

CFORT Meeting Minutes
Cumberland County Department of Public Health
Virtual: Webex

08/25/2022
02:00pm-03:00pm

Attendees: Martina Sconiers Talbert CCDPH, Grants Manager, Crispi Abono CCDPH intern, Orlando Smith, Delvin MacAllister, Asa A. Revels, Charlton Roberson, Carlotta Ray, Jeffrey Rosales, Sally Shutt, Louis Leake, John Bigger, Melanie Stephens, Elizabeth Stephens, Nidhi Sachdeva, Laura Marquis, Greg Berry, Mitzi Averette, Kendle Holeman, Noah Johnson, Kara Gagnon, Tamra Morris, Lisa Lofton-Berry, Dr Sam Fleishman, Bertina Parkins, Mary, AMC Governmental AF.

- ❖ Welcome and Introductions
- ❖ Presentation on Drugs related ED visit data (**Louis Leake, Carolina Treatment Center**)
 1. Mr. Leake in his presentation spoke about the decreased ED overdose involving medication or drugs with dependency potentials within a year time frame (2021 – 2022) in the Cumberland County among the different races/ethnicities and by age groups.
 2. He also discussed the increased Opioid overdose Emergency Department visits in Cumberland County from August 2021 to July 2022, among races/ethnicities and age groups.
 3. Additionally, he talked about the North Carolina ED overdose involving medication or drugs with dependency potentials from July 2021 to July 2022 and the decrease that happened within that period.
 4. He mentioned that the North Carolina Office of Medical Examiner reported a decrease in the suspected overdose deaths from July 2021 to July 2022
 5. Finally, He talked about decreased numbers in Opioid overdose ED visits in the state of North Carolina between July 2021 and July 2022 among the races and age groups.
- ❖ Presentation of the Opioid Settlement Funds Review of Feedback (**Dr Jennifer Green, CCDPH**)
 1. Dr Green presented the value in dollar amount (\$26 Billion) that is assigned to help communities harmed by the opioid epidemic and how those funds will be distributed in the local and state governments. She also added that the local government has already approved how those funds will be spent on strategies that are currently implemented in Fayetteville.
 2. She expressed that there is a MOA that gives the freedom to local government to choose between two options (Option A and Option B). She

explained what each option entails and what is included in each of them. Each option has a total of 12 strategies that governments can implement in their communities.

3. Dr Green mentioned that the Health Department engaged in a Feedback Process which is a program to hear back from the stakeholders and communities on how the funds should be used. These meetings occurred in person and virtually, including online surveys, emails and calls to provide their opinions.
4. She realized strategies were used differently by each group of stakeholders, depending on their respective priorities. However, recovery support system and housing recovery were two key factors that were common to all of them, followed by evidence-based treatments
5. During those community **meetings**, it was determined that the top three strategies that should be the priority in spending those funds were respectively the Recovery Support Services and the Recovery Housing, the Early Intervention Program, and the Addiction Treatment for Incarcerated Persons. In a community **survey** conducted to determine where the funds should be spent in priority, the top three strategies were the Evidence based Treatments, the Early Intervention Program and the Recovery Support Services and Recovery Housing.
6. During these different meetings, other approaches were created to help tackle this Opioid epidemic, including Smart Recovery Groups, Collegiate Recovery, Opioid Court, Enhanced Post Overdose Recovery Treatments and securing some spaces that would support this operation.
7. Few key themes stood out during meetings and participants concluded that there is a need for more staff, time, resources and funding. There is also a need for communication and coordination at the organizational level. Treatments and long-term detox were equally a concern because sometimes, residents must leave to get services somewhere else, notably the uninsured or the under insured. Finally, housing support is critical for someone who is going through a treatment as it can determine their success.
8. Recommendations:
 1. The first is to utilize up to \$800,000 in “Spring 2022” and “Summer 2022” payments to initiate an RFP process for multi-year pilot projects.
 2. Allocate \$10,000 to \$70,000 in funding for the purchase of Narcan and Syringe Service Programs, Vital Strategies will provide matching funds ranging from \$10,000 to \$70,000 for counties investing in these two strategies for up to 3 years and Cumberland County would commit to continued funding of at least 75% of their initial investment via the opioid settlement dollars for the duration of the 18-year period
 3. Implement a \$200,000 pilot project to support Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Cumberland County Detention Center, explore opportunities for MAT to be provide through the current jail health provider or initiate an RFP process, Funding could support

maintenance and/or initiation of MAT and Relaunch of Jail Health Committee Meeting.

4. Explore options to construct and/or lease a physical space for Residential Substance Use Facility, Recovery Community Center and Transitional housing. Capital expenditures, including construction, explicitly allowable under the MOU for the treatment of opioid use disorder only, explore other funding streams to support capital projects unrelated to treatment and using multiple years of funding.

9. Next steps:

1. Recommendations were approved unanimously by the County Commissioners
2. Meeting this week with Cumberland County Finance to develop the RFP
3. Meeting with Vital Strategies to discuss matching funds
4. Narcan Vending Machine Delivered on Tuesday
5. Jail Health Meetings resumes this week
6. MAT in Jails: Legal, Medical, Security, and Community Considerations
7. NC DHHS has opened a request for applications for the Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths (PDO) Grant

❖ Questions, comments and concerns.

1. Mr Charlton Roberson (NCRH) shared that there will be a block party on Saturday, September 17, 2022, from 2pm to 6pm. The address is VFW 301 Chance Street, Fayetteville. Everyone is invited to celebrate recovery and enjoy some food, games, music and more.