

DURHAM RECOVERY AND RENEWAL TASK FORCE

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Friday, March 12, 2021

8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Task Force Members

Steve Schewel, Mayor City of Durham

Brenda Howerton, 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

Wendy Jacobs, Vice Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners

Ibukun Akinboyo, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Duke Health Susan Amey, CEO, Discover Durham

Ed Boyd, Chief Strategy Office, iNvictus

Chanelle 'C.C' Croxton, North Carolina State Organizer, National Domestic Workers Alliance

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

Anthony Nelson, Dean, North Carolina Central University School of Business

Pilar Rocha-Goldberg, President and CEO, El Centro Hispano

Nicole Thompson, CEO, Downtown Durham Inc

Call to Order

Co-Chair Sims called the meeting to order.

Priority Updates

Mayor Schewel provided an update regarding the American Rescue Act that was signed on March 13, 2021. He stated the City of Durham would receive \$50 million dollars over a two-year period and those funds received would be flexible and provide rental and transportation assistance.

Chair Howerton stated Durham County received numerous phone calls regarding the Racial Equity Commission and asked that the community work with their leaders to make changes from within.

Vice Chair Jacobs announced Durham County was at a turning point with getting citizens vaccinated. She highlighted the multiple options available to the community and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Co-Chair Sims stated any new budget proposals that needed to be approved would have to be submitted by March 31, 2021. She highlighted two proposals that were submitted - Durham Workers' and Greenlight.

Co-Chair Sims informed the task force that the Durham County Commissioners' agreed to fund \$75,325 for Phase 4 of the Back on the Bull Campaign. Co-Chair Sims thanked Susan Amey, Discover Durham, and her team for the efforts and communication that was put in with the Back on the Bull Campaign.

Co-Chair Galbraith shared a brief update about the Education Roundtable

- Charter Schools were now a part of the roundtable
- Schools were in the process of planning 2021 graduations, fall classes for the 2021-2022 school year, and updating their safety protocols
- NC School of Science and Math held in-person classes all year and excelled with keeping the children safe

Current COVID-19 Case Statistics and Vaccine Distribution

Co-Chair Galbraith provided an update on metrics with Duke Health System.

- In February, across the Health System there were 166 total COVID cases.
- 140 of the 166 total cases were at Duke & Duke Regional Hospital
- In March, across the Health System there were 108 total COVID cases.
- 93 total cases that required hospitalization: no isolation
- 41 of the 93 total cases were active COVID cases
- 23 patients total in ICU
- 9 out of the 23 patients were active COVID cases
- 149,000 vaccine doses given across Duke Health System
- 104,000 patient doses
- 60,000 first doses

Co-Chair Galbraith stated that Durham County received 5,000 Johnson & Johnson vaccines and piloted a drive-thru clinic to administer those to the community. She added the City created a System Wide Vaccine Equitable Distribution Committee to disperse vaccinations to the disproportionately marginalized community. The Committee partnered with Southern High School (SHS) due to SHS having a medical clinic in the building and the school resides in the 27704 zip-code – which is where the vast majority of the disproportioned population was located.

Member Jenkins provided an update on total COVID cases.

- 820 total active cases in NC
- 21,599 inactive cases
- 22,636 total death cases

- 7-day moving average was 43 cases
- 331 total cases in March 2021 in Durham County
- Positive percentage of COVID testing in NC was 4.3 percent

Member Jenkins reported that as of March 2021; 43,635 Durham residents were fully vaccinated and Durham County ranked in the top 3 in terms of vaccination rates. He added the System Wide Vaccine Equitable Distribution Committee partnered with local news and radio agencies to get vaccination site information to the disproportioned population to promote racial equity. Member Jenkins stated that Durham County had 53 eligible vaccine providers registered and ready to provide vaccinations. He added the Department Health and Human Services (DHHS) was a mass vaccine site and they were able to administer 500-750 vaccines a day.

Member DeLoatch asked how the 85 and older residents who are not in assisted living nor had an active caregiver would receive the vaccine. Member Jenkins responded that NC implemented a task force specifically for that group and Durham County planned in conjunction with Emergency Medical Services to offer mobilize efforts. Member Galbraith added that Durham partnered with Meals on Wheels offer transportation arrangements for the older residents who wanted to receive a vaccine.

Mayor Schewel inquired about the percentage of the vaccine administered to the African American community and how it was determined how many Durham residents were vaccinated. Member Jenkins stated that all information came from NC Department of Human and Health Services website and that about 16 percent of the African American population and 2.6 percent of the Hispanic population were vaccinated. Member Akinboyo added that the racial denominator would need to be adjusted from age to age and race to race, however; those numbers were for the minority groups.

Vice Chair Jacobs asked if there would be any pop-up sites and mobile sites available for residents to receive a vaccination. Member Galbraith and Member Jenkins responded that majority of the sites were stationery and Durham had limited manpower to add pop-up sites, but Durham was able to add more convenient sites around, e.g.: Walgreens, CVS.

Looking Back at RRFT's Impact

Co-Chair Sims shared a presentation which reflected and highlighted the work of the Recovery and Renewal Task Force since May 2020.

- Over 20 Roundtables, which included 400+ residents, business owners, & local experts
- Student Research Team - Over 20 college students provided rapid research support to RRFT
- Health - Safer-at-Home, Back on the Bull Campaign, Project Safe Ride, Durham Has You Covered, Greenlight Durham, PPE Warehouse
- Economic Recovery - Durham Delivers
- Proposal Review Subcommittee

Future of RRTF

Co-Chair Sims stated that an email would be sent out all the members to receive feedback on how to move forward with the future of the Recovery and Renewal Task Force and feedback would be discussed at the April 9th, 2021 meeting.

Economic Recovery Subcommittee

Member Durham highlighted the following information pertaining to Durham County's Economy:

- Unemployment had improved but was still relatively high
- Jobs were coming back but not complete in all industries
- Jobs availability – Finding employment was difficult
- Entrepreneurial interest had increased – There was an increase in business applications
- Around 9,000 residents were currently unemployed in Durham County
- Composition of Unemployment Insurance
- Employment Change in Durham Industries
- Remote Work
- Increased Income Inequality (Disproportionate Impacts)
- Growth of Online Shopping
- Continued Use of Automation (Reduced Staff)

Vice Chair Jacobs asked how the members of the task force and public could access this information. Member Durham responded the information could be found on <https://d4.nccommerce.com/> and <https://analytics.nccommerce.com/NC-UI-Claims/>.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, April 9th at 8:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shaunecie Wardrick, Administrative Assistant
Durham County Clerk's Office