

Region 6 Network of Care and Prevention
Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2026 at 1:30pm
Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Meeting begins at 12:07 PM

Welcome/Introductions/Housekeeping

Open Comment

Christopher Mack introduction. Invitation to new Region 6 members to introduce themselves.
Keishma James from City of Durham Neighborhood Services Dept. introduction.
Dr. Michael Pullen from City of Durham Community Development Manager in Housing and Neighborhood Services introduction.

John Rowell Jr. Associate Director of Prevention at the Alliance of a Services – Carolina introduction.

Keisha Williams (Wake Co Clinics A & B) – Discussion of new Public Health Center.

- Last day seeing patients at 10 Sunnybrook Rd is Feb 13th.
- Clinics will be closed Feb 16th-20th
- Services resume February 23rd in new building (200 Swinburne St, Raleigh)
- More info available at wake.gov

Executive Committee Nominations for Parliamentarian and Secretary

Hailey Stout: Information re: executive committee, by-laws, time commitment was sent on January 20th. Opens floor for volunteers or nominations to Parliamentarian and Secretary roles.

Andrew Farr volunteers for Secretary role after discussion of attendance and two volunteers came forward as back up in case of Andrew's absence (Sarah Williams, Crystal Russell). Sarah Williams makes a motion to vote on Andrew Farr to fill Secretary position, Linda Connor seconds motion. Vote moved to chat for voting members.

Discussion of Parliamentarian role, support, and time commitment by Hailey Stout and Dennis Hamlet. Sharon Jackson explains requirements of bylaws, someone will be assigned if no one volunteers.

Sarah Williams volunteers for Parliamentarian role. Wanda Henderson makes a motion to vote on Sarah Williams to fill Parliamentarian position, Amy Durr seconds motion. Vote moved to chat for voting members.

HOPWA/Housing updates

- RW Housing (ACRA, CAARE, and TEC)
Brenda Ruffin, ACRA – 3 spaces available at Blevins House (Ryan White room, male room, female room), and individuals are being certified to fill those slots. No vacancies at Fitz Powell. Applications being accepted for waiting list.
TEC – no representative, no update
Healing with CAARE – no representative, no update
Hailey Stout gives brief description of Ryan White housing funds.



- City of Durham HOPWA – Durham, Chatham, Granville, Orange, and Person Counties
Contessa Sawyer, Durham HOPWA – Data from December: three approvals, maintaining prioritization list for TBRA vouchers, still have STRMU and PHP funds available. Reminder: they serve Durham, Chatham, Person, Orange, and Granville counties. Referral form is available and has been sent out. Can always be reached at 919-560-7280.
Hayley Cunningham question for Durham HOPWA – in last 3 to 6 months, how many referrals were received and how many were approved vs denied? Contessa Sawyer: Data not immediately available, but could be pulled. Requested Hayley send her an e-mail.
 - Duke Partners in Caring HOPWA – Lee, Vance, and Warren Counties
Angel Freeman, Duke Partners in Caring – Still awaiting executed contract. Still accepting applications based on pre-award funds. Serve Lee, Vance and Warren Counties. Shared e-mail and phone number in chat.
Hailey Stout question for Duke Partners in Caring – Question about funds coming, but awaiting contract.
Bob Winstead, NC DHHS HIV Care Program Manager – All HOPWA contracts were submitted to contract office in June 2025. There is a new internal review process for the state, started in January 2025. Appreciate everyone's patience. All contracts should have been sent out for agency signatures, and a few have been executed.
Rhonda McCloud – HOPWA 7 executed, waiting on HOPWA 6.
- Sarah Williams asks question for clients who own a mobile home but rent a lot, are they eligible for vouchers? Hermoine Ruffin answered – As long as the mobile home is attached to the ground, they are eligible.
- Wake HOPWA – Franklin, Johnston, and Wake Counties
Linda Gordon, rental Assistance Supervisor for Wake HOPWA – On track to have 73 TBRA vouchers in use. Additional referrals are being taken through Coordinated Entry system. Almost at capacity. Waiting list is through Coordinated Entry's By-Name List.
Crystal Russell, Wake HOPWA - Coordinated Entry's By-Name List is lengthy right now.
Hermione Ruffin, Housing Social Worker Supervisor for STRMU and PHP Program – Still have funds available for Wake, Johnston, and Franklin Counties. Asked question about availability of HUD trainings.
Bob Winstead, NC DHHS HIV Care Program Manager – NCDHHS is not offering any trainings, and the HUD website has had much information deleted. Suggested agencies reach out to their HUD Project Manager for more information.

Prevention Updates – Chris Mack

2025 Review of Region 6 funded agencies (Wake PH, Durham PH, AAS-C, NCSU Student Health

HIV

- Total HIV testing of community members: 5176
- 29 positive HIV tests, for a 0.56% positivity rate
- 11 of those 29 were new diagnosed (38%), 18 (68%) previously diagnosed
- Testing numbers and positive test numbers have decreased annually since 2023, possibly attributable to several factors
- Some December 2025 data is still being entered and numbers may change
- Positivity goal is 1%, and we are declining away from that goal

Syphilis

- Total Syphilis testing of community members: 4131
- 51 positive syphilis tests, for a 1.23% positivity rate
- Positivity goal is 1%, so that goal was met
- Testing numbers and positive test numbers have decreased annually since 2023

Co-Infection

- Chlamydia tests = 3772, with 224 positive tests, for a positivity rate of 5.94%
- Gonorrhea tests = 3771, with 67 positive tests, for a 1.78% positivity rate
- Hep C tests = 3743, with 55 positive tests, for a 1.47% positivity rate

PrEP Outcomes

- 4046 people screened for PrEP referral
- 3283 eligible for PrEP referral
- 59 referred for PrEP
- 2024=77 referrals, 2023=88 referrals, so we are on a steady decline
- Goal for 2026 is to get PrEP referrals back to 70+

Other Updates

- In-person initial meetings with each agency is still ongoing
- Completed new streamlined referral process for PrEP
- Quarter 4 quarterly report due on Feb 15, 2026, so please send in any data from that quarter
- Will send each agency an end of year snapshot
- Please reach out to Chris Mack as a prevention resource
- No response yet from state re: updated PrEP referral linkage forms
- Amy Durr asked for a breakdown of the major barriers between those eligible for PrEP referrals and those receiving them

Individual Prevention Updates by Agency

- Dennis Hamlet, Durham County – ECU has a position vacancy. Dennis will be on leave from Feb 3rd for 12 weeks. Quanna Norman will be filling in for him while he is gone.
- Brad Caison, Navigator Durham Co – His role will expand to include some Case Management services internally and will expand to external partners eventually. Possibly focused on new positives.
- Nikita Spears, Wake Co HIV/STD/Hep C Community Program Manager – Highlighted Wake Co World AIDS Day event and Ashley Bueno for leading the planning committee. Health Educator position is open, position closes tomorrow. Highlighted Under One Roof and HIV/STD Clinics for hosting Holly Wall Deputy Chief of Staff for HRSA on Dec 4th. Highlighted Teen Winter Kickback on Feb 16th at Urban Air.
- John Rowell, Associate Director of Prevention at the Alliance of a Services – Carolina – New to role. Establishing new testing sites. Filling new roles. Youth education with Temple Beth Or in February. Education program with Next gen in Johnston County.
- Hailey Stout – last RFA there was a focus on working with youth, and it has been difficult in the past. Both Wake Co and AAS-C have plans in the works to target youth.

RQI - Hailey Stout/Chris Mack

- **HIV Care:** Identify barriers and facilitators for achieving viral suppression for persons who are not stably housed and/or receiving state funded HOPWA services.
Hailey Stout: Regional Quality Council – Wake Co and Lincoln Community Health Center have volunteered to participate. Met recently to discuss measurement process.
- **HIV Prevention:** Improve PrEP awareness among non-traditional audiences (e.g., women, youth, and rural communities).
Chris Mack: One agency needed to volunteer for the prevention side of the Regional Quality Council. Looking at Wake County.

Linda Connor's Presentation for Duke Pediatrics ID – Ending the Epidemic: Reducing Mother to Child Transmission of HIV

- Engage and Embrace
- NC CAHN Data Statewide
- Data Points Continued
- Interventions to Reduce MTCT
- Barriers to EHE Among Population Focus
- Caressa Harding with NCDHSS requested slides be sent out and praised the presentation

Future Presentations (Hailey Stout)

- Wake and Durham Prevention will present in September and November
- Warren Vance is next in March
- Will look into who volunteered to present in May and July

Continuation of HIV Care Slides

- Hailey Stout: Wake Co Board of Commissioners accepted additional funding. Subcontractors' final invoices need to be sent in by March 23rd. Items being purchased must be here to be invoiced, cannot be on the way here.
- Michael McNeill explained situation with Healing With CAARE, including a detailed timeline of how Wake tried to keep HWC in compliance. Wake will not be able to contract with HWC for next fiscal year, HWC owes Wake money which Wake then owes to the state. Request from Wak to move HWC funds to Wake Co line items to cover the cost of those reimbursements.
- Sandra Gomez, Lincoln Community Health Center – Asks: Can the network use resources to assist agencies if they are struggle with technical issues, finance, or service delivery? If the money is given back to Wake County's line item budget, does Wake Co then have to house those individuals CAARE would have housed?
 - Michael McNeill answers: The money could be applied to a different line item within Wake's budget.
 - Hailey Stout answers: A chunk of that money has already been spent on housing issues from across the network to avoid people losing housing or utilities since the money was intended for housing needs originally. Some money may be added to John Brown's position funding for quality improvement projects, as Wake County is the only funded agency that does not have their staff fully funded.
- Sandra Gomez, Lincoln Community Health Center – Asks: Can Michael McNeill repeat his request for the network, and can the network know how much money we are discussing?
 - Micheal McNeill answers: The request to the network is that Wake be able to reclaim \$4013.67 from one of HWC's non-service line items.
- Amy Durr, UNC – Makes a motion to vote to move \$4013.67 from HWC budget line to Wake County. Wanda Henderson seconds the motion. The vote is moved to the chat. Votes passes with seven (7) yeses.
- Hailey Stout and Michael McNeill discuss: Region received an extra \$600,000, and \$375,000 of that request was in dental. 106 people were referred for dental services, 6 have not kept appts or responded, so 100 people are scheduled or have received services (90+ people have already received a service). We have already received over \$200,000 in treatment plans to be able to pledge out. Please refer clients in need of dental care services to Hailey Stout. Individual treatment plans have ranged from \$40 to \$1400.
 - Brenda Ruffin asks in chat: Does a dental referral have to come from a Case Manager?
 - Hailey Stout answers that it does not, and Brenda can e-mail her to make a referral happen.

State Updates –

- Listening sessions and surveys (outcomes and gift cards)
- Hailey Stout: Thanks to agencies who promoted listening sessions. The groups were not very large, but the information gathered was very helpful.

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

Open Comment: Thank-yous, shout outs, and collaboration highlights

- Sandra Gomez, Lincoln Community Health Center – LCHC has hired a new data manager, and John Brown and Michael McNeill have been helping to train that new person (Maria) as she had not previously worked in the HIV field.
- Hailey Stout thanks Shannon at UNC and Angel at Duke Partners in Caring for working with a client across program lines to assist with housing. John Brown also played a pivotal role.
- Hailey Stout gives shout out to Amy Carmen at Duke Adult ID who assisted with getting a patient into a hotel after a medical discharge from the hospital.
- Hailey Stout gives shout out to Samone Barnes at Wake Co Under One Roof who assisted with getting a patient into a hotel.

Meeting ends at 2:23 PM

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

- March 26th
- May 28th
- July 30th
- August 27th (Ryan White 2027/2028 budget meeting)
- September 24th
- November 19th