

DURHAM RECOVERY AND RENEWAL TASK FORCE

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Friday, October 9, 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 Sims called the meeting to order.

Priority Updates

Mayor Schewel provided updates regarding the Halloween guidelines issued by the City and noted the touchless, COVID-safe Halloween activities hosted by Durham Parks and Recreation (more information available at www.dprplaymore.com). He advocated for a safe and fun Halloween.

Mayor Schewel discussed the City's increase in parking rates and how the Council would be reviewing the increase after members of the community called it problematic.

Mayor Schewel emphasized the critical need for federal COVID-19 relief funds. He stated that not only were businesses struggling, but there was an eviction crisis in the horizon. The City and County

were doing everything they could to help, but he believed the community was facing an economic catastrophe without federal aid funds. Chair Jacobs concurred.

Chair Jacobs stated there were 298 families enrolled in the EAT NC program, formerly known as FEAST. She announced that the County would soon approve \$2.4 million in rental assistance funds through the HOPE program and discussed the Public Safety Hotel. She reminded everyone about the voter registration deadline and flu shots.

Co-Chair Katie Galbraith provided an Education Roundtable update and described conversations with students in which they demonstrated their commitment to and understanding of the three W's: "wear a face covering," "wait 6 feet apart," and "wash your hands."

Update from Public Health

Co-Chair Galbraith provided the following updates on hospitalization numbers:

- There were 42 patients at Duke University Hospital and Duke Regional Hospital
- 14 of those patients were in critical care
- 91.5% occupancy

Member Jenkins emphasized the importance of remaining vigilant and staying prepared. He provided the following updates:

- Seven-day moving average was 34.
- 183 cases to date.
- 46.78% of all cases were among Hispanic or Latinx individuals (only 14% of Durham County residents identified as Hispanic or Latinx).
- 30.41% of all cases were among Black or African American individuals (37% of Durham County residents identify as Black or African American).
- 16.37% of cases are among White individuals (54% of Durham County residents identify as White).
- The greatest number of cases (with known employment information) occurred among people who were unemployed, people working in Hospitals or general medicine and surgical, and people working in Construction.
- 91.66% of cases associated with construction work settings were Hispanic or Latinx, and 91.66% were male.
- 54.54% of cases associated with Nursing Care Facilities were Black or African American, and 72.72% were female.
- For the week of 9/27/2020 to 10/03/2020, 4.6% of labs reported electronically were positive (the prior week saw 3.7%).

Member Jenkins encouraged the Task Force members to get their flu vaccine.

Mayor Schewel announced that 60,000 facemasks were distributed on GoDurham. He inquired as to how frontline workers were doing (e.g. contact tracers, public health employees, healthcare workers) in terms of workload. Member Jenkins described what he dubbed Phase 2.0 in which Public Health transitioned from seven-day operations to six-day operations. Member Harewood discussed the Lincoln Community Health Center's staff as well as results and work in terms of COVID-19 cases.

Chair Jacobs inquired about the Community Health Ambassador program and whether this would help address the uptick in the number of cases within the Latinx community. Member Rocha-Goldberg discussed the complexity of the program and the high number of referrals seen at El Centro Hispano for rent and utility assistance—the number of referrals were so high that El Centro reached the point of being unable to help numerous residents due to depleted resources. Member Jenkins noted that relief payments for rental assistance were the most requested in COVID-19 support (food boxes were the most requested previously).

Member Jenkins announced that the State provided additional testing surge capacity resources to Durham County. He stated the County partnered with the Durham Housing Authority to test at four different sites.

Continuing the Conversation from Economic Recovery Team

Member Durham discussed the next steps following the presentation from Friday’s meeting on October 2nd which addressed short-term and long-term economic recovery strategies and welcomed questions from members. Member Nelson discussed the economic factors (e.g. CPI) that showed the economy was in a lower place than it was in January 2020.

Co-Chair Sims inquired as to the ideal reporting frequency for key performance indicators (KPIs). Member Durham stated that monthly check-ins were fine and would coincide well with the change in the RRTF meeting schedule. Member Nelson concurred.

Member Amey discussed the hospitality and leisure small business revenue trends and how the pandemic affected the local economy this year. She stated January was not a strong month for this sector, but this was magnified due to the pandemic.

Update and discussion on Behavioral Health

Ann Oshel, Alliance Health, provided the Task Force with an update on behavioral health in Durham during COVID-19. She stated that mental health was being referred to as the “third wave” of the pandemic (with the first two waves being health and economy, respectively). She described Alliance’s COVID-19 investments, which totaled \$20 million as of September 2020, and the community response.

Member DeLoatch shared her concerns for elderly and special needs individuals, as both groups tended to be more isolated during these times due to cancelled or limited day services. She inquired into what was happening to support these marginalized groups. Ms. Oshel described the changes seen in day service centers and efforts to keep everyone safe as well as how the elderly population was prioritized in assistance programs. Member DeLoatch asked whether there were efforts to support parents. Ms. Oshel stated that training was offered to parents.

Regarding the charge to focus on selfcare, Chair Jacobs asked for Ms. Oshel’s thoughts on next steps and whether Alliance could help lead the campaign. Ms. Oshel stated Alliance would be happy to help lead and discussed various methods for community awareness and engagement. Co-Chair Galbraith agreed to connect Ms. Oshel with the necessary people at Duke Regional Hospital.

Discussion of RRTF proposals

Co-Chair Sims noted that the following three proposals scored very high:

- Proposal 1 – Revised [Pulse Oximetry](#)
- Proposal 2 – [Symptom and Testing Support for Food Industry](#)
- Proposal 7 – [Greenlight Durham](#): COVID-19 safety monitoring for everyone who lives, works, and studies in Durham

The other proposals were:

- Proposal 3 – [Festivals and Events](#)
- Proposal 4 – [Durham Delivers](#)
- Proposal 5 – [Rediscover Durham Packages](#)
- Proposal 6 – [Rediscover Durham Co-op](#)

Co-Chair Sims announced that after much discussion and review, the subcommittee chose to recommend the Task Force move forward with Proposal 2. The estimated cost for the proposal was approximately \$45,000 and it would provide daily COVID-19 symptom support and access to COVID-19 testing for 1,000 downtown Durham small business employees for an 18-week period.

Anna Davis, Assistant City Attorney, discussed her concerns with Proposal 4. She described how public funds needed to be spent in a way that did not benefit specific individuals or an industry, but rather the public as a whole or vulnerable, marginalized communities.

Member Smith wondered what could be done with proposals that had a lot of potential but were not a good fit for using public funds. He encouraged the Task Force to consider pursuing other sources of funding outside of public funds for these occurrences.

Chair Jacobs requested clarification on how Proposal 4 was different than the business loan programs offered by the City. Attorney Davis stated that Proposal 4 would essentially have the City creating and funding a business that was in direct competition with other existing businesses. Member Amey noted that Durham Delivers was different from other meal delivery businesses (e.g. DoorDash, Uber Eats, etc.) because it delivered bulk residential orders, not individual meals, and it was not a business per se but rather a service.

Co-Chair Galbraith asked Attorney Davis for feedback regarding any of the other proposals she was able to review. Attorney Davis stated she saw no legal issues with Proposals 1, 2, 3, and 7. She stated she needed to perform more research for Proposal 6 as there was no clear indication whether it would use CARES Act funding or not. Mayor Schewel noted the legislative fund issues regarding Proposal 6 were the reason why the City previously provided businesses loans instead of grants.

Mayor Schewel expressed concerns regarding timelines (since the Task Force would be meeting on a monthly basis in the future) and inquired about whether the subcommittee should be empowered to submit recommendations to the public bodies. Co-Chair Sims stated that, previously, the subcommittee sent the Task Force an email in advance with information regarding their recommendation. Once they confirmed there were no objections from the Task Force, the subcommittee went forward with presenting the recommendation to the elected public bodies. Agreement was made to follow this process in the future.

Member Rocha-Goldberg provided an update on the Community Health Ambassadors. El Centro Hispano hired two people who would start working the following week and be trained at UNC.

Co-Chair Galbraith requested members with follow-up comments or questions for Ms. Oshel to email member Harewood or herself by Tuesday, October 20th.

Member Harewood recognized two physicians and one dentist who recently celebrated 35 years and 40 years of service, respectively, at Lincoln Community Health Center.

Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 13th at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tania De Los Santos", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Tania De Los Santos
Durham County Senior Administrative Assistant