

**DURHAM RECOVERY AND RENEWAL TASK FORCE
TASK FORCE VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Friday, August 28, 2020

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Task Force Members

Steve Schewel, Mayor City of Durham
Wendy Jacobs, Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners
Katie Galbraith, Task Force Co-Chair, President, Duke Regional Hospital
Maticia Sims, Task Force Co-Chair, Vice President and Corporate Controller, Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC
Ibukun Akinboyo, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Duke Health
Susan Amey, CEO, Discover Durham
Ed Boyd, Chief Strategy Office, iNvictus
Dr. Herbert Reynolds Davis, Senior Pastor, Nehemiah Church
Lois DeLoatch, Executive Vice President, Self-Help
Geoff Durham, Durham Chamber of Commerce
George Habel, Vice President, Capitol Broadcasting Company
Philip Harewood, CEO, Lincoln Community Health Center
Rodney Jenkins, Health Director, Durham County Department of Public Health
Jodi Miller, Deputy County Manager, Durham County Government, representing the Emergency Operations Center
Pilar Rocha-Goldberg, President and CEO, El Centro Hispano
Anthony Nelson, Dean, North Carolina Central University School of Business
Nicole Thompson, CEO, Downtown Durham Inc

Call to Order

Co-Chair Katie Galbraith welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that this was the last weekly meeting for the Recovery Renewal Task Force and the team would shift to bi-weekly and monthly meetings moving forward. Co-Chair Galbraith welcomed Mayor Steve Schewel and Chair Wendy Jacobs to share opening remarks and updates.

Priority Updates

Commissioner Wendy Jacobs provided the following update from Durham County:

- Three proposals were approved by the Board of County Commissioners which included a \$460,000 contract with the Food Insight Group; a \$406,000 contract with the Hope Learning Center to provide 300 learning spaces while partnering with StudentU,

BullCity Schools and the YMCA and lastly supporting the County share of the ten Community Health Ambassadors for the Get Back the Bull Campaign.

She also shared an update from the Governor regarding \$175 million for the Eviction Diversion and Utility Assistance.

Mayor Schewel thanked everyone for doing the work to keep Durham moving in the right direction. He explained how the City managed compliance and enforcement surrounding the Local Ordinance and managing neighborhood concerns with large gatherings. Mayor Schewel noted the City's allocation of half the funding for the Health Ambassadors as well as a \$338,000 contribution to Hope Learning Centers to provide an additional five (5) to the six (6) weeks approved by the County. He highlighted the Pandemic Response Network –which connected positive COVID patients with healthcare and social services. Lastly, Mayor Schewel mentioned an upcoming topic scheduled with the Big City Mayors of NC on Halloween Safety during the pandemic.

Co-Chair Galbraith provided an update on mask distribution. She added the City funded the initiative to distribute 1000 masks per day with an additional 40,000 masks being ordered.

Co-Chair Sims reminded members of the upcoming Education Roundtable date – September 3, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. and the Student Research Team presentations would be held on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Durham Tech Back to Work Initiative

Co-Chair Maticia Sims introduced Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) President J.B. Buxton and Dr. Micra Lewis Sessoms, Assistant Dean of Business and Entrepreneurship and Coordinator of Work-Based Education Programs.

Dr. Buxton stated DTCC held 80 percent of their enrollment online this semester. He shared the details of the back to work initiative and provided information about the short-term courses, price points and ways DTCC assisted students with tuition needs.

Dr. Sessoms shared the presentation which highlighted the following: *Background Information on the Initiative – Course Offerings, Tuition, Industry/Sector and Credential Preparation* and *A Look Ahead – Future Offerings, Employment Data Trends, Offerings with Sectors Needs/Growth.*

Co-Chair Sims thanked Dr. Sessoms for the information and helping the Durham Community maneuver to this new change. She opened the floor for discussion.

Member Harewood asked was there a demand for medical assistant courses. Dr. Sessoms stated this was a list of short-term courses; however, interested DTCC students would be able to qualify for the initiative if they showed interest. She added Dialysis Tech and Phlebotomy were a few of the top interest areas but DTCC staff were ready and able to assist students with other high interest programs. Dr. Sessoms also shared how to apply along with the program structure from application submission to completion.

Commissioner Jacobs expressed her excitement for the program and looked forward to how it worked with the Recovery and Renewal Task Force. She asked what could be done to bring everyone together and how would DTCC reach out to employers to be sure they were connected to the students. Dr. Sessoms shared details about DTCC Employer Engagement Subcommittee, adding they were working to get information to employers, the Durham Chamber and Workforce Boards. She also shared that the advisement committees and the student engagement committees worked together to spread the word within the community.

Update from Public Health

Co-Chair Galbraith shared the hospital stats which included the following:

- Seven (7) day hospital average was 35
- ICU number dropped from 16 to six (6)
- Hospitals were at a 93 percent occupancy
- COVID (positive) patient numbers remained stable at 2.4 percent

She encouraged citizens to seek assistance when in need; adding patients were coming forward with delayed needs.

Member Jenkins provided the following update:

- As of August 30th – 42 cases, 295 active cases, 6,418 inactive cases and 83 total deaths in Durham County.
- There were 13,092 total contacts through tracing efforts, and they continue to lead the general population to the Data Hub for updates.
- As of August 24th – 6,464 total cases with 907 cases for the month of August
- North Carolina and Durham trajectory showed a decline
- Highlighted the LatinX partners for their assistance with advocacy

Member Akinboyo stated there continued to be improvement with the numbers and commented on areas outside of North Carolina who experienced an increase in cases due to school openings, fewer restrictions and large gatherings. She shared although Durham was moving in the right direction, there continued to be clusters.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired about the partnership with Duke, asking if they were reporting positive cases. Mr. Jenkins responded there were a few hiccups in terms of reporting; however, the communication was better.

Mayor Schewel shared his gratitude for the work being done.

Encouraging Residents to Support Local Businesses

Member Thompson shared an update on the Street Closure Pilot, most specifically outdoor dining. She stated phase one (1) included expanding the capacity and phase two (2) included outdoor dining – a permit was submitted to begin the study pilot. Member Thompson noted concerns from businesses that street closures could harm their business due to limited traffic. She explained that

Downtown Durham, Inc was being conscious of doing everything to limit large gatherings while also supporting local restaurants.

Member Amey provided an update on Durham Delivers which started the week of August 17th and shared the website information. She noted the pilot included seven (7) restaurants in seven (7) neighborhoods and 30 additional applications were submitted for participation. Member Amey stated dates would be available for September and the team was working to expand to retail with modifications being added.

Commissioner Jacobs inquired about outreach to Duke University and North Carolina Central University as potential sites for drop off and delivery. Member Amey responded yes, adding they also had additional conversation with both schools regarding other opportunities.

Member Smith announced the team would come back to the Task Force in the future with a proposal on a potential investment. Member Amey added this discussion could include a small funding request.

Looking Ahead to Potential Start of Phase Three (3)

Co-Chair Sims opened the discussion. Co-Chair Galbraith announced the next meeting was scheduled for September 11th which was also the date for reconsideration of the phasing.

Mayor Schewel stated he anticipated more re-openings – not full re-openings during phase three (3). He added a potential brief meeting on response efforts may be needed to discuss potential responses. Member Thompson discussed support efforts during the Fall for outdoor dining. Commissioner Jacobs inquired about the Risk Mitigation Fund. Member Thompson responded to her understanding that fund was for small ticket items while many of the needs were larger expenses such as an employee’s rent, payroll, etc. She added Geoff Durham, Ryan Smith, Bryan Fox, Timothy Downs and others were working on ideas and would bring that information back after their discussions.

Commissioner Jacobs posed a question regarding the dollars available in the Governors budget from the State and how it could assist businesses and their employees with commercial and mortgage assistance. Member Thompson stated those funds could be used for those purposes; however, it was not fully approved just yet.

Member Smith mentioned a discussion that took place regarding offering a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) warehouse available in the Fall for businesses to stock up on critical PPEs (mask, sanitizer) for free. He added Co-Chair Galbraith lead the conversation with Duke, while he spoke with TROSA on warehouse space and managing that space as well.

Updates from Roundtables

Amber Wade, Assistant to Mayor Schewel shared an update on the first ever Trilingual Town Hall; adding it was a great event. She stated there were approximately 50 participants with representatives from several community organizations included El Centro and Church World

Service as well as students from DTCC. Ms. Wade noted that the conversations included health, housing and food security.

Mayor Schewel and Commissioner Jacobs thanked Member Rocha-Goldberg and Ms. Wade for organizing the event.

Bryan Fox, Vice President of Public Policy with the Durham Chamber of Commerce thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to organize the roundtable process. He stated the conversations were very good for the community and felt they would continue to take place. Mr. Fox noted work that was done with the Racial Equity Institute (REI) and Invited everyone to register for the upcoming REI Virtual Groundwater Seminar through the Durham Chamber of Commerce.

Co-Chair Galbraith recognized Bryan for his hard-work with the roundtable process.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Monica W. Toomer
Durham County Clerk to the Board