

STROKE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2024

1 - 2:00 pm

Members/Partners

Present: Wally Ainsworth, NC OEMS; Sarah Arthur, Novant Health (NH); Sue Ashcraft, NH; Andrew Asimos, SAC member, Atrium Health; Eric Bell, NC Office on Rural Health (ORH); Sharon Biby, SAC member, Cone Health; Allisen Blair, ECU Health; Denise Brewster, WISEWOMAN, DPH; Anna Bess Brown, Executive Director, Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force (JWTF); Stacey Burgin, Coverdell Stroke Program (CSP), CCCPH, DPH; Matt Ciancarelli, J&J; Judy Clark, NH Greater Winston-Salem; Michael Clay, ECU Health North; Arnett Coleman, SAC member, Old North State Medical Society; Sylvia Coleman, CSP; Kat Combs, JWTF member, YMCA Triangle; Michelle Comp, Novant Health (NH) Thomasville; Dana Davis, UNC Health Pardee; Carissa Dehlin, NH Greater Charlotte; Rizza De la Guerra, J&J; Karissa Del Hoyo, NH Kernersville MC; Tina Dotson, NH Rowan; Chelsea Dunston, Atrium Health Cabarrus; Nada El Hussein, Duke; Abby Fairbank, AHA; Melissa Freeman, Duke Health; Nicole Funk, Onslow Memorial Hospital; Rebecca Gainey, Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC); Nicholas Galvez, ORH; Jennifer Graziano, AHA of the Triad; Kim Gurley, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist (AWFB); Lindsey Haynes-Maslow, Task Force member, UNC; Michael Hendershot, Doshier Memorial; Ed Jauch, SAC member, Mountain Area Health Education Center; Robin Jones, SAC member; Di Laues, Fayetteville VA; Erin Lewis, UNC Rex; Kristin Love, NH; Sandy Maney, Genentec; Irini McCarthy, AHA; Liliana Marin, AHA; Jenny McConnell, Atrium Health Stanly; Lucinda McLean, Columbus Regional; Kim McDonald, Chronic Disease & Injury (CDI), DPH; Phil Mendys, UNC; Terri Moore, CSP, DPH; Margaret Murchison, JWTF member, WFJA radio; Kathy Nadareski, WakeMed; Sharon Nelson, CDI, DPH; Peg O'Connell, Chair, Stroke Advisory Council; Sarah O'Neal, WakeMed; Gaurang Palikh, SAC member, Neurologist, Shelby; Diane Perkins, Atrium Health, Charlotte; William Pertet, Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health (CCCPH), DPH; Melissa Papadopoulos, CCCPH, DPH; Joey Propst, JWTF member; Julia Retelski, Atrium Health; Eugene Reynolds, JWTF member, Kintegra Health; Jennifer Rhines, Telespecialists; Ciara Rukse, WISEWOMAN, DPH; Tara Scotland, AWFB; Birtha Shaw, Totally Committed Diabetic Supply, Inc.; Margaret Sharp, Eastern NC AHA; Beatrice Siaw, UNC; Tish Singletary, CCCPH, DPH; Staci Smith, FirstHealth; Marlene Sosa, Atrium Pineville; Donna Spurrier, J&J; Mitzi Stanish, Northern Regional Hospital; Lauren Stevenson, NHRMC; Gwen Wise-Blackman, Minority Women's Health; Erika Yourkiewicz, NHRMC.

Welcome and Introductions

Peg O'Connell, SAC Chair

Stroke Advisory Council chair Peg O'Connell welcomed everyone and invited those attending a Stroke Advisory Council meeting for the first time to become involved with the work.

Coverdell Stroke Program Update

Terri Moore, Stroke Program Coordinator

Terri explained that we will soon be in the process of applying for the next round of funding for the Coverdell Acute Stroke Program and will be asking for Letters of Support and thanked everyone in advance for their assistance.

Coverdell Program partners have successfully started the second half of the third and final year of this round of funding.

- All Coverdell partners have been working on establishing protocols to monitor disparities, have reviewed this data and identified gaps in care and patient needs, and have worked on tracking Social Drivers of Health and directing their outreach and educational efforts to populations in need or at risk.
- We will hear from Northern Regional Hospital on their amazing work at the June 13th virtual SAC meeting, so please make plans to attend.
- Another strategy that our partners are implementing is to “Facilitate the engagement of health care extenders in the management of those at highest risk for stroke events and post-event discharge support and follow-up of stroke patients across clinical and community settings.” One type of “Healthcare Extender” is the Community Health Worker.
- Today, Sarah Arthur, Director of Community Outreach for Novant Health, will share how Novant values CHWs and incorporates them in their care. She’ll share how Novant established the practice of hiring CHWs and the benefits the staff and patients reap.

The Value of Community Health Workers in the Management of Those at Risk for Stroke and for Post-Event Discharge Support

Sarah Arthur, Director of Community Outreach, Novant Health

Sarah Arthur presented on Novant Health’s Community Health Worker Program which has 23 CHWs in Novant’s three largest markets (Wilmington, Charlotte, and Winston-Salem) and is housed with the Health Equity team. Access to Care and Health Equity are at the core of the work. CHWs’ lived experience is most important. See Sarah’s slides and listen to the recording.

Tish Singletary posted a link to the APHA CHW group: <https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers> and a notice of new opportunities to fund Community Health Workers: [Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#). The link to the NC CHW Association is the following: <https://ncchwa.org/>.

Questions and Answers

Q: Phil Mendys asked if CHWs connect with the faith community.

A: Yes. Sarah responded that they’ve created a Faith Health Network that trains faith community ambassadors to use CHWs for external referrals and to bring CHWs in for education.

Q: Dr. Arnett Coleman asked about the demographics of the folks who refuse CHW services.

A: Sarah noted that some do not accept CHW services, many of whom are 75+. Novant’s CHW program has 100 in the queue for services currently, and often individuals get re-referred. It can be difficult to make a referral if the client has not met the CHW. CHWs offer to meet new clients at the doctor’s office, community center, or coffee shop.

Q: Nick Galvez with the Office on Rural Health asked how the program deals with rural counties.

A: Sarah commented that the relationship with rural communities is strong and that ORH funds one of their programs. When working with residents of a rural county, they are careful to assign a CHW who grew up in that county.

Q: Ciara Rukse with WISEWOMAN asked how the program uses social work interns.

A: Sarah replied that they use interns in a pipeline to fill social worker and case manager positions.

Q: Erika Yourkiewicz said that she’s seen a huge difference since Novant began using CHWs and noted that they are very good at communicating back with hospital staff who make referrals.

Q: Beatrice Siaw asked if CHWs work with vascular centers in NC.

A: Erika responded that the CHW program accepts referrals from anyone and that they do community referrals as well.

Q: Robin Jones asked how the program intersects with Community Paramedics.

A: We have a dedicated paramedic on our Wilmington team, and she serves the entire team when needed. She is a valuable member of our program.

Approval of Minutes

Peg called for the approval of the **minutes** from the November 8th SAC meeting. She reminded members that they had received an email with the minutes in advance of the meeting. The minutes were approved by acclamation with no corrections noted.

The **Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force** last met virtually December 13th where we welcomed new members, shared updates on our Action Agenda, and heard presentations on the chain of survival including AHA's policy platform and the RACE CARS study. Presenter slides and the recording of the meeting are posted on our website.

Legislative Update on Items on the Task Force Action Agenda

Peg announced there are no legislative updates since the November meeting as the legislature is adjourned and will convene in April.

On Dec. 1st North Carolina **expanded Medicaid**, and DHHS and many organizations are working to get the word out and help folks enroll. We recommend that adults ages 19-64 without insurance inquire to see if they are eligible for Medicaid. For information and assistance with applying: [Medicaid.nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/medicaid)

Peg thanked Sarah for her presentation and for sharing her work with us.

Fundraiser for United Stroke Alliance

<https://ashevilleonbikes.com/pedal-stroke-benefit-concert> Robin Jones invited everyone to Asheville **April 14** for the **Pedal Stroke Benefit concert** from 6-8 PM which will raise money for the United Stroke Alliance.

Mark your calendars for the **2024 SAC meetings**. We will meet in person in Charlotte in September and will have the opportunity to tour the hospital. The stroke coordinators will also meet in person that day. More info to come and we hope you will all plan to attend. All other meetings will be virtual.

Stroke Advisory Council Meetings

- March 6 from 1-2:30 PM – virtual
- June 13 from 1-2:30 PM – virtual
- September 25 – in-person in conjunction with meeting of stroke coordinators and tour of Atrium Health
- November 12 from 1-2:30 PM – virtual