

Durham Recovery & Renewal Task Force
Virtual Meeting
July 24, 2020
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Task Force Members:

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 Health 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, called the meeting to order at 8:00 am; welcomed and thanked everyone including members of their Roundtables for all their incredible and diligent work over the past weeks.

Priority Updates

As Durham County Board of Commissioners Chair, Wendy Jacobs reflected over the past week and what has been requested of Taskforce Member Rodney Jenkins, Health Director, she referenced the quote "slow and steady wins the race." In describing the Taskforce's progress, she feels their numbers are holding steady. Commissioners Chair Jacobs noted that as of Thursday, July 23, 2020, the Duke epidemiological data revealed that Durham's rate of growth was 1% and the state's growth rate was at 2.1%. She pointed out the significance of this information and noted as a result of the measures that were put in place early on and the actions of everyone in the community who are working hard that it is paying off in Durham County. In terms of their 7-day

average, she commented that it is great news to be holding steady or maybe even seeing a trend of slightly declining numbers.

Commissioners Chair Jacobs reported that it was good to see the transition to outdoor dining for the downtown restaurants. More people were seated in the city's green spaces.

Other topics briefly highlighted by Commissioners Chair Jacobs included:

- "Back on the Bull" expansion – more information to be discussed later in meeting.
- Co-Chair Galbraith will provide update on meeting held with NCCU as the move towards students returning to town begins.
- Mask distribution led by Durham County for the non-profits has been very successful. The majority of the 100,000 masks will be going to vulnerable members of the community, people of color, the black and Latinx community. Working through community groups has been a proven strategy that has been very effective in getting resources out to the community.
- Commissioners Chair Jacobs and Mayor Schewel were both involved in a Digital Equitable convening which took place the week of July 20, 2020. The community is helping to lead Digital Durham and they would like a plan within the next two months. This plan will provide ways on how to educate the children, how to make sure people get connected to jobs, training and health care
- Durham Public Schools is leading the Hope Network
- FDA is extending their waiver for the SNAP Program through August 31, 2020
- State is launching their Energy Assistance Programs
- The City and County will be working together to distribute \$1,050,000.00 for rental assistance through the Durham Social Services staff
- Next steps will be discussed on how further local assistance can be provided

Mayor Schewel announced the City approved approximately \$500,000 for additional rapid rehousing funds to be administered through Housing for New Hope. The homeless hotel is being de-populated and Urban Ministries need to have social distance. They are trying to get more people into rapid re-housing into permanent homes, therefore money is being spent on this effort. Also, the City allocated approximately \$100,000 to support case management for homeless people who are COVID positive.

Co-Chair Galbraith gave the following update on the meeting with NCCU concerning the university's plans for returning students:

- Classes will begin on August 24, 2020 with the semester ending on November 24, 2020

- There will be mix modes of class delivery; 65% of classes will be conducted online and the rest will be hybrid or in person
- All CDC guidelines will be followed
- Everyone will be required to wear face masks including in the dorms
- The residence halls and students living in suites will be considered a family unit
- Currently the dorms are at 85% occupancy
- No visitations allowed including room-to-room visits – no visits allowed in other dorms
- Move-in will be phased in from August 4, 2020 to August 23, 2020 with students arriving by appointment, by hall, by floor and no more than 10 students moving in at once and 1 helper allowed per student
- Testing and contact tracing have been outsourced to Apex Solutions who will have a physician on campus to manage and collaborate with the Durham Health Department. There will be a 48-hour turn-around time for test results
- The testing of students as often as every 3 days had been considered, however after a review with health experts it was decided to test upwards of 10% per week with random testing
- Biggest Two challenges NCCU anticipates:
 - Less ability to monitor compliance of students to wear face coverings and social distancing when they move into off-campus housing
 - Financial

Update from Public Health

The following updates on hospital metrics were provided by Co-Chair Galbraith:

- 72 COVID positive cases for the week between Duke University and Duke Regional Hospitals
- 7 Day Average is 80 which is up from 70 last week
- Currently at 88% occupancy between Duke University and Duke Regional hospitals
- 6% of patients are COVID positive
- As of July 23, 2020, 19 patients were requiring ICU level care.

Task Force Member Rodney Jenkins gave the following update:

- There are currently 3,952,273 cases of COVID in the United States and the country is expected to be at 4 million cases soon
- Total deaths in the United States: 142,755
- Number of COVID cases in North Carolina: 106,893
- Total deaths in North Carolina: 1,726
- Number of active cases in Durham County: 532
- Number of Durham patients discharged: 4,750

- Number of deaths in Durham: 76
- Total Number of COVID cases in Durham County since the beginning of the pandemic: 5,359
- Contacts and contact tracing are going very well
- Between Durham County Department of Public Health and CCNC partners over 10,434 contacts have been made
- The week of July 20, 2020 started out with 5,132 cases which represented a 484 increase in cases
- 7-day average: 68 cases
- No spikes seen in cases during July 4th activities in the Durham community
- Number of Durham County cases seen in July 2020: 1,336 cases
- North Carolina's trajectory of lab-confirmed cases continues to increase
- Continue to see some slight increases in cases in Durham
- Half of the cases continue to involve the Latinx population
- Communication is important on advocating to getting information out to the Hispanic and Latinx communities regarding COVID
- Numbers are still over-represented at 54.8%
- Black or African American communities are under-represented at 23.3% of all cases in Durham
- White communities are very under-represented at 14.8% of all cases in Durham
- Ethnicity or race data is rarely missed due to the thorough examination of every medical record to obtain such data
- Metrics information was given as it related to the construction industry and hospital workers
- Zip code area 27704 continues to have the highest case rate in Durham County at 26.29% per 1,000 individuals
- Still seeing stretches of Hamlin Road, Geer Street, Cheek Road, parts of Bragtown, Colonial Village and the Merrick Moore neighborhood
- Growth rate for North Carolina: 2.1%
- Growth rate for Durham County: 1%
- Overall growth rate of infections for North Carolina: 15%
- Overall growth rate of infections for Durham County: 10%
- Testing data was also provided

Task Force Member Dr. Ibukun Akinboyo, Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Duke Health summarized that overall, their local data suggest that all of the efforts that have been put in over the past weeks and months have slowly paid off. She also commented about the questions surrounding children and schools and that the Task Force may need to consider what parts of their data can be informative and are there discussion points they need to be aware of.

In response to Commissioners Chair Jacobs inquiry concerning the Duke data tracking the trend in pediatric infections involving children ages 0 to 5 years of age, Dr. Akinboyo provided an explanation about the focus on children at different age groups such as 0 to 5 years, and children less than 18 years old; the goal of observing what the pattern of increase has been and to potentially predict what may happen within the next 3 to 4 months. She noted that in the 0 to 5 years' age group, toddlers are least likely to be physically distant from adults in the household. The highest increase has been seen in this age group. Dr. Akinboyo pointed out that the trend indicated that with increased household infections and increased adult infections, younger children were more likely to pick up the virus. She also stated that they have not seen a rapid spike in children being hospitalized for severe COVID-19. Therefore, it seems as though some children are handling it well and are recovering. She added that it's an early warning that community prevalence and community infection rates matter a lot.

Commissioners Chair Jacobs recommended including this information in their reports now as it relates to schools and how the Task Force is supporting the children and youth.

Update from Entertainment Venues Roundtables

In order to safely usher events back into Durham over the coming months, Task Force Member Susan Amey, CEO Discover Durham, noted that the Entertainment Venues Roundtables recommended establishing an advisory team that would represent a range of events and event venues. The suggestion was also made to have someone from the Department of Health or a medical advisor serve on the advisory team as well.

Six planning categories were identified:

- Capacity
- Traffic Management
- Guest Accommodations
- Food and Beverage
- Employee Preparedness
- Enforcement and Accountability

Task Force Member Amey explained the process of how the advisory group would work together to determine the first 10 events that are being proposed and allow these events to be a pilot program. Each event owner would draft a plan that would address the six previously mentioned categories and then bring that information to the Events Advisory Team that would then meet with the event owner and discuss other options of improving the safety of the event. After each event has taken place there would be a period to evaluate what was learned and what insights can be used for future events. This process would help event owners to help each other by using their collective insights to plan for these first events.

An additional recommendation was that events and activities that can meet the current Phase II expectations around social distancing and PPE be allowed to return as soon as possible with having numbers maybe greater than 10 but with the group size defined by the venue capacity and based on the size of the event inside the venue.

At Mayor Schewel's request, Task Force Member Amey provided information regarding visitor volume and economic impact in Durham. In 2019 Durham had 12.8 million visitors who spent approximately 932 million dollars which generated about 106 million dollars in state and local taxes. The new forecast for 2020 based on what's going on now is Durham will go from 12.8 million visitors to 7.4 million visitors and 553 million dollars in spending which is a loss of 425 million dollars over hospitality businesses in Durham. The tax loss will be about 48 million dollars. Durham's labor data indicates that Durham has lost about 9,000 hospitality jobs. Task Force Member Amey pointed out that the hospitality sector has been hit very hard.

Task Force Member George Habel, Vice President, Capitol Broadcasting Company, raised the following question to Task Force Member Jenkins:

- What would the trigger be to have this incorporated in an order at some point? Would it require a decline in the spread of the virus or sustain leveling might be adequate?

Task Force Member Jenkins' response:

- I would like to see some sustain leveling off and it would be even better to see a significant decline but realistically speaking with everything going on in the southwest and southeast we would have to wait and see.

Mayor Schewel made comments on how he felt it would be good to have some discussions with the state on how to create some opportunities to figure out ways to be together safely, see how it goes and then reiterate on what they find. Comments were made by Commissioners Chair Jacobs on how much safer structured events are.

Discussion of RRTF Budget Proposals

Co-Chair Maticia Sims acknowledged some of the important work that Durham's governments are making that is crucial to Durham's recovery and renewal. She announced that Durham County received approximately 4.5 million dollars in CARES Act funds.

The RRTF Budget purpose and proposal process were briefly explained by Co-Chair Sims. Ryan Smith gave an overview of the following proposals and Co-Chair Sims talked about the Subcommittee's scoring and rationale of the proposals:

Proposed Item	Total Score
Back on the Bull Communication Plan	18.5
Back on the Bull Community Health Ambassadors	18.5
Back on the Bull COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Fund	15.5
Project Safe Passage - Transit	18
Cleaning Supplies	No budget submitted/No scoring/More information needed

Mayor Schewel wanted to know if the proposal for cleaning supplies would come out of the Risk Mitigation Fund. Mr. Smith stated that he thinks it certainly could include cleaning supplies. He added that there are some efforts underway now with Durham Congregation to Actions who will be launching a program that will include five collection sites around the community from places of worship who will be gathering cleaning supplies to make available to residents who need them and are having difficulty finding these items.

Task Force Member Amey commented that some of these things will be helpful in containing the spread and will be important in assisting businesses to do this. Co-Chair Sims agreed and added they do plan to have another round of budget proposal submission. Hopefully, with the next submission process they will be able to break things down.

Co-Chair Galbraith noted that because this particular proposal scored a little lower does not mean they are not recommending the item.

Task Force DeLoatch asked if a decision had been made on what grant funds can be used for and are they thinking of it by categories in some broader since of the word?

Further comments were made by Bryan Fox concerning higher operating costs in addition to loss revenue that entities are experiencing as they try to follow best practices. He also recognized a potential next step. He explained there was a lengthy process that was undertaken to try and determine how to use Duke, City and County dollars to do grants and loans for businesses through an equity lend. Mr. Fox suggested that they might use that as a framework, at least as a starting point to be able to vet the requests as they come in. He added they are prepared to do the work to help those that are trying to follow best practices and to do so in a way that is feasible for everyone.

Commissioners Chair Jacobs wanted to know if there was an identified best practice, would there be the opportunity to take advantage of bulk ordering. Mr. Smith

responded that he thought this would be a great idea. These type ideas would be able to help businesses to purchase things at a larger supply and bulk to help lower the cost.

As it related to cleaning supplies, Co-Chair Sims explained that a proposal was received for cleaning supplies, however, there were no dollars included in the proposal. No scoring process was conducted on this particular proposal. Hopefully, more information will be gathered and the cleaning supplies proposal would be considered in the next round of proposals that are submitted.

Co-Chair Sims noted if the group were to rank the proposals they would rank in the following order and that the top two proposals were more ready to move forward than the others.

1. Back on the Bull Communications Plan
2. Project Safe Transit
3. Back on the Bull Community Health Ambassadors
4. Back on the Bull Risk-Mitigation Fund

Commissioners Chair Jacobs mentioned the next step would be to present the recommendations to the County Commissioners and the City Council. She shared her concern about flexibility on how they should approach the funding and are there other ways to implement all of the proposals as well as are there other resources to fund the proposals.

Co-Chair Sims asked if there were any Task Force members who disagreed with how the proposals were laid out by the Subcommittee based on the proposals and the scoring criteria used.

As it related to the urgent and important scale, Mayor Schewel felt that the Community Health Ambassadors were very important and critical. In general, he was impressed with the proposals and commented that the Subcommittee had done a wonderful job.

Co-Chair Sims noted that based on the Task Force's conversation and seeing no objections concerning how the proposals were laid out, they will hopefully move forward with their recommendations.

Next Steps

The following next steps were proposed:

- Under the guidance of Mayor Schewel and Commissioners Jacobs, Mr. Smith will support the Co-Chairs in preparing a formal letter of recommendation that would go to Mayor Schewel, Commissioners Chair Jacobs, City Council, the Board of County Commissioners and the City and County Managers that would outline the

recommendations. Hopefully the letter will be ready to go out early the week of July 27, 2020.

- A follow-up conversation with Mayor Schewel and Commissioners Chair Jacobs to discuss the recommendations to determine what the appropriate steps are within each of the elected bodies in terms of a possible next step being a meeting with Mayor Schewel, City Manager Bonfield and Commissioners Chair Jacobs and County Manager Davis.
- Mayor Schewel commented that he has alerted the City Council that the proposals and recommendation information would be forth coming. They are prepared to receive the information. He mentioned the City Council's next Work Session is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2020.
- Commissioners Chair Jacobs would like the proposals and recommendations presented to the Board of County Commissioners and have the Task Force Co-Chairs involved in the presentation. She noted that the next Work Session for the Board was Monday, August 3, 2020. Also, Commissioners Chair Jacobs pointed out that the Joint City-County Committee is scheduled to meet on August 11, 2020 in case there is a need for any joint follow-up discussion.

Open Discussion including other updates and discussion from RRTF Roundtables

Comments were made concerning a gap in funding and the timeline as to when funding would be received to continue the communication campaign.

Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Durham Recovery & Renewal Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Bullock, Assistant City Clerk
City Clerk's Office