

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

Meeting start: 1:33 pm

Welcome/Introductions/Housekeeping

Intro: Chris Mack (welcome)

New participants:

- **Will Woodhouse, MD & Justin Frye, PA** – Duke Adult ID (specifically, *new* Duke Raleigh ID Clinic)
 - o Seeing more patients for long-acting injectables (Yestugo)

Duke PrEP phone number: 919-385-0436

Duke Raleigh Front Desk Number: 919-862-5573

Patients/teams should specifically mention they are interested in HIV/PrEP/Hep C when they call in so that front desk knows to schedule.

My email is will.woodhouse@duke.edu. Please reach out for anything!

- **Allison Hargrove** - Chief Business Intelligence Officer (PI) for CommWell's Ryan White Program
- **Dorothy Dow, MD** – Duke Pediatric Infectious Diseases
- **Sharlene Popplewell** - Funding Programs Coordinator, City of Durham

Presentation:

Dr. José Félix Colón-Burgos, University of Florida; FIESTA Training (787-547-5536; jcolonburgos@ufl.edu)

- Focused **I**ntervention for **E**stimulated men strengthening their **T**ies through **A**ffect regulation
 - o Collaborative Research for Community Impact (Colectivo Collaboratory)
 - o Aims: Increase positive affect of participants; decrease stimulant use (meth, cocaine, crack, Rx amphetamines)
 - o Participants:
 - Spanish/Bilingual speakers
 - Not taking PrEP

Nathan Hansen, PhD, University of Georgia, College of Public Health

- SMASH study (southern Georgia)
 - o Looking at sexualized drug use/chemsex practice among men in the south
 - o Using stress process model – Linking stress to sexualized drug use
 - o Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) Research Design/Data Collection
 - o Method: Complete brief micro-surveys multiple times/day across study duration
 - In depth interviews with 20 BGMSM engaging in sexualized drug use
 - 20 Key informants knowledgeable about sex drug use



- o Aims:
 - Identify features of sexualized drug use
 - Harm reduction approaches that may be useful
- o Goal: collect data from 142 men for longitudinal data

Care Updates – Hailey Stout

- **Ryan White/HMAP reenrollment**
 - o Re-enrollment period started 7/1/26
 - o All clients not certified by 12/31 will lose coverage 1/1/27
 - Recert applications can be submitted late (10/1 – 12/31)
 - Jeopardizes clients' ability to sign up for ICAP or PCAP for 2027.
 - Recert apps not approved by 12/31 will be canceled
 - New applications will need to be completed and submitted in the new year
 - o NCREEDSHelp@dhhs.nc.gov
 - o HMAP manual has been updated
 - o Linda Connor – NCREEDS system challenging for CARE patients
 - Help desk responsive on 1:1 basis
 - System/Site structural changes have yet to happen
- DeVaughn Gentry – recertifications in progress
- Crystal Russell – TBRA clients have started being recertified at clinic visits.
- **Salary letters and updated fringe**
 - o Please submit salary/fringe projection letters by Monday, 8/24
- **Schedule Budget Meeting for August and September**
 - o 8/27/26
- **Oral Health:**
 - o Orig budget \$36K – additional \$302,016 provided to be spent by 9/30/26
 - o Invoiced \$195K April - June
 - o Plans to spend additional \$302K by 9/30/26
 - o Additional \$100K to Wake BOC – Must be spent by 3/31/27
- **FFS Updates:**
 - o FFS Budgets:
 - Medical nutritional treatment: 93% spent down (by early June) with only \$198 remaining of \$2800
 - Housing: Expended 51% of annual budget (\$28K/\$55K)
 - On track to spend by 11/30 (typically a large influx of requests in winter)
 - Emergency financial support – spent down 30%
- **Housing, website and expenditures**
 - o Increased website visitors:
 - 509 in 2025 vs 1212 in 2026

- Related to housing assistance: 171 vs 308

HOPWA/Housing updates

- SRO Housing
 - Walter Boone, Triangle Empowerment Center
 - Project underway
 - Local referral partners supporting for housing (HIV+, transgender)
- Healing with CARE: No updates presented
- ACRA (Brenda Ruffin)
 - Accepting referrals
 - Single room occupied
- City of Durham HOPWA – Durham, Chatham, Granville, Orange, and Person Counties
 - Keishma James (City of Durham HOPWA Grantee (administering TBRA)):
 - Staff transition
 - Resumed accepting referrals
 - 15 referrals since April
 - 9 housed
 - Current: 23 participants
 - Question: Are you taking referrals from the other counties outside of Durham in the HOPWA region?
Yes
 - Carla Pike (Social Worker II, Durham DSS, HOPWA)
 - Durham STRMU/PHP:
 - Funds remaining
 - Internally maintaining waiting list for Durham
- Duke Partners in Caring HOPWA – Lee, Vance, and Warren Counties
 - Angel Freeman (HOPWA Coordinator):
 - No availability for TBRA; Accepting referrals for waitlist
 - Accepting referrals for STRMU and PHP (funds available)
 - Accepting referrals for supportive services needs
 - Have experienced increase in referrals

- Wake HOPWA – Franklin, Johnston, and Wake Counties
 - Crystal Russell (LCSW Supervisor, Wake County HOPWA TBRA):
 - 71 vouchers in use; waiting list managed through CoC
 - Hermione Ruffin (Wake County HOPWA Housing Social Worker Supervisor, STRMU/PHP):
 - Last calendar year – Spent all funds
 - 7/1/26 – increased STRMU referrals; funding available for STRMU/PHP (less than previous year)
 - Only 2 social workers

Prevention Updates – Chris Mack: FY 6/1/25-5/31/26

Agencies funded: Wake County, Durham County, NCCU, Alliance of AIDS Services

- All HIV tests: 5277
 - Positive: 29
 - New diagnosis: 12
 - Previously diagnosed: 17
- Syphilis tests: 4184
 - Positive (new): 68
- Gonorrhea tests: 4207
 - Positive 249
- Chlamydia tests – 4204
 - Positive 89
- Hep C – 3851
 - Positive 99
- PrEP outcomes:
 - Screened 4071
 - Eligible 2913
 - Referred/appt scheduled: 96
 - Linked/appts made: 55

Non funded agencies – UNC ID/SHAC, DUKE-Know your status, TEC, Samaritan Health Ctr, CAARE, Warrne Vance CHC

- All HIV tests: 363
 - Positive 1
- Syphilis tests: 167
 - Positive 1
- Gonorrhea/Chlamydia tests: 151
 - Positive 2 (G)
 - Positive 1 (C)

- Hep C tests: 169
 - o Positive 0
- PrEP: 254 screened; 158 eligible; 2 referred; 2 linked

Looking ahead:

- Continue to push targeted testing
- PrEP referrals – goal: 100
- Fostered collaboration – Chris available to team
- Thinking outside of the box to enhance retention/linkage
- Site Visits

Questions/updates:

- John Rowell, Alliance: Jr., MPH, Associate Director of Prevention, Alliance of AIDS Service - Carolina
 - o September: (with LGBT Center/Raleigh) Yard Sale
 - Accepting items M-Th
 - 3109 Poplarwood Court, unit 200, Raleigh
 - o Annual 5k: 10/31/26, aidswalkand5krun.itsyourrace.com/register/
 - Flyers will be sent to Chris/Hailey
 - Wear costumes!
 - Questions: John.Rowell@aas-c.org or ED Tiffany.Hickman@aas-c.org

RQI Updates - Hailey Stout/Chris Mack

- Ashley Bueno, Wake County Public Health:
 - o QI project – increasing PrEP participants
 - Night clinic – M-Th 5p-8p
 - Appointment reminder cards
 - Client assessment for each new client for testing
 - Collaborating with community partners
 - Goal:
 - o Improve client participation
 - o Gaps identified – strategies being evaluated to address

NC EtE – WCHS – Ryan White

Upcoming presenters –

- July – Duke Partners in Caring - HOPWA
- September – Durham ITTS
- November – WCHS - ITTS

State Updates

RQC-QI

- Cindy Britt, Region 5
 - o Current project:
Identifying best practices for addressing barriers and facilitators to achieving viral suppression among people living with HIV (PLWH) who are not stably housed and/or receiving state-funded HOPWA services.
 - Outcomes to date:
 - Identified 12 individuals living with HIV who are at risk of losing their housing.
 - Given the significant impact that housing instability has on engagement in care and viral suppression, we are bringing together community partners and stakeholders to discuss challenges, share experiences, and explore potential solutions.

CARE: No updates

PREVENTION

- Eric Davis
 - o New staff:
 - Christina Clay-James, HIV/STI Program Manager
 - Margaret Watkins, Contracts Coordinator
 - o Fully funded for 2026-2027 Contract period
 - o Have applied for supplemental CDC funds – awaiting answer
 - Funds to be used:
 - Electronic ordering
 - Testing lab

HOPWA

- Melinda Whitted – entering 2027 HOPWA contracts

“No one can whistle a symphony; it takes an orchestra...” – H.E. Luccock

Open Comment/ Close of regular meeting

Shout outs:

- Warren Vance funding
- Duke Raleigh ID
- Will Torres & Hailey Stout – inviting the guest speakers to the meeting.

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

- August 27th (Ryan White 2027/2028 budget meeting)
- September 24th
- November 19th

Meeting concluded: 2:55 pm