



Partnership for a Healthy Durham

Committee updates – Summer 2007

July 18, 2007

Mental Health Committee

- The committee collaborated on an article for the Herald Sun on access to mental healthcare in April.
- The committee framed our primary indicator--**Increase public awareness of mental illness and access to mental health services.** Working with the Durham Center, they established a baseline of screenings for measurement.
- They have made arrangements to gather information from the Durham Center on mental health screenings
- Sarah Covington conducted a listening session with family members of persons living with mental illness at the NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) Durham meeting in May. This was part of the community health assessment.
- Meeting for July 19th scheduled to address initial steps toward community engagement: neighborhood groups, faith-based groups and non-profits being high on the list for top priority.

Obesity and Chronic Illness Committee

- The after-school nutrition project to provide healthy snacks and nutrition education to low-income children in non-profit after school programs received funding from RBA, and through it 268 children received nutritious snacks. The program, led by the Committee through the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle and the Food Bank, the Health Department's Nutrition leadership, and Duke Community Health faculty and learners, was able to locate programs not able to serve snacks and begin the snack program within a week of RBA funding. The Health Department has begun providing nutrition education to after school programs, virtually all of which requested this education as part of the initial after-school survey.
- Durham Public Schools has received a grant for physical activity for students from the US Department of Education, and will be able to offer Body Mass Index analysis. Durham Public Schools has also approved and funded the expanded use of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a national tool to measure health behavior in young people, which will provide baseline measurement for health behaviors including nutrition and physical activity. Both of these projects will give us data by which we can measure our progress, which fulfills objectives of this Committee.
- The geomap of nutrition and physical activity developed by the Committee with the expert assistance of the City GIS Office has had more information added, including Parks and Recreation resources and bicycle paths. The GIS office will need the map to be continually updated, and the Committee devised a process, with help from the Health Department staff, to make these updates to keep the sites current. We need a way to make hard copy brochures available to City and County residents who do not use or have access to the Web.
- The Committee has begun an active inquiry into potential grants to support a multi-pronged initiative around poverty, hunger, and available food resources and nutrition education. A subcommittee is developing program plans to incorporate the Food Bank and the Inter Faith Food Shuttle's food resources, with an eye towards healthy selections, into sports programs for Durham youngsters. Another component of the planning involves opportunities to explore to bring full grocery stores to areas of the County which do not have easy access to stores with multiple options for vegetables and fruits. Recent research studies are showing links between grocery store availability and consumption of healthy foods, especially fruits and vegetables. A nutrition survey to ask residents about their fruit and vegetable consumption and shopping patterns is in development.

The **Access to Care Committee** continues to work with Durham CAN, representatives from the County, Duke University Health System, NC Specialty Hospital, the business community, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC, and physicians' associations to create a Project Access in Durham County. They have met several times as a working group and as subcommittees. Proposal: Lincoln CHC would be the primary care home for PA members and participants would receive in-kind specialty care, in- and out-patient hospital services, and ancillary services (labs, radiology and pharmacy) if medically necessary. Several members will go with others to look at Buncombe County's Project Access, which has been very successful. The group is considering housing the new program with Durham County Hospital Corporation.

Several members have met with leaders at DUHS to ensure that if providers volunteer in certain medical clinics for the underserved that the malpractice coverage (Duke is self-insured) will go with the provider. We are working with clinics to have them define if and how they might work with medical volunteers.

The committee has been working on updating our tactical plans for Health Carolinians and our Healthy People 2010 objectives. There is a meeting with the leadership of the Herald-Sun soon to see if we are going to continue the monthly healthcare article from the Partnership.

The committee will work with Durham CAN and DUHS to plan a Durham Health Summit focused on access to healthcare in the Fall. The Summit will frame the national and statewide issues but will focus on discussions in Durham about: Project Access, volunteerism in the medical field to help the uninsured, and a possible modified health insurance product. They will encourage consumers as well as agencies and providers to become involved via the Summit.

The **Substance Abuse Committee**'s discussions and work have focused on the following:

- Develop a plan to distribute the information we've found through the baseline report on substance abuse in Durham County. We will ask people to act on, or give us feedback on it. This report should serve to begin conversations/discussions about substance abuse in Durham, recruit members to this committee, and make the community more aware of the role of substance abuse in many other social issues (such as child abuse, domestic violence, etc). We will link this effort with The Durham Center's Substance Abuse Plan. This plan is related to the Substance Abuse Committee's strategies in many ways. They have several goals:
 1. Stimulate a "Recovery Culture" in Durham County
 2. Deliver substance abuse services within a system of care framework
 3. Recruit and support a qualified and adequate substance abuse workforce

- Develop a full continuum of substance abuse services for adolescents and adults
Next Steps: View and discuss strategic, outcome-based methods to mobilize the Substance Abuse Committee and engage the community in a well thought out plan to address the issue of substance abuse in Durham.
 1. View "This Place" documentary - July 2007
 2. Review SA Report Summary - July 2007
 3. Form Focus/Workgroups
 4. Identify community representatives that reflect the community at large to include: youth, parents, clergy, government, business, academia, media, among others - July 2007

The People's Clearinghouse

The month of August will be spent presenting information to the Durham Community through neighborhood organizations, churches and PACs. The 1st meeting of the newly formed subcommittee will convene in September.

Injury Prevention Committee

1. Information meeting held at Durham Regional May 15th to introduce the Partnership to Injury Prevention community.

2. Participants at the information meeting agreed that a directory of Injury Prevention activities in Durham would be helpful. Sarah has begun collecting information from agencies that provide Injury Prevention services.

The **Durham Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (DCAPP)** sponsored its annual teen summit, Positive Pathways on May 19, 2007. Over 200 persons attended and summary evaluations reveal that not only adults, but teens, would like to keep the lines of prevention communication open with forms such as the Summit. During summit activities, DCAPP was able to gather support for HB 879 and SB 1182. However, neither bill passed in the in the North Carolina Legislature. Both bills would have changed the current "Abstinence Until Marriage" curriculum to an Abstinence Based Comprehensive Sexuality Education curriculum. Another highlight during the summit, DCAPP presented the teen pregnancy prevention project with Walltown's Children Theatre to produce a play in May 2008 to be shown at the Carolina Theatre for all youth in North Carolina. All participants pledge their support and willingness to work with the project.

DCAPP is also planning its second annual walk-a-thon for October 13, 2007.

HIV/STD Community Advisory Council

National HIV Testing Day was June 27th this year, and many agencies collaborated for events throughout the day. CAARE, El Centro Hispano, the Health Department, and others held a testing event at CAARE's office, at which County Commissioner Ellen Reckhow and Mayor Bill Bell took an HIV test, among many others. The Health Department's Projects StraighTalk and STAND held a testing event at the NAACP meeting. Both of these events had significant media coverage.

Project StraighTalk, the Health Department's HIV prevention program, received funding for three more years. The program will focus on condom negotiation training and communications skills. CAARE also received three years of funding for HIV counseling, testing, and case management. El Centro Hispano received funding from the state as well, and they will focus on Latino MSM through their "Hermanos Luna y Sol" (Brothers Moon and Sun) program, as well as general prevention education and outreach to the Latino community.