

**Durham Recovery & Renewal Task Force  
Task Force Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
June 26, 2020, 8:00am - 10:00am**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am.

**Task Force Members:**

Steve Schewel, Mayor City of Durham  
Wendy Jacobs, 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  
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  
Dr. Herbert Davis  
Ryan Smith

**Public Comment**

Public comments and questions: [RRTF@durhamnc.gov](mailto:RRTF@durhamnc.gov)

**Update**

Mayor Schewel provided updates on the Governor's latest requirement for all North Carolina residents to wear face coverings when out in public at all time and offered his support for the decision. He also noted that there were significant increased COVID-19 cases within the Latinx community. He stated that he would be visiting Latinx business in the community over the upcoming weekend and thanked the members of the taskforce for all of their hard work as they continued to think of how to ensure face mask requirements, prioritization of costs, and to determine if additional PPE was needed.

Chair Jacobs, echoed many of the comments made by Mayor Schewel and acknowledged that the Governor's latest order puts the responsibility on businesses to make sure that their customers wear facial coverings and engaged that taskforce in conversations on how to support those businesses. She suggested uniformed signage for all businesses regarding the wearing of facial coverings and also stated that the taskforce should consider how to potentially help fund those signs for them in addition to the

donations made by the City of Durham, Durham County, and Duke University. She stated that while the State's infection rate was at 20%, Durham was at 17% and that the numbers had been trending downward.

Co-Chair Galbraith mentioned that a website would soon launch for minority owned and small businesses to receive face coverings.

Co-Chair Sims thanked the taskforce for all of their work and highlighted that community engagement would be the key to sharing important information to the community regarding the "Back on the Bull" campaign. She also noted that the Durham Public Schools System had requested a meeting with the taskforce to better understand how to comply the states orders.

Taskforce Member Jenkins provided an update on the key metrics being used to analyze how Durham County was doing limiting the spread of COVID-19 in the community and specifically in congregate living facilities and nursing homes. He stated that there had been 57, 183 cases of COVID-19 within the whole State of North Carolina and 3,403 cases of COVID-19 within Durham and also noted that the 7-day trend had decreased even though the number of cases had increased. He also reported that the Secretary of the State's Health Department visited the Durham County Health Department to see the progress being made.

Co-Chair Galbraith asked the difference between contracting COVID-19 from close contact vs community spread.

Taskforce Member Jenkins stated that close contact was when the person that tests positive can identify where they may have contracted the virus and community spread is when they cannot. He also addressed the spread in congregate living facilities and stated that a long term care facility strike team had been implemented, was headed by a senior public health nurse, and that the taskforce was in close communication with all 22 facilities in the County.

Mayor Schewel thanked Taskforce Member Jenkins for his guidance in assisting long term health facilities see a decrease in the spread of the virus.

Mayor Schewel asked if there was additional information as to what could be done to limit the high percentages of positive cases within vulnerable populations and within the community as a whole.

General updates were also given regarding the "Back on the Bull" campaign, and how the soft launch of the website would be available in English and Spanish.

Taskforce Member Harewood stated that some of the increased percentages could be related to increased testing as vulnerable populations were a priority of the community. He added that the numbers for positive tests of African Americans were still underrepresented and that a plan to address this was still in progress.

Taskforce Member Rocha-Goldberg suggested that in person engagement may be needed to inform residents how not to spread the virus; however, she understood that some people would not feel comfortable with the suggestion. She also noted that she had been receiving anonymous phone calls from restaurant employees that did not want to be tested or treated for the virus for fear of losing their job.

## **Roundtables**

Co-Chair Sims led the roundtable discussions and asked if recommendation documents drafted by the taskforce for businesses and how they dealt with employees who were out sick for COVID related reasons; were legally sound.

The Durham City Attorney's Office noted that there was nothing legally concerning in the documentation; however, there were additional recommendations/ suggestions included for maximum protection.

Co-Chair Sims asked if there were concerns surrounding places of worship being a potential super spreader of the virus.

Taskforce Member Davis stated that the same question had been asked by clergy members and that social distancing would be the best recommendation to mitigate any additional spread.

Taskforce Member Amey advised that conversations were being had regarding additional PPE to potentially be able to take temperatures to enter restaurants, festivals, special events, and other establishments.

Co-Chair Sims stated that the suggestion could be incorporated into any potential budget that the Taskforce may receive.

Mayor Schewel stated expressed concern for the construction industry and asked the taskforce to think of ways to help address the virus there.

Chair Jacobs expressed similar concerns for this particular industry and emphasized wearing face coverings when in contact with others, especially if people lived in close quarters where they could not be socially distant.

Taskforce Member Smith echoed the comments made taskforce member Amey in regards to additional PPE for festivals and special events, and questioned if events pre scheduled far in advance would even be able to be held.

Co-Chair Sims stated that the taskforce could draft a recommendation setting a date or certain amount of days in which they knew that festivals and special events over a certain amount of people could not be held.

## **Open Discussion**

Taskforce Member Boyd noted that residents and people in general were frustrated by the entire COVID-19 situation and suggested that the taskforce come up with ways for the everyday residents to be able to help the situation get better to ease some of the frustration.

Co-Chair Sims agreed and advised that she would include that as a future action item.

Taskforce Member Habel suggested added safe volunteer opportunities on the "Get Back on the Bull" campaign website.

Chair Jacobs also agreed with Taskforce Member Boyd and thanked him for the recommendation.

Mayor Schewel advised the Taskforce that the City Council would be addressing the matter of outdoor dining permits on July 1, 2020.

Taskforce Member Rocha-Goldberg advised that she would be sending additional information to the taskforce members regarding the "Back on the Bull" campaign.

**Next Steps**

Note: No meeting next week; next meeting 7/10

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45a.m.