

Region 6 Network of Care and Prevention
Meeting Agenda
May 29, at 1:30pm
Location: Virtual via Teams



Welcome/Introductions/Housekeeping

Open Comment
Care Updates (Hailey Stout)

- Highlight the tool created by Andrew Farr, Wake Co. Community Health Supervisor: List and Map HIV care in NC.
 - Map: https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1pL2qVduWubUPU_dU8uLsjxdh0li5P1Y&usp=sharing.
 - Spreadsheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BYTABH7rY-hZVqMJ_hePHf1vBZqsZjp-/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109425094976716832449&rtpof=true&sd=true
 - Encouraged to share tool and email Andrew.Farr@wake.gov directly with any updates or edits.
- Found new dental provider in Roxboro and they are in process setting up their vendor with Wake County.
- Contracts/Budget
 - Contracts – All information has been sent to the Contracts office.
 - Budget
 - Notification of award is different this year because the federal government is operating on a continuing resolution. As a result, the federal government sends out a partial notification of award.
 - In past when the state received partial notice of award, the state has gone ahead and provided the full award funding amount with the understanding that the full amount of the federal award is coming. However this year, the state has decided to only send the partial notice of awards for the funds already received.
 - Hailey shares on screen the Notice of Award letter received
 - The Wake County contracts office is still doing the contracts for the full 12 month budget as previously submitted to the state. Contracts always include a clause about agencies being subcontractors of Wake with the federal funding while available. This means the contract funds are contingent on the Fed fund distribution.
 - As a result, Hailey is having to look at potential impact to FFS
- Fee For Service (FFS)
 - Potential impact to FFS for F 2025/2026 given partial notice of award.
 - FFS categories and Network funding FY 2024/2025 vs FY 2025/2026.
 - Health Insurance Premium
 - FY 24/25 Original Budget: \$1800 FY 24/25 Spent: \$4180
 - FY 25/26 Budget: \$1800
 - Health Insurance Cost Sharing
 - FY 24/25 Original Budget: \$4260 FY 24/25 Spent: \$22,805

- FY 25/26 Budget: \$3,485
 - This category has increased significantly over the past few years
- Emergency Financial Assistance
 - FY 24/25 Original Budget: \$3000 FY 24/25 Spent: \$7314
 - FY 25/26 Budget: \$3000
- Housing
 - FY 24/25 Original Budget: FY 24/25 Spent:
 - FY 25/26 Budget:
- Oral Health
 - FY24/25 Original Budget: \$36,000 FY 24/25 Spent: \$305,380
 - The State provided an additional \$250,000 for oral health funding and the Network also added \$19,380 in additional funds to oral health.
 - FY 25/26 is \$36,000.
 - All dental funds are currently pledged out for 6 months however still continue to send oral health referrals to Network.
- There are a couple of ways that network was able to move money into FFS categories for FY2024/2025. One example is when an agency has a lapse salary from open position. Warren Vance was able to use 340B funding last year to help cover some of their costs. Network received the additional \$250,000 for oral health care from the State.
- Lapsed salaries have been used to help cover or offset costs (example above with lapse salary) however this year is the first year in Network budget where no agency's salaries are fully covered. Agencies are now responsible for covering any salary increases. As a result, if there is any lapse salary due to open position, the agency will likely use this amount to cover the other employee's salary increase submitted with the budget. Remember we can't move money between agencies without a vote but agencies can move money within an agency without a vote.
- FY 24/25 Service Outcomes
 - Hailey ran report in CAREWare and the Network provided nearly 12,000 services total for FY 24/25.
 - This does not represent number of unique clients served. One client may have received multiple services. For example, the same client may have received bridge counselor services and then later received medical case management services.
 - There was not one agency who provided all of the services which speaks to the teamwork and collaboration among agencies within our Network.

HOPWA/Housing updates

- RW Housing (ACRA, CAARE, and TEC) – Hailey/Agencies
 - ACRA, Brenda Ruffin.
 - Brenda not on call. Hailey with ACRA update—ACRA currently has 1 Ryan White room that is occupied. The room was vacant in April and filled in May.
 - RW housing is intended to be short term and temporary solution. Even though RW housing can be used for up to a max of 24 months, ideally the client will not need to stay this long in RW housing. While in RW housing, the client actively works with social worker and other supportive services to find and transition to a more permanent housing solution.
 - TEC

- Hailey introduced Walter Boone, the new TEC associate director.
 - Walter message from chat: *“Hello I’m here but my mic is not working. Everything Hailey is saying is correct. W.boone@triempowerment.org. Our agency uses those funds to help those who qualify for RW services to receive funding for our emergency /transitional housing program. The program has gone from a 12 bedroom property to satellite locations and has been used to pay the rent for those that are approved.”*
 - TEC client received section 8 voucher and moved out of RW space. TEC has new client moving into the space June 1st.
 - For new for referrals, email Walter with Hailey copied on email.
- Healing with CAARE
 - Carolyn not on call. Hailey with CAARE update—CAARE’s two RW rooms are currently occupied.
 - Hailey announces that CAARE has a new executive director: Ebony Elliot Covington. CAARE transition to new director is in process. Hailey will be meeting with Ebony next week. No contact info to share as of yet but once contact info available, Hailey will share with Network.
- City of Durham HOPWA – Durham, Chatham, Granville, Orange, and Person Counties
 - Melva Henry, Durham EMSA –
 - DSS/City of Durham will no longer be providing case management, STRMU, and PHP in the Durham EMSA effective 6/30/25.
 - DSS has asked to stop receiving new clients after 5/30/25. However, they will receive referrals from 5/30/25 until 6/20/25. The City of Durham is in process of working through this transition and have an upcoming meeting to solidify transition plan. Once there is a transition plan, Melva will update Region 6 Network.
 - Carla Pike—In April, 1 household was approved for PHP funding and 3 households were approved for STRMU.
- Duke Partners in Caring HOPWA – Lee, Vance, and Warren Counties
 - Angel Freeman—
 - No TBRA slots available but are accepting referrals for waitlist.
 - Still waiting for executed contract for STRMU. Duke PIC is still receiving applications for STRMU and staffing these applications as they come in.
 - Currently no PHP funds available.
 - Suzette Curry – Thank you to the Network for the letter of support. The RFP and letter of support was submitted to Durham EMSA and they are waiting to hear back soon. The RFP submitted would supportive services in Chatham and Granville County for 8/1/2025 – 7/31/2026. Supportive services would include things such as CM, advocacy, life skills development, housing services coordination, mental health, and substance use referrals. Their goal is to provide 132 clients with supportive services.
- Wake HOPWA – Franklin, Johnston, and Wake Counties
 - Crystal Russel, TBRA updates: Currently have 63 TBRA vouchers in use. There are 3 new voucher recipients this month who are searching for housing. There are 6 TBRA slots available.
 - Hermione Ruffin, STRMU and PHP updates— As of today for this fiscal year, they have spent \$180,000 on STRMU and \$20,000 on PHP. Still accepting referrals for PHP and STRMU.

Prevention Updates (DeCarlo Brady)

- Durham County
 - Dennis Hamlet

- Durham Co is hiring for Public Health Educator. Job will be posted today and link will be shared with Network.
 - Dennis emphasized Hailey's comments about Healing with CAARE and supporting their transition to new director. For any prevention related needs or correspondence, include Dennis on email. Dennis will then coordinate with Ebony to ensure continuity of services provided during this transition.
- Wake County
 - Joel Lutterman—Most of Wake Co team is currently away at conference.
 - Nikita Spears—
 - Wake is hiring for two open positions: testing counselor and nursing supervisor.
 - Upcoming Raleigh events throughout month of June. National Testing day in June. One such event is movie showing at the Rialto 6/25/2025 where Wake will be providing education and participating in roundtable discussion around HIV and preventative services.
 - Wake is working with the Child Welfare Division and their HIV STI Community Task Force to put on a youth summit 8/2/2025 at the McKinnon Center. It is still in the planning stages but the summit focus will be on education around HIV, STIs, debunking stigma, and importance of social media platforms. Anticipating about 150 youth in attendance.

DeCarlo presentation comparing PrEP Referral Trends 2024 Q1 versus 2025 Q1

- 2024 Q1
 - 2171 HIV tests were conducted
 - 8 new HIV positive cases
 - 1070 (55%) eligible for PrEP referrals
 - 20 (1%) clients referred and made PrEP appointments
 - 1811 (93%) screened for PrEP referral
- 2025 Q1
 - 1405 HIV tests were conducted
 - 3 new HIV positive cases
 - 1067 (85%) eligible for PrEP referrals
 - 33 (3%) clients referred and made PrEP appointments
 - 1261 (100%) screened for PrEP referral
- While the total number of HIV tests decreased from 2024 Q1 to 2025 Q1, the PrEP referral program became more efficient, with a higher percentage of eligible individuals and higher PrEP referral rate. This suggests that the program is reaching a more targeted population and effectively connecting to PrEP services.
- Continued monitoring and analysis of these metrics can help the program further refine its strategies and maximize its impact.
- Reach out to DeCarlo if anything the Network can do to support your agency with training, navigating the referral process, or any other ideas you may have.

RQI – WCHS Retention/Suppression by Housing Status (Hailey Stout)

- Next State RQI meeting will be in August to identify the next RQI projects for the Network.
- Hailey presentation on new Wake County RQI project that started last week
 - Wake Co Ryan White clinic seeks to increase retention in care and viral suppression in two target groups for 2025: African American MSM and non-stably housed individuals.
 - CAREWare was used to pull data and generate client lists.

- Retention definition and current retention rate for Wake clinic overall and target groups
- Viral Suppression rates for Wake clinic overall and target groups

State Updates –

- RQC-QI—No one present to give update. Hailey reminded that next State RQI meeting will be in August.
- Care—No one present to give update.
- Prevention
 - Eric Davis—As of today, no update on awards. The new contracts are supposed to start 6/1. Primarily waiting for the NOA for HIV Prevention and Surveillance Grant which funds the bulk of prevention activities. There is concern about this delay but Prevention anticipates having award by the end of June. It will be a partial award. They expect there will be cuts but do not know the extent of the cuts yet. They are continuing to advocate as hard as they can for this work. While they anticipate reimbursement for any services done after 6/1, cannot guarantee this because don't actually have the funding yet. Reach out to Eric Davis with any agency concerns and Eric can relay up to chain so that everyone understands where a particular agency position is.
 - Regarding providing services after 6/1 with our guaranteed reimbursement, this is uncharted territory for everyone. We haven't been in this position before where still haven't received NOA so close to a new funding cycle. This affecting programs across the country. As soon as they receive more information, they will communicate to everyone.
 - Eric shared link to press release: <https://ncaan.org/ncdhhs-partners-highlight-importance-of-hiv-work-amid-federal-funding-cuts/>
- HOPWA—No one present to give updates.

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

- Hailey Stout—shout out to ACRA and TEC for their teamwork and collaboration to support client with housing transition. Commended Wake County HOPWA for their work with clients.
- Brad Caison—shout out to Quanna Norman at Durham County for efforts with PrEP referrals

Open Comment

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

- **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)