



**Partnership for a Healthy Durham  
Committee Updates  
October 18, 2006**

**Mental Health Committee**

In the three months since the last steering committee meeting, the Mental Health Committee has come into being, having met for the first time August 16<sup>th</sup>. The committee membership is still in flux, open to additional participants. Currently there are three people who are members of the local National Alliance on Mental Illness affiliate chapter and four staff from the Durham Center, including the Executive Director and the Clinical Director. Also two staff members from the local health department, one from social services, one from the county cooperative extension office, and two representatives from mental health service providers. Nancye Bryan has been designated to convene committee meetings.

In September Michelle Zechmann of the Durham Center staff spoke at length, providing a comprehensive overview of the services currently in place under the auspices of the Durham Center LME that are designed to serve the needs of county residents, adults, who have a diagnosis of serious and persistent mental illness. In October, Rob Robinson provided an update on the System of Care model of services for children and families who are clients of contracting service providers of the Durham Center.

In November the committee will hear from Durham Center Quality Management staff regarding the kinds of performance indicators that are currently available.

**Substance Abuse Committee**

We had a successful block party celebrating Recovery on Thursday, Sept. 28 on Queen St. in downtown Durham. Over 20 service providers staffed display tables. Good food and music by the TROSA jazz band and Dee Jay Brian Scott kept the crowd entertained. Several dozen people were tested for HIV and screened for addictions. Estimates are that over 500 people attended the celebration. It was a great collaboration between The Durham Center, the NC Alcohol & Drug Council, the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, and Urban Ministries of Durham.

We are in the process of tallying the results of over 580 surveys on substance abuse and mental health services in Durham that have been completed.

The Community Epidemiological Surveillance Network is close to implementation.

**Obesity and Chronic Disease Committee**

Obesity and Chronic Disease completed a survey of a number of after-school programs and their ability to secure snacks for young children, as well as their interest in learning more about healthy snack choices. We are looking closely into the service planning that was done with seniors and hunger to see if there is a way to put a system in place for food delivery to low-income kids without access to healthy after-school snacks.

We have started geo-mapping the county to show the kinds of nutrition and physical activity options available to Durham residents, with a plan to have it on line in multiple subsets, as well

as hard copy for those who don't use/have computer access. We are also beginning discussion on whether, given the number of City and County employees who live in Durham, there's good cause to put together a community-based healthy lifestyle program for employees and other residents. This is just in the very preliminary discussion stages. We are also working with DPS on the gathering of body mass index data on children through the school system's fitness testing, so we can gauge the efficacy of school-based or school-linked obesity prevention programming.

Over the next quarter, we will add to the geo-maps, and begin to dissect what they tell us about availability and accessibility of physical activity and nutrition resources. We will work out how the information can be easily disseminated to Durham residents, and determine City and County interest in planning community-based wellness services that could reach employees and non-employee residents. We will analyze plan components to systematize low-cost foods to after school programs that need them, and to deliver health education to all the after school programs that want it. We will have to gather data from the after-school programs not originally surveyed.

### **Durham Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (DCAPP)**

DCAPP conducted a teacher in-service for middle/ high school PE / HE teachers on Abstinence versus Comprehensive Sex Education, 54 in attendance. They also conducted a successful event for Let's Talk Month on 10/8/2006 at West Durham Baptist Church, "PIE-Parent Interested in Education", over 150 in attendance. They submitted an article for Herald Sun (10/12/2006) on access to care relating to teen pregnancy. They will elect a new officer 12/2006.

### **Access to Healthcare Committee**

We have worked - representing the Partnership - with the Latino Community Credit Union, Durham CAN, and Durham Health Partners to fine tune the "Guiding Principles" and the "Six Program Options" to help uninsured, low-income individuals in Durham. These groups will be meeting with larger stakeholders over the next few months to create some shared commitment to action to better serve the uninsured in Durham.

We have created an English and Spanish- version of a brochure: "Medical Care Options in Durham: For the uninsured and under-insured." Design and printing were in-kind contributions.

We have published two articles in a regular monthly column of the Herald-Sun. The articles appear in the Healthy Living section on the second Thursday of every month. The first article was about the Partnership and the Access to Care Committee's work with the other 3 groups to help the uninsured and the article for October was about teen pregnancy prevention.

We submitted questions about access to care for the CD process.

### **Up-coming Meetings:**

Durham CAN - Sunday, October 22 at 4pm at Judeo Reform.

November 9th - regular meeting - (8-9:30 am - Health Dept.) - focus on Healthy Carolinians and RBA strategies

December 14th - regular meeting - (8-9:30 am - Health Dept.)

### **HIV/STD Community Advisory Council**

The Community Advisory Council participated in the 15th annual AIDS Awareness March and Rally held October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hayti Heritage Center. Despite the bad weather that day, we had an

excellent turnout, and great participation from community members, youth groups, and HIV/AIDS agencies.

The Council has been doing a lot of planning for the World AIDS Day celebration on December 1. It will take place at the Durham Armory, starting at 6pm. There will be speakers and performers, in addition to the vigil and march, and food donated from Texas Roadhouse, PET ice cream, coca cola, and Starbucks. Many youth groups from around the county will be involved again this year. Since it will be a Friday, we will follow the program with a DJ and dance. The theme again this year is “Keep the Promise.”

Duke’s Health Inequalities Program and the Health Department wrote a grant proposal together to the Women’s Health Program of the federal Health and Human Services department on “Intergenerational approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention education with women across the lifespan.” Unfortunately, it was not selected for funding, as there were only four grants awarded nationwide. However, it was a good example of inter-agency collaboration on fundraising that can come out of the Partnership.

CAC meetings have included presentations on the International Conference on AIDS in Toronto, acute HIV, and the Partnership’s structure. The upcoming meeting will have a presentation on the US Conference on AIDS from Genevieve Ankeny of Duke’s Northern Outreach Clinics.

### **People’s Clearinghouse**

The People’s Clearinghouse has set monthly meetings – we will meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 10:30am at the Community Health Coalition (407 Crutchfield St.). All interested persons are very welcome. We are seeking out representation from all the diverse populations of Durham, including Africans, south Asians, east Asians, African-Americans, Latinos, and anyone else we’re missing. We are tentatively planning a kick-off reception where we can meet people and introduce them to the Partnership and the People’s Clearinghouse.

Sharon Elliot-Bynum, Chair of the Clearinghouse, has helped the Access to Healthcare Committee develop an initiative that came from their members to work with local television programs to discuss access to care issues. This initiative will ultimately not be a project of the Partnership, but will work with local TV directors.

### **Technical Assistance Committee**

The Technical Assistance Committee has gathered representatives from most of the committees of the Partnership, as well as Department of Social Services and the Durham Center. They met to discuss the strategy of the 2007 Community Health Assessment. This will involve analyzing the secondary data (county health databook) and collecting primary data. The primary data will consist of the county BRFSS results (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance – a CDC program), as well as some additional interviews and focus groups to complement the data. We would like to replicate the telephone survey that was done in 2003, and are currently looking for funding for it.

A team of graduate students from the UNC School of Public Health’s Health Behavior Health Education department are carrying out their “Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis” in Durham this year. They started in September and will complete their assessment by May. Their work will comprise a large part of the primary data collection.