

Region 6 Network of Care and Prevention
Meeting Agenda
March 27, 2025
Location: Virtual via Teams



Welcome/Introductions/Housekeeping

Open Comment

DeVaughn Gentry-update on Alliance Food Pantry delivery program

- Delivery program has been cut due to budget constraints. Client or case manager will have to pick up directly from them. Open by appointment on Tues, Wed, and Thurs between 10:00am - 3:00pm (call 919-834-2437 and ask for Diane or DeVaughn). Open for walk-ins on Fridays 10:00am - 12:00pm.

Care Updates (Hailey Stout) –

- NC REEDs Pending vs in review
 - Highlight the difference between “Pending” and “In Review” application status. “Pending” means application is incomplete (i.e. missing information) that must be addressed before HMAP can continue processing.
- Network will now use NC REEDs to check RWB eligibility status before providing services. Previously Network used CAREWare to verify status but now required to use REEDs for this. Note that REEDs feeds RWB eligibility into CAREWare so this information will still be updated in CAREWare.
- Have received all final billing
- In the process of finalizing all site visits—reports going to agencies now.
- Dental Updates-Michael
 - Network received \$150,000 in January and another \$100,000 in February for one-time dental funding from the State.
 - Between 1/17 (or 1/21) and 3/22: 163 dental visits, 50 unique clients
 - Of the 50 clients, about 4 were unable to complete the entire dental treatment plan before end of March.
 - One dentist opened up a Saturday clinic to accommodate the sudden influx in dental patients who needed to be seen before end of RW year.
 - There were 5 clients who were referred for dental services but failed to show.
 - As of this morning, have been able to execute approx 91% (\$226,439) of the \$250,000.
 - Average \$4,538.79 per client.

HOPWA/Housing updates

- City of Durham HOPWA – Durham, Chatham, Granville, Orange, and Person Counties
 - Melva Henry and Zipora Tate— 25 approvals for month of January. Continuing to maintain prioritization list for STRMU and PHP.
 - HOPWA Durham EMSA referrals contact 919-560-7280.
- Duke Partners in Caring HOPWA – Lee, Vance, and Warren Counties
 - Angel Freeman—still waiting for 2025 contracts. However, they are still accepting applications for STRMU and PHP. They are able to provide limited assistance until they receive their final executed contracts.
- Wake HOPWA – Franklin, Johnston, and Wake Counties
 - Hermione Ruffin –STRMU and PHP funding available.
 - Crystal Russel, TBRA updates – continuing to maintain prioritization list. They have 73 on prioritization list for TBRA. Currently have 67 TBRA holders and 10 vacancies.
 - Maegan Mohr – new HOPWA housing supervisor at Wake Co
- RW Housing (TEC, ACRA, and CAARE)
 - ACRA, Brenda Ruffin
 - the Ryan White emergency bed will be available around the 31st for anyone homeless and LWH
 - Within next couple of months, expecting to have 1 female bed open at Blevins and possibly 2 male beds open.
 - CAARE, Carolyn Hinton
 - They have 3 Ryan White beds that are currently occupied. They have 2 additional people staying there without income who are staying for emergency housing needs.

Prevention Updates – DeCarlo

- ITTS funded agency updates:
 - Durham County, Dennis Hamlet— There are 2 openings for Public Health Educator to provide community testing education at Durham County Detention Center. No other updates.
 - Wake County, Ashley Bueno—The HIV/STD/Hep C Community program is fully staffed. In process of training new staff in prep for summer.
 - NCCU, Parrish Webster-Sloan—all positions filled, in process of training and gearing up for next semester.
 - CAARE - contracted with new ITTS specialist who is in process of being phlebotomy trained. New linkage with community partner in Sanford.
- DeCarlo presentation
 - In 2024, Region 6 conducted 7,889 HIV tests and made 79 PrEP referrals.
 - The 2024 goal was 316 PrEP referrals.
 - Awaiting 2025 project goal from the State for PrEP referrals but expected to be similar to 2024 goal of 316.
 - Region's goal is to increase the number of PrEP referrals from 79 in 2024 to meet the project target in 2025 State Fiscal Year.
 - Plan for ITTS Prevention agencies to meet in April for brainstorming session to discuss strategies for increasing PrEP referrals in 2025.
 - Today's presentation will be emailed to Prevention agencies to review.

- As develop Region's strategic plan for increasing PrEP referrals in 2025, will also collaborate with Durham County's Ending the Epidemic plan and Carissa Harding on State's strategic plan for Ending the HIV Epidemic.

RQI – State meeting date pushed back where we will provide input on the new projects going forward.

- Carissa Harding-
 - The next RQI meeting will be in May and the remaining agencies will share the outcomes of their QI projects. QI project data and input from agencies will be reviewed with goal to identify best practices and identify next RQI project.
 - There will be 1 RQI project this year for the Care agencies and 1 RQI project for the Prevention agencies.

State Updates –

- Prevention, Eric Davis— minor budget cuts have been made. Still waiting on federal notice of awards. Email this morning from DHHS about budget cuts—appears to be related to COVID funding and does not appear to impact HIV funding at this time.

“No one can whistle a symphony; it takes an orchestra...”

- Linda Connor- gratitude to Network, multiple agencies who have assisted with some challenging situations.
- Brenda Ruffin- shout out to Carolyn and CAARE who was able to open up space for client who walked in to ACRA in need of emergency housing/shelter this winter.
- Sarah Schmidt- express appreciation to Carolyn and CAARE for their assistance with client
- Parrish Webster-Sloan- shout out to DeCarlo, Dennis, and Dennis's team for onboarding and welcoming.
- Hailey Stout- Thanks to our HOPWA agencies for collaboration and community.

Open Comment

Upcoming Meetings: (Last Thursday of odd numbered months except November at 1:30om):

- ~~March 27, 2025~~
- May 29, 2025
- July 31, 2025
- August 28, 2025 (RW Budget)
- September 25, 2025 (in-person at Wake County Health Department 10 Sunnybrook Rd. Raleigh)
- November 20, 2025 (Held one week earlier due to Thanksgiving holiday)