

DURHAM RECOVERY AND RENEWAL TASK FORCE

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Friday, November 13, 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 & 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 Officer, 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 & 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 stated the City of Durham approved \$44,700 for the Duke Pandemic Response Network to greenlight Durham's app for free symptom monitoring and testing support for up to 3,500 Durham workers as part of a pilot program.

Mayor Schewel stated the City of Durham also approved \$240,000 in new grant funds from the CARES Act funding to support small businesses in Durham. This grant would be administered by the City's Office of Workforce & Development. He also emphasized that the CARES Act funding must to be utilized by the end of the year or the City would lose those dollars.

Chair Jacobs stated that the County funded the final portion of the Back on the Bull Media Campaign, a total of \$32,000. As well, some of the RRTF members met with Secretary Cindy Cone to discuss the Back on the Bull Community Health Ambassadors Program. She also shared that members of the RRFT

and members of the Durham Delegation met with small business leaders to discuss the challenges they faced going into winter and handling the challenges of COVID-19.

Chair Jacobs announced the HOPE funds that were given from the State ended; however, several Durham residents took advantage of those funds and it would take several weeks for the applications to be approved.

Co-Chair Galbraith stated RRFT delivered over 67,000 hand sanitizers around Durham to different organizations to help combat COVID-19 as well as worked with the Durham Transit System to ensure face masks were worn. GoDurham distributed more than 100,000 disposable face masks and have requested an additional 40,000 masks. RRFT also distributed more than 10,000 cloth masks to local non-profit organizations and the Durham County Courthouse. Co-Chair Galbraith shared that private donations continued to come in under Mayor Schewel to support Durham Delivers this winter and to keep the program going through the spring.

Co-Chair Sims shared the Budget Planning Committee would create a sub-committee that would meet bi-weekly if needed to go over budget proposals. She highlighted the Durham Recovery and Renewal Task Force Facebook page and the participants involved in making it successful.

RRTF Discussion on the rise in COVID-19 Cases

Co-Chair Galbraith shared a brief update from the hospitals pertaining to the rise in COVID cases.

- Between Duke Regional and Duke University Hospital, the 7-day average was 46 active COVID cases.
- 20 recovery patients between the two hospitals
- 150,000+ COVID tests were conducted across the entire Duke Health System
- 12 patients required ICU care
- 6 patients required a ventilator
- 1,619 have been hospitalized since March 2020
- Hospitals were at 94 percent capacity

Member Jenkins informed the task force that majority of the COVID cases were due to continuous gatherings with families and friends and not due to local outings or community spread; adding the rise in COVID cases were still much prevalent in the minority communities.

Member Jenkins stated Durham County tested over 8,000 individuals within the last two weeks. He also informed the task force of the available testing sites which included Walgreens. Member Jenkins informed the task force about Surge Testing – testing in under marginalized communities; noting the four testing sites in Durham Housing communities, drive-thru testing at El Centro Hispano and drive-thru testing at DSS on the weekends.

Member Thompson asked if the testing sites were appointment only or were walk-ins an option, if they offered rapid testing and if a business was exposed could the entire staff go to any site to get tested. Member Jenkins stated all the testing sites mentioned were available for walk-in testing and results from those sites were provided anywhere between 36-48 hours. Member Akinboyo added if a business had a positive case, all employees may not be tested on the same day. She continued to say the best time for employers to test an employee that may have been exposed would be around day 5; however, the employee should already be quarantined from the first day of potential exposure.

RRTF discussion: what additional measures, if any, do we need to take to limit the impact of the third wave in Durham?

Member Amey provided an update on the Back on the Bull Campaign which would run until the end of December, due to final phase of funding being approved by the Commissioners’.

Over the six months:

- about 12 million impressions have been made
- across 24 media outlets, which include; radio, tv, billboards, social media, magazines, etc... in English & Spanish
- media interviews
- residents appointed to the website for more information
- businesses posting signage
- businesses completing checklist

With all the information available, there were still people in Durham who were not aware of the Back on the Bull Campaign; however, the Community Health Ambassadors were going door to door to make people aware. Member Amey stated if funding was available, she recommended Back on the Bull continue in the upcoming year.

Member Smith provided the following update on the Community Health Ambassador program:

- 7 ambassadors were out in field
- Over 280 businesses participated in the Back on the Bull Campaign due to the Ambassadors.
- 108 of the 280 businesses were LatinX

Member Smith stated although the program was new, the numbers grew tremendously since the Ambassadors were working in the field.

Member Rocha-Goldberg added the Ambassadors have also made the RRTF more aware of the businesses that were closed permanently or temporarily due to the pandemic.

Member Amey highlighted the Back on the Bull “Influencer Toolkit” which offered business owners guidance on how to reopen and stay open, inspire consumer confidence to reinvigorate the local economy, and present a rallying cry for the community as we collectively work towards recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Co-Chair Sims asked if there was a budget proposal available for 2021. Member Amey responded that she would begin working on a proposal and would share that information soon.

Anna Davis, Assistant City Attorney provided the following update on enforcement efforts since being in Phase 3.

- Number of citizen reports on non-compliance decreased
- Majority of reports were related to employees not wearing mask in businesses
- Reports were received through the health ambassadors and citizens

Chair Jacobs asked if the City/County had authority to issue tickets and/or fines to small businesses. Assistant City Attorney Davis responded we have the ability through the criminal process to write a citation but would need to know what ordinances to use to enact civil penalties. Law enforcement could

write the citations; however, if a business chose to enforce their civil rights, the attorneys would intervene.

Updates from Roundtable and Open Discussion

Member Durham provided updates pertaining to the Economic Recovery Team. He shared that Durham saw continuous depression of low wage employment opportunities. Member Amey added that the hospitality jobs were disproportioned and many of those were in the low wage category.

They discussed that Durham Tech offered a “Back to Work” initiative and Spring enrollment was open. They also highlighted the Triangle Career Expo who virtually hosted an event where 80 different employers saw 1,100 job seekers – about 1,700 submitted applications and over 12,000 virtual chats were held.

Member Amey informed the RRFT about Durham Delivers and applauded Mayor Schewel for his personal contributed to this program. She shared the program received enough funding to continue into the new year. Member Amey also stated there were no updates with the Restaurant Roundtable and they would no longer meet monthly.

Member Smith provided an update on the Durham Workers Town Hall, sharing that a survey would be sent to Durham workers as a precursor to Town Hall to help form the conversation. This would be scheduled before December 15th; however, a date was not been finalized. He stated community groups that worked with workers, labor groups, Durham Workers’ Assembly and the City Task Force that worked with the Workers’ Commission would help spread the word about the survey.

Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, December 11th at 8:00 a.m.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shaunecie Wardrick, Administrative Assistant
Durham County Clerk’s Office