: Improve healthcare and health insurance literacy • Collaborating with PANFA committee on a Walk with a Doc program to engage providers that speak languages other than English to engage with community outside the clinical setting • Work with a group of Duke students to carry out a needs assessment of the safety net resources that are available in Durham County If you're interested in joining any of this work, reach out to Angel Romero, Edeia Lynch (co-chairs) or Bria Miller (Partnership Coordinator). <u>Communications</u> Katie Lipe (co-chair) shared that the overall goal of the Communications committee is to ensure that Partnership members, stakeholders, and overall community understand the significance of health and well-being, they have access to clear and inclusive communications resources and are well-informed about the priorities of the Partnership. She reminded everyone that this committee is a resource for all Partnership members and groups to take advantage of. Objective 1: Share health-related information with partner organizations as well as Durham community members in an equitable way Objective 2: Equip Durham community members with the health information <i>they need</i> to achieve the health outcomes they desire (understanding that	
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	health means different things to different people) Objective 3: Improve communications strategies within Partnership committees to ensure that activities, goals, and priorities are being communicated There is a lot of great work going on in committees and within the community and the communications committee needs to know about them so they can help create innovative ways of getting that information into the community. <u>Mental Health</u> Ashley Bass-Mitchell shared that the overall goal of this committee for 2025-2027 is that “All people in Durham County have access to quality, culturally affirming and affordable mental health services and social emotional support”. The committee is working to achieve this by mapping out where there are network gaps in the community and looking to see how they can assist with what mental health supports look like. If there are clinical sources, they want to bring awareness to that and to natural supports, as well. The committee is working on updating the Mental Health Brochure and are offering a variety of training courses this quarter. There is a Mental Health ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) on March 13th and 14th, which teaches people how to intervene, what to do if someone is feeling suicidal, what that might look like. This group is also hosting a Community Resiliency Model (CRM) Training and Mental Health First Aid in the next few months. They are working to collaborate with other networks and organizations for holistic health and having quarterly meet ups to touch base and meet as a community. Additionally, they are looking to reduce stigmas that exist around behavioral health by looking into self-supports and using the Eight-Minute Movement at the beginning of each meeting, which allows participants the opportunity to check in with their body, mind and how they are feeling. Committee members	
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are bringing other avenues for navigating how one feels and communicates about their feelings, including a writing course. Lastly, they want to advocate for policy change and create tools to navigate throughout the mental health system.

Physical Activity, Nutrition, Physical Activity (PANFA)

Kia Campbell and Scott Brummel are the co-chairs of PANFA. The overall goal for 2025-2027 is “In Durham County, all people, particularly those who are historically marginalized or at or below median income level have equitable access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food, and safe and accessible environments for physical activity”. The three main target areas identified to achieve this goal are:

1) increase the percentage of Durham County residents, across all demographics, who meet CDC’s physical activity guidelines.

Strategies to achieve this include increasing the visibility and participation in walking groups, promoting the City of Durham’s Vision Zero team, hosting Open Streets events, putting up more signage related to safety in physical activity, as well as partnering with the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to increase activity levels during school time.

2) Increase fruit and vegetable consumption in youth

Strategies related to this include multiple assessments, including how many fruits and vegetables are being served at food pantries and congregate meals sites and what students at charter schools are consuming during school time, partnering with Durham Public Schools (DPS) Good Food Services (previously School Nutrition Services) and helping them apply to grants, compiling toolkits for pantries to use related to food and cooking so that people can increase the amount of fruits and vegetables they consume.



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	3) Strengthen and increase the connections between food resources, organizations and community members Strategies related to this include expanding and improving how food resources are communicated, creating more partnerships with grocery stores to increase access to culturally relevant foods, and assisting food pantries and community organizations in grant applications. <u>Systemic Equity Action Team (SEAT)</u> Kelly Warnock and Najla McClain are co-chairs of this committee, which was previously a task force until one year ago. Racial equity principles were developed for the Partnership in 2019 and are as follows: • Cultivate community power and leadership • Transform inequitable systems using justice and accountability • Operationalize internal equity • Connect our humanity • Admit language and history matter SEAT created a toolkit to work with each of the individual committees to make sure that all efforts are aligned with these racial equity principles. The first committee to work through this is PANFA around food insecurity. It took several meetings to move through step one of the toolkit, defining the problem, and create a root-cause statement. The question to answer was “Why are 14% of the people in Durham surveyed worried they will run out of food until they get more?”. Over several months, using the five whys, the group came up with the root cause statement: “14% of people in Durham surveyed worry they will run out of food until they get more due to a high cost of living couple with insufficient income and disinvestment in the community.	
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	This is exacerbated by local, state, and federal policies that intentionally create inequities, as well as inadequate policies that aim to end inequities but fail, advantaging some and disadvantaging others, causing an imbalance of power. Additionally, Durham’s planning, development, and employers (continue to) tolerate and drive poverty and hunger. Durham does not value food as a human right and relies on a (biased) culture of charity, denying people dignity.” Step two in the process is identifying who is already doing the work, followed by step three of education, which will be worked on in the next few months.	
Vision for Durham and Public Health Alignment <i>Mayor Leonardo Williams, City of Durham</i>	Mayor Leonardo Williams was elected to Durham City Council in December 2021 and sworn in as Mayor in 2023. He is a proud graduate of North Carolina Central University and while serving on City Council, he continues to apply his experience and passion in education, entrepreneurship, and commitment to addressing deep social issues to make Durham a united community that provides safety and prosperity to all. Mayor Williams is excited to be on the call and hear all the great things that are going on in the Partnership and in Durham. Like many, he doesn’t always understand why the City of Durham and Durham County are separate but is excited that they are starting to work together more recently. For example, there had previously been two fire departments, two school systems, two emergency services, which are now combined into one fire department, one school system, and one emergency services department. One of the biggest issues seen is people not understanding how local government works and the difference between what the City does and what the County does, which he is hopeful he can help improve. He is proud to say that the City Manager and County Managers are in discussion of how County and City can work together and do things right.	



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\$80 billion dollars of health benefits are left on the table, 80 million of which are in Durham, despite having many medical centers available in Durham, which is why this partnership is essential. He wants there to be a focus on improving the quality of life in Durham as the City and County continue to build, not just by policy but in smaller initiatives.

Questions/Answers

- 1) How can people and organizations best advocate for new housing that is accessible for residents and visitors and the design really supports the wellbeing of the community?

He would love to see the government be more proactive instead of reactive, so that instead of having to react to more people needing housing, having a plan on how to address homelessness and increase revenue to build better infrastructure. There are many pieces that play into the housing issue, many of which rely on supply, demand, and business. He doesn't want the conversation to only be around affordable housing, but affordable living. It's important to consider quality and efficiency. Durham is working with local developers who have more of the people's interest in mind to increase housing properties, cut the cost of building, and keep up with environment standards.

- 2) What does the collaboration of City and County look like around Durham's public health concerns?

County and City leadership communicate often on benefits that are available to employees and what money, which is spent by City/County, is left on the table. They communicate to make sure that folks utilize that money so it isn't



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	wasted. The City and County collaborate on programs together, as well as share data, which should continue. For example, the County transportation department received a grant related to a recent project and the City of Durham allowed them to use their data to inform the work. Both City and County are continuing to collaborate on how to move forward with this particular project. 3) Does the City have any sway in getting developers to make any considerations beyond profit and cost, mainly thinking about design of housing so people can age in place, safe conditions in all housing, etc.? Yes! The City can't force anything but those conversations are possible. The Mayor has a great relationship with most of the developers in Durham. He gave an example of how he was able to help influence where people could access roads near a senior living facility so that they could feel safe walking across the street to their mailboxes. He stressed the importance of building relationships, especially with policies in North Carolina, and trying to understand the <i>why</i> behind things. 4) How can the City and County work together to empower community members to play a more active role in their health and the health of their community? Participate in community coalitions and committees and speak up to developers and leaders. When talking with elected officials and leadership organizations, try not to be adversarial to them and try to understand the process. He highly encourages to get involved in the Durham Neighborhood College program, where community members learn how different things work in both City and County government. 5) How can the Partnership support the work that you and the City are doing? Continue to invite experts to the table. Continue to talk with community members	
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	and organizations. Invite elected officials to these conversations! He highlighted his own plans to try and build up more businesses and activities in Durham to increase sales revenues, so that they can build better assets for the people living in Durham. Engage more with those around you is the main point.	
Announcements	Mental health trainings: - The Partnership for Healthy Durham's Mental Health subcommittee in partnership with the Durham County Department of Public Health is hosting a 2-day, in-person Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) Training at the Public Health Department on March 13-14, 2025, from 8:30-5. https://link.edgepilot.com/s/c32e63b1/P8LrdhRYAUe1II49CrB03w?u=https://forms.gle/dRKavGwtBG1XER3A8 - High Fidelity WRAP Around Workshop being held on January 23, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This event will be an in-person workshop that will focus on High Fidelity WRAP (HFW), partnerships, and community. This workshop aims to raise awareness, share valuable resources, schools and foster collaboration between families and agencies, and community. Food will be provided along with prizes and giveaways. FREE training: Coping Together, Family Communication Process https://CT012325.eventbrite.com FREE training: Change Your World https://CYW012825.eventbrite.com The Trauma-Informed Care Healthcare Provider Conference is on February 19-20. This is FREE and provides Continuing Education (CE) credits! https://www.southernregionalahcec.org/courses-and-events/73413/trauma-informed-care-healthcare-provider-conference	Reach out to Ashley Bass-Mitchell if you'd like more information about the mental health trainings trainings



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	Bull City Strong is conducting cohort 11 of the Community Health Promoter Program! This program aims to provide accurate, accessible, and actionable information to Durham County residents by improving the health literacy of community leaders/community health workers who serve the African American community. Interest form: https://forms.office.com/g/DzqF9wvXdN	
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I. Vision for Durham and Public Health Alignment

Mayor Leonardo Williams, City of Durham

II. Announcements

- Email announcements to Bria Miller at briamiller@dconc.gov to share in a post meeting wrap-up

If you are not part of a committee, please consider joining one of the following. Contact Bria Miller at briamiller@dconc.gov or visit www.healthydurham.org for more information.



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