

RECOVERY & RENEWAL TASKFORCE
VIRTUAL MEETING
MAY 29, 2020
8 AM – 10 AM

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*
- *Wendy Jacobs, Chair of Durham County Commissioners*
- *Mayor Steve Schewel, Mayor of the City of Durham*
- *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*

TF Staff (role): Ryan Smith (Policy and Partnerships), Anna Davis (Legal Advisor), Bryan Fox (Roundtables), Amber Wade (Assistant to the Mayor), Mariel Beasley (Duke Behavioral Science Advisor), Drew Cummings (Vulnerable Populations Advisor)

Katie Galbraith, presiding as Chair, welcomed all to the virtual meeting and encouraged those in attendance to construct an equity framework to guide their recommendations.

COVID-19 RESPONSE/PRIORITY UPDATE

Chair of Durham County Commissioners Wendy Jacobs updated the rate of COVID case growth statistic: last week at 3.7%, as of May 28th, the rate had declined to 3.2% which was consistent with the NC State growth rate of 3.2%.

Growth rate in the Hispanic/Latinx community indicated an increase to 34% of all cases, when considering their demographic in Durham County of 14%, this was concerning, warranted discussion and planning; and expected the state data on the overall testing being conducted in Durham County in the next week or two.

Mayor Steve Schewel announced the next revision of the Stay at Home Order; stated the city would incorporate the City Order into the Durham County order on Monday, June 1 at 8 am, transitioning from a Stay at Home Order to a Safer at Home Order. He explained the differences between the local order and that of the NC Governor's state order; said the

recommendation was to strongly stay at home; noted criteria were adjusted for which businesses would be allowed to operate: restaurants, salons, pools, breweries and distilleries; stated face coverings would continue to be required in spaces without the possibility of social distancing, 10 person maximum on outdoor mass gatherings with no inside mass gatherings; limit of six, unrelated persons at restaurant tables. Currently, no real estate open houses were permitted until the Real Estate Roundtable advises with an update next week. Many businesses were being opened on Monday, June 1. Local clergy had written a statement of solidarity.

Overall, Mayor Schewel appreciated the stakeholders' feedback in the economic recovery process.

KEY METRICS DISCUSSION

Maticia Sims introduced the item.

Rodney Jenkins and Dr. Ibukun Akinboyo focused on three metrics: case count, seven day moving average (number of cases over a prescribed time period) and total number of positive and negative tests (positive cases divided by the total number of tests) to equate to the total amount of infection in the area; presented the Case Data Overview reflecting statistics extracted from the DataHub tool: # of total confirmed cases, average age, demographics, total deaths, # released from isolation, age charts, congregate living settings, monthly race/ethnicity trends, risk and exposure, access to testing, weekly reflection in overall case trends- in conjunction, provide community interpretation of the numbers.

Mr. Jenkins spoke to how to interpret the number of cases trending week to week relevant to tracking increases/decreases/constancy; displayed chart with associated metric; mentioned race and ethnicity and correlated statistics; summarized the statistics by race and ethnicity by week; work/race/ethnicity, based on ten or more cases, indicated which industries impacted by outbreaks (currently, highest statistics impacting nursing homes, correction facilities, construction sites); workers' race/ethnicities impacted within specified industries;

Dr. Ibukun Akinboyo continued the presentation after Mr. Jenkins loss connection.

Ms. Sims called for questions.

Pilar Rocha Goldberg inquired if the demographics and job data was available to the public.

Dr. Akinboyo explained the information was included in the Datahub and was already available to public. Ms. Sims said she would send the Datahub link to the members.

Ms. Rocha-Goldberg urged communication with Spanish media outlets in the form of unified messages to the Hispanic community and stated messages should be targeted in how to protect workers in accordance to their work locations.

George Habel spoke of construction workers not wearing face protection; and asked how masks could be disseminated and usage enforced.

Ms. Rocha-Goldberg added how could contractors enforce usage and asked how workers could work and breath while wearing masks; and it was important to disseminate masks and appeal to this sector of workers.

Dr. Akinboyo acknowledged that the data was not to increase stigmatism toward any group, spoke to targeting education, resources and guidance.

Mr. Jenkins returned to meeting.

Mr. Fox announced that the Chamber was conducting a roundtable planned to address concerns of the construction industry next week.

Susan Amey, Discover Durham, asked how the data would impact taskforce action/policy. For example, with the increase in cases within the Hispanic community, would indicate that more outreach was necessary to the Spanish-speaking population.

Mr. Jenkins concurred about how the data was interpreted into action and provided how the data was being forwarded to Spanish-speaking community groups and how strategies were devised to address the trends.

Nicole Thompson, Downtown Durham Incorporated, requested the Datahub updates be provided to the taskforce prior to the Friday meetings and suggested receiving the information on Thursdays and as a standing part of the agenda.

Mr. Jenkins supported the request.

Anthony Nelson asked Mr. Jenkins about a statistic mentioned in the presentation.

Mr. Jenkins clarified that 91% of cases were associated with construction.

It was concurred by the taskforce members that Datahub updates be provided by email on Thursdays to the taskforce members, for discussion at the Friday Taskforce meetings as a standard agenda item.

ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

Mr. Fox provided an update on roundtable planning and dialogue; deferred to Dr. Davis and Ms. Amey for remarks from their roundtable communications. He stated that trends were emerging toward reopening and beyond with public health recommendations from state and local agencies. Businesses were at different levels of operations, some ready to open with others closing. There were concerns about legal liability.

Count on Me and See Program, developed by the NC State Cooperative Extension Office, consisted of voluntary self-certification for expanded online training modules to include general guidance regarding cleaning and sanitization; dozens of restaurant owners and employees had completed the training, along with lodging staff and staff from the County Environmental Health Departments; specific modules were assigned to lodging and fitness centers. The program did not support every industry, with summer camps and realtors not included. Voluntary self-certification programs were encouraged for businesses in operation during this environment.

Ms. Amey noted a common theme was a concern about enforcing behaviors with patrons, with special mention of wearing face coverings; and broached the topic of expectations of staff to enforce recommendations in restaurants and lodgings.

Geoff Durham asked if face coverings were recommended or required in the Order.

Chair Jacobs noted that in accordance with the Order, face coverings were required in areas where social distancing was not possible; however, not in restaurants, nor would riders of public transit be removed for not wearing face coverings.

Mayor Schewel requested an update on outdoor dining and commented about the difficulty in the enforcement of encouraging the donning of face coverings.

Mariel Beasley asked how did restaurants deal with persons showing up without shirts, shoes, now certain things needed, and that rather than emphasizing face coverings as a new practice, that face coverings be incorporated into currently accepted standards.

Ms. Amey reported that in the lodging roundtable spoke about guests who were unruly, that enforcement began with diplomacy and built depending on the severity of the behavior.

Chair Jacobs indicated that the topic was dependent on public education and that businesses needed to be supported in this political environment.

Mr. Fox noted there was a lot of interest in outdoor dining options.

Ms. Thompson updated the Taskforce on the legislation in the State Legislature about the ABC bill in the Senate; and that formulation of the operational side was underway; restaurants favored outdoor alcohol sales; DDI was waiting to hear about the bill and would update as soon as there was an update on outdoor dining.

Reverend Herbert Davis updated the Taskforce on places of worship and their response to reopening; crafted a unified statement to not reopen, that include upward of 55 faith leaders signing on; there was an agreement for second document consisting of best practices/ procedures for places of worship who were planning on reopening soon. He stated that Ryan Smith suggested that while developing best practices, look at them as case studies, with access to professionals, to help and best understand what was done and what worked.

The members appreciated the content of the clerical letter.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Drew Cummings updated on four topics relevant to vulnerable populations:

1. Hotel Shelter: RTP Marriott, housing 145 persons; contract ends July 10th.
2. Continuing to shelter: only move half of 145 back to Urban Ministries; need secondary sheltering options for 75. For the balance of 50, reach out to coordinated entry. Concerns expressed about the lifting of eviction stays in July. Urged consideration of a congregate shelter equipped with social distancing.
3. Sheltering medically fragile, homeless: 12-24 persons, firming up proposal for 25 beds, available one year with option to extend a second year.
4. Food insecurity: Donna Rewalt, County Cooperative Extension, central contact; many groups distributing food and need to support providers; data on hunger is difficult to assess; End Hunger Durham, seeks to collect data from providers.

Lois DeLoatch spoke to city staff emphasizing food insecurity and the need for food within vulnerable populations and asked that assessments include how risks were being reduced at nursing and congregate facilities where persons of color were primary residents; and urged the Taskforce to keep the elderly population at forefront.

Mr. Cummings reported the County Commissioners approved a contract to get significant food aid to low income seniors in public housing.

Mr. Jenkins would provide a report at next week's meeting on long-term care facilities with state emergency management to push PPE; and outreach against infectious disease.

LATINX COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Ms. Rocha-Goldberg announced she had met with Council Member Caballero and Ryan Smith and discussed starting an immigrant and refugee roundtable, first meeting next week; the group would include immigrant and refugee leaders with the objective of helping to connect to those communities, with special mention of construction, real estate, faith leaders and small businesses. Language justice would be a discussion topic at the roundtables. An update would be provided next week.

Mr. Jenkins itemized bi-lingual outreach on Facebook, videos, filming, brochures and flyers.

Mayor Schewel noted the City Manager had agreed to pay for language services for the taskforce and complimented the Public Health Director, Mr. Jenkins.

PPE DISCUSSION- FACE COVERINGS

Ed Boyd, working on the PPE project, provided an overview of the report and action items on securing face coverings/PPE for all businesses and residents of Durham. Timeline of needs: immediate, short-term, mid-term and long-term up to 1-3 years. Mr. Boyd read from a prepared statement.

Discussion focused on the procurement of masks from local, persons of color, face covering manufacturers; that due to demand, quantity and/or quality was a concern; estimated the number of face coverings for local employees was 170,000 with 17% or 50,000 residents living below the poverty line; spoke to the identification of a local, female black-owned PPE supplier owned by Eva Perry who offered a 1-2 day turn-around up to a million units; indicated that employers were being asked to provide three masks per employee, although not all employees were Durham residents; received proposals from suppliers to provide coverings over the next 7-10 days with the number of masks that could be provided in that timeframe- received quotes for 300K to 1 million units; addressed price gouging and market flooding by manufacturers.

Differentiation was made between reusable, cloth and disposable, surgical grade face coverings.

Taskforce members inquired about how would the face coverings be distributed to those in most need. It was concluded that there was not yet a plan in place for dissemination.

It was the consensus of the taskforce to devise a distribution plan- by creating a supply chain to provide businesses with product, who in turn would provide product to employees.

Chair Jacobs summarized that PPE was a fundamental issue, impacting the community from businesses to families and that scarcity and pricing were increasing; and announced the Cover Durham project being funded by Durham Public Schools and Durham County and City elected officials for purchase of reusable face coverings to be distributed to vulnerable populations.

Jody Miller updated the Taskforce on sources of disposal masks at the OEC level; noted that a list of not-yet-vetted, PPE providers had been forwarded to Ryan Smith to share with local businesses; and suggested the listing be shared through the Taskforce and with roundtables and businesses.

Mr. Smith informed the Taskforce that the provider listing was located in the online resources, under the PPE tab and would circulate as a follow-up.

Ms. Galbraith asked if cloth masks were acceptable or should there be a focus on disposable face coverings.

Dr. Akinboyo and Mr. Jenkins noted that the appropriate mask usage depended on the setting based on the ability to social distance; and deferred to guidance set by the CDC.

The Chair asked about next steps regarding face cover sourcing.

Mr. Boyd referenced his work investigating supply chains and vetting businesses; mentioned that many of the face covering suppliers were not utilizing standards and did not test well; addressed load, that many manufacturers were converting their production to surgical masking rather than cloth; and noted that certain vendors could not guarantee more than 100k per month; spoke to micro-entrepreneurs and their output;

Next steps, narrow the top 3-5 suppliers with estimated 4-5 making delivery; then formulate dissemination programming.

Mayor Schewel appreciated the work by Mr. Boyd; noted there were two different needs: location of a warehouse with guaranteed supply of PPE at reasonable cost for local businesses; and, covering vulnerable populations and quantifying that need and how it is best met.

The Chair suggested Mr. Boyd work with the vulnerable population folks to devise a plan for mask distribution.

VOLUNTARY COOPERATION

Mariel Beasley provided an update and would send out more extensive notes to the Taskforce members; addressed tools for voluntary compliance: checklist/self-assessment for businesses, creation of a tool kit for employers with best in class signage and the larger communication strategy.

Ms. Beasley noted that the checklist provided a concrete guide of process and display o customers of what was being done to ensure safety; and noted the checklist was digital and contained a risk assessment, the results could be printed out and posted for customer viewing.

Next steps: preparing to distribute first draft with public health experts for review; once feedback received, incorporated and approved, the guidelines would be forwarded to

Mr. Fox would coordinate the checklist's distribution to the roundtables for weigh-in by industry.

The Chair noted that for the next Taskforce meeting, to expect updates on PPE, Checklist, roundtables and an update on reopening of businesses, per the Order.

THINKING FORWARD TO PHASE 3

Ms. Sims spoke to the Governor's three Phase Plan, currently the City/County were in Phase 2; as Phase 3 approaches, requested the Taskforce to advise City/County elected leaders on recovery/renewal, share thoughts on what would be best for Durham in Phase 3; asked the Taskforce to consider Phase 3 operations, hear from Chair Jacobs and Mayor Schewel (agenda item) of the likely content of Phase 3 and then for the Taskforce to make recommendations for Durham.

The Chair asked that the roundtables for sports and entertainment venues be organized and activated.

Mr. Habel stated he was working on organizing the sports roundtable to kickoff next week.

The Chair reminded the attendees regarding the Small Business Forum at 11 a.m.

The Recovery and Renewal Taskforce adjourned at 10 a.m.

Diana Schreiber
City Clerk