



Public Health Department

C-FORT Minutes July 2024

Agenda Item 1. Introductions/Minutes

Attendees

Amber Helton, CCDPH
Amy Jordan
Ana C Amarilla Adams
Angela Hebel
Barbara White, Mid-Carolina Regional Council
Casey Perry
Charlton Roberson, NCHRC/Life Net Services
Christina Scali
Courtney McCollum, CCJS
Elijah Bazemore
Greg Berry, CCDPH/NCHRC
Heather Skeens, Cumberland County
Heather Sroka, CCDPH/CCDC
Jamie Gesslein
Jasmine Conyers, Wellcare NC
Jasmine Harris, SRAHEC
Jeff Stultz, Broken Chains JC
John Russell, On Track Wellness/Butterfly Effects
Kellie Ross
Lisa Blandin, SRAHEC
Martina Sconiers-Talbert, CCDPH
Mitzi Averette
Sanquis Graham, CCDPH
Serena Gunn, Heal Holistic Journey
Shelby Perez, CCDPH
Tara Tucker, CCEMS
Tatum Evans, Myrover Reese
Tracy Honeycutt

******June 2024 Minutes Adopted******

Agenda Item 2. Opioid Data and Opioid Settlement Updates

Orlando Smith, BJA Funds Housing Data

- Funding that is made available through the Bureau of Justice Assistance to help individuals who need transitional housing
- Has been occurring since August 2022, coming up on 2 years
- If an Oxford House has a referral for someone, they can contact us
- Usually for individuals coming out of treatment that don't have a job
- We pay first month and possibly second month rent
- We've served 114 total requests and 108 total individuals (6 individuals needed a second month payment); individuals may have had trouble paying but still have good standing in the house and we want them to be able to keep their place
- New Oxford House opened last month, Oxford House Cross Creek- they had an open house in June. There was only one house for women previously and now we have two
- Coming near deadline for funding to expire (September)
- Breakdown of referrals for Funding Period 8/24/2022-7/12/2024:
 - o Myover-Reese Transfer-30
 - o Jail/Prison-14
 - o RI International-13
 - o Walter B. Jones Center- 5
 - o Wilmington Tx Center- 5
 - o Men's Recovery Tx Center- 3
 - o Harvest House- 2 (Dunn, NC)
 - o Path of Hope Treatment Center- 2
 - o Homeless- 16
 - o Healing Transitions- 1
 - o Monarch Detox- 1
 - o Phoenix Counseling Center- 1
 - o Open Door Ministries- 1 (Magnolia, NC)
 - o New Season MAT- 1
 - o Sober Living America- 1
 - o Veterans Administration- 1
 - o Dream Life Recovery- 1
 - o Christian Recovery Center Inc.- 1
 - o Advanced Health Education- 1
 - o Roberson Confinement in Response to Violation (CRV) Center- 1
 - o Greensboro Treatment Transfer- 1
 - o Asheville Recovery Center- 1
 - o Elmore-Blackley Fellowship Home (Dunn, N.C.)- 1
 - o Come in Broken Ministries- 3
- Referral Contact:
 - o Monica Washington
 - o Outreach Services
 - o Oxford House, Inc. -NC
 - o 919-805-5668
 - o Monica.Washington@oxfordhouse.org

- www.Oxfordhousenc.org
- www.oxfordvacancies.com

Charlton Roberson, NCHRC Opioid Settlement

- Just completed quarterly report from April 1 through June 30, served 749 unique individuals providing harm reduction supplies and other resources
- 205 unique peer-to-peer overdose reversals, meaning 205 instances of Narcan being used by peers within the community
- Provided 749 referrals- we refer every participant to some type of support services such as housing, food pantries, or any referral to address a social determinant that is a barrier to recovery for an individual
- Distributed over 500 wound care kits, we've seen an increase of wounds due to xylazine and other contaminants in the drug supply
- Continue to go to juvenile detention center biweekly to provide prevention education, discuss ASES and irrational thinking, and provide drug education
- Not the total scope of our activities but a brief synopsis of our work this last quarter
- We mostly serve males at the juvenile detention center- there is one female but it is almost all males and they have been very enthusiastic about our program

Tatum Evans, Myrover-Reese Opioid Settlement

- Total of 23 residents, 18 men and 5 women
- Veteran's home is back up and running
- We can house 38 total so plenty of beds to fill
- 13 residents suffer from opioid abuse
- Meeting with addiction specialist from UNC-CH soon and very excited for that; We have been an abstinence-based program for so long, further education is exciting/will be good
- If anyone has potential clients, we do have beds, feel free to reach out
- Application process goes through Tatum & the office
- We mainly work with the VA here and in Wilmington; everyone in the veteran's home comes through the VA
- Will go and start sitting in on drug court soon
- Dixon stepped down as past chair
- Will work on setting up a referral process to expedite process
- Requires an application, needs assessment, and psychological evaluation from detox; MR tries to avoid individuals with a history of violence and sex offenders; they accept people with no insurance or those with Medicaid, but they can't accept individuals with Medicare

Courtney McCollum, CCJS Opioid Settlement

- No updates

Agenda Item 3. Recovery Center Update

Charlton Roberson, NCHRC, and Sanquis Graham, CCDPH

- We still have September target date for opening
- Renovations are occurring right now, should be on track but it will likely be October for opening/ribbon cutting
- October is recovery month
- Subcommittee meeting will meet August 23rd to set a date for opening
- Next meeting is August 13 at 8:30am- the county contractor came over to verify things yesterday
- We are still asking individuals and organizations to let us know if they are interested in partnering ASAP so we can get MOUs through legal and can figure out what each group is offering the support center; we would like to hear back within the next week, so a final yes by July 23rd, please let us know if you're interested even if you aren't sure
- We want input from everyone, operations manual will be ratified through this subcommittee so if you want to contribute, please come to the meeting, which is virtual
- If you do not have an MOU in place, you are unable to participate as a resource in the resource center
- If you haven't responded and don't within the next week, we'll have to move forward without you
- We have two positions posted that will be housed at the recovery center. We also have a substance use worker that will be housed there as well, not posted yet but will let you know when it is
- We will need to plan ribbon cutting ceremony for the resource center

Agenda Item 4. Grant Updates

Sanquis Graham, CCDPH

- COSSUP grant- BJA funding ending in September, which is how we support housing in the county, we applied for COSSUP grant as a co-applicant with other people in the region
- Main concern is maintaining ability to fund housing within the community so will be a big win if we get this grant- it brings 1.3 million into the community every year for 3 years
- Grant with FSU was recently submitted. The focus is on xylazine, so we would be leaders' country-wide doing xylazine research. We are still waiting for announcement about who the grantees are for that

Charlton Roberson, NCHRC

- Commended Greg Berry for working with FSU on this, xylazine in some regions is horrendous, us being proactive rather than reactive is great

Greg Berry, NCHRC

- Combining drug testing with surveys and linking those to get a better understanding of what individuals are using; may shed light on why some people present with those skin ulcers and some don't, as well as withdrawal symptoms

Sanquis Graham, CCDPH

- Two new partners: Barbara White with Mid-Carolina Regional Council and Casey Perry with Camp Rockfish, our two new grantees
 - o **Barbara White:** raising children from birth to 18 who have been affected by substance use- early intervention so this is perfect to identify individuals in the early stage
 - o **Casey Perry:** Camp Rockfish will be creating a camp called Camp Heal with Tara Tucker and several others and working on early intervention strategies, teaching first aid suicide prevention; We are an asset-based community development
- Those are two new partners, will have updates each month as they are working on their projects
- There has been an agreement reached, just over 40 million to county departments will come in between 2032 and 2034; we'll continue to update you all about this; We'll do a town hall in August

Agenda Item 5. Youth Focused Resource Updates

Amber Helton, CCDPH Intern

- Nearly finished with the youth version of the CFORT resource guide; somewhat low on housing resources and teen specific recovery meetings such as SMART recovery
- Last call if anyone wants to send any information or resources in
- Will likely include information on contaminants in the drug supply since there aren't as many resources available for teens
- Can send information to email: anelton@unc.edu

Greg Berry, NCHRC

- we'll be using information from this resource guide to make youth resource videos, which we'd like to have in September- want to fully complete the resource guide by the end of August

Agenda Item 6. Next Steps

Greg Berry, NCHRC

- IOAD on August 31, a Saturday, from 5-7:30PM at Methodist University; individuals can send in photos of loved ones to show at the event, we'll have naloxone making kits, will have time for some spoken word and a candlelight vigil at the end, we also have room for individuals to set up tables in a lobby if you'd like to be involved or just want to support by being there
- FPS training (forensic peer support) has been approved and will be coming soon; FPS is advanced training for peer support specialists which trains individuals to understand best practices for different interception points within the criminal justice system

Mitzi Averette

- no longer has Methodist email. To contact her, use Gmail instead: mca6796@gmail.com

Sanquis Graham, CCDPH

- SMART recovery training- want to know if people are interested in teen SMART recovery meeting training
- Perinatal task force meeting Tuesday July 23rd at 2pm. It will be hybrid, but people get more out of it by coming in person. we encourage anyone working with people in the perinatal stage to come in. We need to bridge the gap between individuals in perinatal stage and experiencing substance abuse

Serena Gunn, Heal Holistic Journey

- Sept 14 is Heal Holistic' s recovery walk; they had to leave it on Sept 14th due to city permits, so there will be two recovery events happening that day. This one will have a mile walk, a puppy yard, speakers, music, a kid's corner, and they are figuring out a virtual option. More info coming out soon. This is not a collaboration with the recovery ride happening the same day.

Sanquis Graham, CCDPH

- We have started a recovery month calendar which will be shared with CFORT
- Serena has someone who has volunteered to man a calendar on a Cumberland County landing page with a basic email address to make one place to go to see events; will be a live, regularly updated calendar. Recovery month shouldn't be the only month we're doing recovery events.

Charlton Roberson, NCHRC

- Life Net Services will be having a ribbon cutting at 1014 Hay Street for a new facility with comprehensive behavioral health. Teen SMART recovery meetings will happen there too. The space has two big conference rooms that are good for meetings. Feel free to come out if you can; Friday, August 9 at 12pm.
- Recovery awareness month 4th annual is September 21st. We are looking for sponsorships and want logos to put on banners and shirts.
- The date isn't certain yet but in September we'll have NCHRC Operation Clean Sweep of areas with large amounts of syringe litter to clean up. Seeing it regularly normalizes and desensitizes communities from drug use.

John Russell, On Track Wellness/Butterfly Effects

- This Saturday, at 2727 Murchison Road, a church reached out and wants me to distribute Narcan so if anyone wants to come with me, feel free to join.

Greg Berry, NCHRC

- We are working towards a second cohort for peer support with scholarships

Jeff Stultz, Broken Chains JC

- September is also Suicide Prevention Month. We're having a ride, money from which

will go to One Common Bond which supports families after a suicide. Everyone who rides will have to write the name of someone lost to suicide or overdose on a wristband. Harley is canceling their riding school for that Saturday to make room for our vendors.

Serena Gunn, Heal Holistic Journey

- With Tara's peer support specialists, a couple of us are going to start getting together to do at least one (hopefully more) peer support event. We want something every day of the week. If anyone wants to help plan or be on that committee let us know. We're communicating via email now but will move to meetings soon.

Heather Sroka, CCDPH/CCDC

- Healing from within (jail opioid use disorder treatment program), dealing with those diagnosed with substance use disorder and mental health disorders, we want to be doing warm handoffs to community organizations, resources, and services.
- We've also been working with the various drug courts

Mr. Jackson

- Peer support
- When veterans come to us, we don't want them to lose connections within the community to continue their recovery

Tara Tucker, CCEMS

- August 10 from 9-12, we're doing a suicide prevention training. It will have two hours of education and one hour of a panel with families who have lost someone to suicide.

Jeff Stultz, Broken Chains JC

- Narcan training August 9th at Recovery Alive

Next meeting: Tues August 20, 2024, 10am-11:30