

Open Enrollment for the Affordable Care Act Begins: 3 Ways to Enroll

By Armen Hareyan G+

2014-11-13 15:18

Saturday, November 15th is the first day of open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace. Part of the Affordable Care Act, the Health Insurance Marketplace helps uninsured people find affordable health coverage. Staff and volunteers throughout Orange County are ready to assist people with enrolling in a plan that is right for them.

“I am so proud to be part of this community,” says Sherry Hay, Director of Community Health Initiatives for the Department of Family Medicine at UNC. “Together, we made a decision to help all uninsured individuals in Orange County understand more about their options and get covered. By collaborating and sharing resources, we achieved a high rate of success.”

In the first open enrollment period that ended on March 31, 2014, Orange County enrolled 46% of the County’s 10,729 people eligible for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. This was a significant achievement compared to North Carolina’s overall average of approximately 33%.

“It was so exciting to be part of implementing the Affordable Care Act, and to assist people who have never before been able to afford health insurance get enrolled. Many of them were pleasantly surprised to learn that they could now afford to have the insurance they needed to take better care of their family’s health” said Amanda Bartolomeo, Public Health Educator in charge of the Orange County Health Department’s enrollment efforts. In fact, 91% of North Carolinians who enrolled in health insurance through the marketplace received subsidies from the federal government to help pay for their coverage.

Changes have been made to the online enrollment process, including the ability to get a financial assistance estimate without having to submit an application, as well as the ability to review plans by

simply entering a zip code. Other improvements include the ability to access the window shopping tool via a smart phone or tablet and a higher capacity to handle high volumes of traffic.

The Health Insurance Marketplace is open for three months – November 15, 2014 until February 15, 2015. Orange County has a number of locations with certified enrollment counselors to assist people in both English and Spanish. Additional language services are available upon request at some of the locations.

There are three ways a person can enroll, or update their insurance plan via the Marketplace.

1) Online at www.HealthCare.gov

2) Over the phone: 1-800-318-2596  1-800-318-2596

3) Appointment with a certified enrollment counselor. Individuals can locate certified enrollment counselors by entering their town, city, or zip code on www.HealthCare.gov under “Find Local Help”.



tarheel

Chapel Hill library hosts affordable care sign-ups

By [Kerry Lengyel](#) | Published 9 hours ago

Now that the open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act is in full swing, the Orange County Public Library is working to make sure residents get signed up.

The open-enrollment period started Saturday and closes Feb. 15.

Kate Torrey, one of several certified application counselors assisting with the sign-up, said people looking to attend should call the library in advance so staff can tell them what to bring when they come.

HOW TO SIGN UP

The Affordable Care Act open-enrollment period began Saturday.

- The Health Insurance Marketplace is open for three months, from Nov. 15 until Feb. 15, 2015.
- Orange County has a number of locations with certified-enrollment counselors capable of assisting people who speak Spanish or English.
- People can visit [healthcare.gov](#) to find various nearby locations or call the Chapel Hill Public Library at 919-968-2780 for more information.

“They can make an appointment or they can walk in,” she said. “There’s a whole list of things people need to bring and then they’ll sit down with a counselor and work through it.”

Last year’s open-enrollment period was three months longer than this year’s, Torrey said.

“The federal website was really a mess for the first six weeks that it was open for enrollment,” she said. “And so things really didn’t get done last year in a significant way for both the Chapel Hill Public Library and across the country.”

The [healthcare.gov](#) website caused problems with the sign-up process during the last enrollment period, but Torrey said she’s sure that that won’t be the case this time around.

“I feel confident that it’s going to go a lot more smoothly this year in terms of the technology interface,” Torrey said.

She said that North Carolina will also be adding a new carrier, United Healthcare, to the list of available carriers — which includes both Blue Cross Blue Shield and Coventry.

“There are new plans that consumers weren’t offered last year,” Torrey said. “So everyone is going to want to go online and do it again.”

Stacy Shelp, a spokeswoman for the Orange County Health Department, said that there are several other places in Orange County providing sign-up help besides the public library.

“Both the health department locations in Hillsborough and Chapel Hill are helping with the Affordable Care Act,” she said. “There are eight different certified counselors at each location to help with enrollment.”

Shelp said that 46 percent of the 10,729 eligible Orange County residents enrolled during the 2013-14 period — one of the highest percentages in the state.

She said the enrollment period is not just for people who don’t have insurance at all.

“It’s also a time when you can go back in and make any modifications or adjustment from the previous year,” Shelp said.

The library is partnering with several organizations for the event, including UNC Health Care, Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina, UNC’s Student Health Action Coalition and the League of Women Voters of Orange-Durham-Chatham.

Janet Hoy, vice president of the League of Women Voters of Orange-Durham-Chatham, said the organization holds three to four sessions a week in the library’s computer lab.

“We help people understand the plans that are offered and the re-enrollment process,” she said. “As well as looking at potential offers for re-enrollment and helping new people with the process.”

Hoy said her organization wasn’t originally planning on doing anything for the 2014-15 enrollment period, but seeing the numbers of people who are uninsured changed their minds.

“There’s so many people out there who are in their 20s who don’t have insurance,” she said. “There are still a lot of people that we need to educate on health care.”

Hoy said that they use the library’s downstairs computer lab, which has 25 computers. This lets them easily manage two or three people at a time and still maintain the privacy of those who are signing up for health care.

“Chapel Hill Public Library has been incredibly great,” she said. “It’s been a terrific partnership with them.”



Orange County Launches Family Success Alliance

Submitted by Allison De Marco on November 2, 2014 - 3:32pm

Recently, the Orange County Health Department launched plans for the Family Success Alliance, modeled after the success of the [Harlem Children's Zone](#).

With its inception as the Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families in 1970, the Harlem Children's Zone aims to disrupt generational poverty with a holistic, long-term approach providing education and support from early childhood through college, supportive services to families to prevent homelessness, and health services including obesity prevention. Serving over 13,000 children and 13,000 adults in 97 blocks of Central Harlem, the engaged children (70% in the served blocks) have a 92% college acceptance rate, 100% of pre-K participants are assessed as school ready, and the 800 local employees fuel economic growth. The Harlem Children's Zone also serves as the Model for President Obama's Promise Neighborhood Initiative that has awarded 58 grants to communities across the country to implement similar programs.

In Orange County extensive data was collected to identify the most high need "zones" in our county. Scoring was based on 3 criteria: *need* (economic, education, health, and family and community including free and reduced priced lunch participation, low quality early childhood programs, school subject proficiency, percent of children on Medicaid, and percent of households with Housing Choice/Section 8 vouchers), *reach* (percent and number of children in poverty), and *equity* (academic performance disparity – the percentage point difference between the percent of passing EOG scores for Economically Advantaged students and those who are Not Economically Advantaged). The six zones with the highest scores have been identified and through an application process two will be selected as pilot sites. The six zones are:

Zone 1. Efland Corridor surrounding Efland Cheeks Elementary and Gravelly Middle School

Zone 2. Downtown Hillsborough encompassing Cameron Park, Central, Hillsborough, and Pathways Elementary Schools, Stanford Middle School, and Orange High School

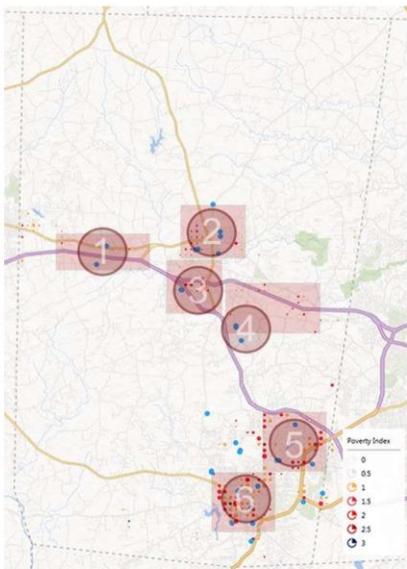
Zone 3. 85 & 40 Junction around Grady Brown Elementary School and Cedar Ridge High School

Zone 4. East of 40 including New Hope Elementary School, Stanback Middle School, and Partnership Academy

Zone 5. 15-501 & 40 surrounding Estes Hills and Ephesus Road Elementary Schools, Phillips Middle School, and East Chapel Hill High School

Zone 6. Downtown Chapel Hill/Carrboro encompassing Northside, FPG, and Carrboro Elementary Schools, Culbreth Middle Schools, Carrboro High School, and Phoenix Academy

ORANGE COUNTY ZONES



ZONE 1	Efland-Cheeks (70 Corridor)
ZONE 2	Downtown Hillsborough
ZONE 3	85/40 Junction
ZONE 4	East of 40
ZONE 5	15-501 & 40 (MLK Corridor)
ZONE 6	Chapel Hill/Carrboro (54 and Jones Ferry Road)

Maps and data for each zone are available [here](#).

Applications are due November 17th and can be viewed [here](#).

Leading up to the application submission, there will be community forums to give community members the opportunity to provide feedback on the needs of their zone. The forum for Zone 1 (Efland Corridor) has already occurred.

The schedule for the remainder is below. For more information contact Meredith McMonigle with the Orange County Health Department at mmcmonigle@orangecountync.gov or 919-245-2070.

Zone 2: Tuesday, November 4, 2014 from 6-7pm at the Fairview Child & Family Center, 125 Lawndale Avenue, Hillsborough.

Zone 3: Thursday, November 13, 2014 from 6-7pm at Grady Brown Elementary School, 1100 New Grady Brown School Rd, Hillsborough.

Zone 4: Thursday, November 6, 2014 from 6-7pm at New Hope Elementary School, 1900 New Hope Church Rd, Chapel Hill.

Zone 5: Thursday, November 13, 2014 from 6-7pm at the Chapel Hill Library, 100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill.

Zone 6: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 from 6-7pm at Hargraves Community Center, 216 N. Roberson St, Chapel Hill.

1 Comment



Questions zones must answer in application

Submitted by Molly De Marco on **November 14, 2014 - 1:10pm**

Each of the 6 Zones must complete an application that is due November 17th.

Here are the questions that must be answered:

1. What are the things that families in your zone are most concerned about their children?
2. What are the things that families in your zone like most?
3. How did you find out what families are most concerned about and what people think is best about your zone?

4. Discuss what neighborhoods or communities are included in your zone and how you see that translating into a zone "identity" for the purposes of this project?

5. Do you have data that shows a difference in academic achievement based on income in schools in the zone?

6. Do you know of other groups or individuals in our community already doing work that contributes to a cradle to college/career pipeline?

7. Which part of the pipeline is the weakest and what is the greatest challenge to improving that part?

The Herald-Sun

Court: Orange regulators overstepped

Nov. 21, 2014 @ 04:33 PM

[Ray Gronberg](#)

DURHAM —

A unanimous N.C. Court of Appeals panel says regulators in Orange County have exceeded their authority by trying to inspect “spray irrigation” septic systems.

The job is one state law assigns only to the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and isn’t one local governments can take on, Judge Ann Marie Calabria said for the panel.

The legislators who wrote the state’s environmental laws allow local governments to regulate below-ground septic tanks, but they created “a different system of regulation for wastewater systems that discharge effluent to the land surface,” Calabria said for herself, Judge Wanda Bryant and Judge Martha Geer.

And they “did not intend for local boards of health to have the power to regulate areas that were already completely regulated by the state through” DENR and the N.C. Environmental Management Commission, Calabria said.

The ruling sided with a trio of northern Orange County landowners – Robert Phillips Sr., Thomas Osborne and Karen Osborne – who’d objected to the county Health Department’s attempts to inspect their septic systems.

Both families had the necessary DENR permits for their systems, and both had allowed state inspections of them.

But Orange County, starting in 1995, launched its own inspections, including them in the same program as systems that don’t discharge to the surface.

Officials there have long maintained that regular inspections ensure that septic systems receive the routine maintenance to need to assure that untreated waste doesn’t reach streams and rivers.

And they’ve never had a lot of faith in DENR, even when both the executive and legislative branches of state government were in the hands of fellow Democrats.

Republicans took over the N.C. General Assembly in 2011, and the governor’s mansion in 2013.

Court papers indicate the landowners were willing to allow county inspectors to look at their systems – but they flatly refused to pay the county’s \$125 inspection fee.

"I have been through this before where you try to charge for something I already pay the state for," Phillips told Tom Konsler, the county's former environmental health director, in 2012. "What you are trying to do [is] double jeopardy."

Once the landowners sued, county lawyers argued that local health boards can "superimpose additional regulations with specific reasons clearly applicable to a local health need."

But Calabria and her colleagues noted the statute that says that only addresses "wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems which are not designed to discharge effluent to the land surface."

That "expressly exempts" the sort of systems at issue in the case, Calabria said.

Court documents indicate that the Phillips and Osborne systems are variants of so-called "sand filter" systems, typically used when soils of a home site don't "perc" well enough to absorb and hold waste.

The waste as in most systems goes into a septic tank, but it's then pushed through the eponymous sand filter into another tank. From there, the filtered water is sprayed onto the property's surface.

The appeals ruling upheld the decision of the trial judge who heard the case, visiting Superior Court Judge Bryan Collins. A Democrat, he is from Wake County and was elected in 2012.

The Court of Appeals panel was bipartisan. Bryant and Geer are Democrats; Calabria is a Republican.

Because of the panel's unanimity, the N.C. Supreme Court doesn't have to take the case if Orange County officials pursue a further appeal.

The Herald-Sun

Introducing The Family Success Alliance

Dec. 13, 2014 @ 06:38 PM

BY MICHAEL STEINER and MARK DOROSIN, Columnists



Mark Dorosin



Michael Steiner, M.D.

CHAPEL HILL —

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Frederick Douglass

We hope that by now you’ve heard that there is increasing concern about income disparities and poverty in Orange County, and particularly about its impact on children. We all want to live in a community where every child has the opportunity to thrive in school and beyond because successful, supported children grow up to be successful and give back to their family, workplace, and community. As a physician and a lawyer, we have witnessed firsthand the challenges children and families face in Orange County as they struggle with living paycheck to paycheck.

The newly formed Family Success Alliance seeks to improve the lives and opportunities for long term success for children and families struggling to make ends meet. Communities across the country have found that the key to affecting meaningful change is to break down silos and build a comprehensive system of engagement on education and health, with built in family and community supports. A “pipeline” of coordinated community resources can ensure successful passage of children from cradle to career or college. This new approach is known as Collective Impact, and it means that diverse organizations across a community develop common goals, shared ways to measure success, do mutually enforcing activities, and communicate continuously with each other and with the community. The Family Success Alliance has embarked down this path with a group of elected officials, community organizations, neighborhood leaders, and government partners coming together to start this work.

The Family Success Alliance started because data and stories from our communities demonstrated a growing number of children living in poverty in Orange County. In fact, one in three students in our two

school districts are enrolled in free or reduced lunch, and one in four children in Orange County are enrolled in Medicaid. It is likely that far more qualify but aren't enrolled. These facts are profoundly troubling, because when families struggle economically, there are lasting impacts on children — health impacts, educational impacts, social and psychological impacts — that last well into the future.

Take, for example, the brain development of children. Brains are built early in life — 80 percent of a child's brain is developed by age three and stimulation and positive experience lays a positive foundation for a lifetime. Unfortunately, it has been demonstrated that adverse experiences or toxic stress early in life have a similar negative long-term effect. This early life foundation links to such concrete things as how well children do in school, whether they graduate on time, and their physical and mental health for decades to come.

While the adverse impacts of poverty affect thousands of children in Orange County, there are portions of the county where the cumulative effects are especially severe. Using a range of local data, we identified six areas, or “zones” that stand out with the highest number of families struggling to meet basic living standards, like medical care, food, and housing. Because adapting the lessons from other successful models to our communities will be a learning process, the Family Success Alliance will start piloting the program in 2015 in two of the six zones, and will ensure the strategies are effective before expanding. By initially concentrating our efforts in limited geographic regions, we can help ensure each zone receives the full range of resources and reach a tipping point for community success.

In the coming months and years you will be hearing more about the work to establish pipelines of success for children and families through the coordinated, collaborative efforts of the Family Success Alliance, community groups, and residents.

If you'd like to get involved in this exciting opportunity to help address the impacts of income disparities and poverty on children and families in Orange County, please contact Meredith McMonigle, Coordinator of the Family Success Alliance, at (919) 245-2071.

The public is also invited to attend the Family Success Alliance Council meeting on December 16th where the zones will answer questions about their applications and the two pilot zones will be selected. The meeting will take place from 3:30-6 PM in the County Commissioners Board Room on the second floor of the Whitted Building located at 300 West Tryon Street in Hillsborough.

Thank you in advance for your support and excitement about making meaningful change for our community.

Editor's note: Michael Steiner, M.D., and Orange County Commissioner Mark Dorosin are members of the Family Success Alliance advisory council.



Zones Chosen By FSA Council To Create Pipeline to Success for Children

By [Blake Hodge](#)

Posted December 16, 2014 at 8:11 pm

The Family Success Alliance Council has chosen two of the six geographic zones to enact a pilot program with the goal of creating a pipeline of success for children living in poverty.

Dr. Michael Steiner, with UNC Health Care, announced the selection following a committee vote.

“Congratulations to Zone 4 and Zone 6, and the Family Success Alliance will look forward to continue working with you and starting the next steps of the process.”

Zone four represents central Orange County, specifically between I-40 and I-85. Zone six covers a densely populated area from downtown Chapel Hill to Highway 54.

Representatives from the six zones that were being considered for the pilot program gave their pitch to the council during a special meeting, on Tuesday evening.

Delores Bailey, from the non-profit EmPowerment, represented Zone 6. In her pitch to the council, she focused on a need of young children in the community.

“There’s been a major setback in the Head Start program,” she says. “And that alone has been responsible the groundwork and young people growing. If we’re missing that Head Start piece, we’ve got to have resources that wrap around what we’re missing from there.”

Zone four was campaigned for by Aviva Scully from Stanback Middle School and New Hope Elementary’s Rosemary Deane.

Deane says that during some community events they were able to break down barriers and establish a cumulative goal for the area.

“During our forum, we had families from all over come together. You could see a common vision of what they want for our community,” she recalled.

They are looking to calm some of those concerns with the help of pilot program from the Family Success Alliance Council.

One common theme developed throughout the meeting. No matter which zones were ultimately selected, the ball was rolling and each zone would have the support of the zones that were not chosen.

As for those zones that were not selected, Orange County Health Department Director Dr. Colleen Bridger cautioned that this was a pilot program, so there was no firm timeline for involving the other zones. But she made clear the intention was to do so.

“We need to try it and see how it goes. And then as soon as we can, we want every single zone to be involved in this.”

Doctor Bridger adds that the zones that were not selected will be encouraged to continue their work, and the council will be able to provide some guidance following their next meeting in February.

Meanwhile, the implementation of the pilot program will immediately go into action in zones four and six. Feedback from the success of these programs will be documented and passed along to other areas throughout the community to encourage similar efforts.

Orange County coalition targets child poverty

By Tammy Grubb

tgrubb@newsobserver.com December 17, 2014

HILLSBOROUGH — A community coalition has chosen two high-poverty zones to be part of a long-term, pilot “cradle-to-career” program for Orange County.

The goal is get every child off to an early, healthy start and keep the momentum going until they graduate from high school and go to work or college, officials said.

The 22-member Family Success Alliance Advisory Council used data to see how families were faring in six initial zones – two in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district and four in the Orange County Schools district.

The pilot program’s results will be analyzed before expanding the program to other zones, said Michael Steiner, who represents UNC Health Care on the council.

“We see this as the first step of a really long-term, generation-over-generation project to move from where we are now to where we want to be,” he said.

The Family Success Alliance is loosely modeled on programs such as the East Durham Children’s Initiative and Harlem Children’s Zone and is a countywide effort to connect the people and resources that can help poor families and their children. Partners include local schools and nonprofit groups, government, law enforcement, the Department of Social Services and others.

Orange County has seen the number of children living in poverty climb steadily, reports show, from 9.4 percent in 2001 to 16.8 percent in 2011. In 2011, about one in three students in both school systems got free or reduced-price lunches.

- Zone 4 encompasses the area between Interstates 40 and 85 and includes A.L. Stanback Middle and New Hope Elementary schools. Roughly 25 percent of children under age 18 in the zone are living in poverty, and 55 percent received free or reduced-price lunches, a poverty indicator.

The schools are the hub of this zone and the way to get information to parents, said Rosemary Deane, a family outreach specialist at New Hope Elementary. There’s also a strong community

network of churches, nonprofits and others, she said. Zone challenges include transportation and a language gap.

- Zone 6 is a heavily populated area stretching southwest from downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro, past N.C. 54. Zone 6 is estimated to have the highest number of children under age 18 living in poverty and roughly 30 percent receive free and reduced-price lunches.

Zone 6 also has strong community partnerships, plus a rich African-American history, said Delores Bailey, Empowerment Inc. executive director. The challenges include helping kids learn earlier, bridging the language gap and sharing resources and information with families, she said.

The Family Success Alliance Advisory Council has met for several months to lay groundwork and talk with interested residents in each zone about their needs and potential solutions.

The next step, over the next few months, is to evaluate gaps that allow children and families in each zone to fall through the cracks. The council plans to move quickly toward prioritizing those gaps and mapping a strategy for how to bridge them, county health director Colleen Bridger said.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners has allocated a minimum of \$100,000 this year to the program.

Grubb: 919-932-8746

Read more here: http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/12/17/4410017_orange-county-coalition-targets.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

The Herald-Sun

Orange selects areas for pilot childhood poverty program

Dec. 20, 2014 @ 06:50 PM

[Katie Jansen](#)

HILLSBOROUGH —

Community leaders from all corners of Orange County convened Tuesday to take the first official steps in a new initiative designed to fight childhood poverty.

The Family Success Alliance, funded by the Orange County Commissioners' Social Justice Fund and spearheaded by the Orange County Health Department, is an effort to bring existing organizations and stakeholders together to make a difference across the county.

The focus of the Family Success Alliance is a pipeline from cradle to college or career, meaning that the community wants to support kids through every step of their education — even early childhood before they enroll in school.

The advisory council for the new program consists of civic leaders and government officials, education and health care experts and representatives from nonprofits and the wider community.

When the project was unveiled a few months ago, six zones were designated as areas that needed help in battling childhood poverty. In order of assigned numbers, the zones were: Efland-Cheeks, downtown Hillsborough, the junction of 85 and 40, east of 40, 15-501 and 40 and Chapel Hill/Carrboro.

All six zones submitted written applications to the council to be considered for the pilot run of the program. Only two would be selected originally, with an eventual goal to implement the program in all the zones.

"We will work with these zones to see how the alliance works, and at that time we will define how to move forward with these other zones," said Michael Steiner, a council member and a pediatrician.

The advisory council met Tuesday to select the initial two. Before decisions were made, each of the zones' representatives gave a short presentation to the council and received questions from the council.

After each presentation, the council scored the zones with several criteria in mind. These criteria included needs and assets of each of the zones, how well the pipeline goal would fit into each zone and the capacity and commitment of each zone.

The final scores revealed showed that, while all zones had need, the council had clearly ranked them. The scores were: Efland-Cheeks, 61; downtown Hillsborough, 71; the junction of 85 and 40, 75; east of 40, 87; 15-501 and 40, 76; and Chapel Hill/Carrboro, 81.

But the council didn't rely on numbers to make its final decision. Colleen Bridger of the Orange County Health Department said she was concerned that the two zones in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district had received such close scores and that perhaps more deliberation was necessary.

Debra Farrington of OPC Community Operations Center for Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions suggested that the zones who weren't selected receive feedback to improve their chances at selection next time.

Bridger volunteered the Health Department's services, saying that staff would compile the strengths and weaknesses of each application and present this to each of the zones.

Many stressed that just because only two zones were chosen, collaboration across the county was still needed and the council would still think about how to best help the other zones move forward.

"These are all citizens of Orange County who need help," said John Dorward of the Interfaith Council, adding that he hopes people who are interested in helping their community won't stop just because their zone wasn't chosen this time.

Eventually, the council passed a motion to approve zones 4 and 6, the two highest scorers, as the two pilot zones. Of 19 present, 17 voted affirmatively and two abstained.

The two pilot zones are from two opposite ends of the county and represent two different school districts.

Aviva Scully, a representative from zone 4, said she hopes that this diversity will offer a variety of perspectives on how to best tackle problems that are faced on both sides of the county.

"This gives us another opportunity to bridge the north-south divide that sometimes happens in the county," she said.

Zone 4 includes New Hope Elementary and A.L. Stanback Middle. Approximately 1 in 4 children under age 18 are living in poverty.

Zone 6 encompasses Carrboro Elementary and High schools, Northside Elementary, Frank Porter Graham Elementary, Culbreth Middle and Phoenix Academy. Because of the zone's size and density, it has the highest number of kids under 18 living in poverty — about 878.

The next step is an analysis to begin Jan. 2 that will determine what each zone needs and where there are gaps in the pipeline. This analysis will be done by the end of March.

Bridger called the process "fast, furious and intensive" with clearly defined goals.

"By the time we hit year one, we'll have a very clear idea of what the gaps are and what we need to focus on," she said.

All involved see the project as long-term and spanning across multiple generations. Because of this, there is no clear timeline on when the services could be expanded to help all zones.

Mark Dorosin of the Orange County Commissioners expressed hope that the board would continue to fund the program for years to come and honor its "longstanding commitment to social justice."

The council will reconvene in February to begin prioritizing gaps and to discuss how to best help the zones not selected.

A grassroots approach to poverty

POSTED ON December 30th, 2014

Two areas of Orange County [will benefit from a new approach](#) to the challenges of extreme poverty that bedevil one of the wealthiest regions of the state. The areas, or zones, were chosen earlier this month from six proposed zones where poverty's effects are especially severe, as measured by standards like access to medical care, food, and housing.

Direction and funding for the project come from the Orange County Board of Commissioners, with the Orange County Health Department providing critical support. Administering the project is the new [Family Success Alliance](#), staffed by Health Department employees and supported by a 22-member advisory council. The Family Success Alliance Advisory Council, appointed by the Commissioners to represent a cross-section of the community, will oversee resource allocation, program planning, and policy direction. But the real initiative and drive will come from the residents themselves.

Inspired by the [Harlem Children's Zone](#) and, closer to home, the [East Durham Children's Initiative](#), the Family Success Alliance starts from the premise that only a holistic, comprehensive, and community-driven approach can overcome the consequences of entrenched poverty. Education, especially early education, is connected to health and nutrition, health is connected to child care and housing, housing is connected to transportation, and transportation and child care are critical for the parents' stable employment. The overarching goal of the Family Success Alliance is to create "cradle to college" and "cradle to career" systems of engagement, so that successes along many lines will be mutually reinforcing.

Recent state funding decisions lend special urgency to this work. Subsidies for pre-K programs and child care have been [slashed](#). The Board of Commissioners invested \$350,000 of its Social Justice Fund this year in the county Department of Social Services to fill the gap in child care subsidies. That left only \$100,000 in the fund to devote to the Family Success Alliance. Noting the huge impact of the reduction from the state, Commissioner Penny Rich nonetheless expressed hope that her colleagues will join her in working to strengthen the local commitment to this program over time. But it will be a challenge. These numbers leave no question of the devastating effect of state funding cuts upon local social service budgets.

Commissioner Mark Dorosin, who was instrumental in establishing the Family Success Alliance, stresses the concept of a pipeline, a coordinated system of supports beginning with young children. Responding to the state-level cuts to [NC Pre-K](#) program (formerly called More at Four), he said he would welcome a request from either of the county's two school systems for gap-filling support.

An [op-ed](#) he co-wrote with Michael Steiner, a pediatrician and chair of the Advisory Council, notes that one in three students across both school systems are enrolled in free or reduced lunch. “These facts are profoundly troubling,” they write, “because when families struggle economically, there are lasting impacts on the children—health impacts, educational impacts, social and psychological impacts—that last well into the future.”

Citing [new research](#) from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, NC Policy Watch [underscores](#) the importance of investing in support for children and families. It offers these sobering statistics:

There are 358,000 low-income families in North Carolina and in half of them no parent has a full-time, year-round job. And many that do are paid by the hour with no sick leave, no family leave, no way to get their child to a doctor or an after-school counseling session without losing pay or even putting their job at risk.

And it’s even tougher for poor families with young children. . . . [T]here are more than 400,000 children in North Carolina age 5 and under in low-income families and 18 percent of their parents report that issues with child care affected their employment.

A [recent report](#) from the North Carolina Justice Center finds that for poor families with two or more children, child care costs are the greatest single cost, greater even than housing. (According to the same report, health care costs have fallen by 45 percent for poor North Carolinians as a result of the Affordable Care Act.)

The two zones chosen for Orange County’s pilot program are a rural area and one that extends through both Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

[Zone 4](#), situated between I-40 and I-85, includes A.L. Stanback Middle School and New Hope Elementary, where a staggering 53 percent of third-graders lack reading proficiency—a [well-documented early-warning sign](#) of later troubles. Heavily Latino, it presents significant needs in language arts, and school social workers are stressed. Living arrangements can be especially vulnerable, with many living in manufactured housing.

[Zone 6](#) extends from Northside in downtown Chapel Hill to the apartment complexes on the west side of Carrboro. Thus, it includes both the oldest African American neighborhoods in the two towns and the homes of some of our most recent immigrants, ethnic Burmese living here as refugees from the oppressive Myanmar Republic. It contains the largest number of children living in poverty of any of the six zones: an estimated 878. Early childhood development is identified as a weak link. Community members and zone partners look forward to promoting their rich cultural diversity as a way to strengthen unity.

Although the zones were not specifically chosen so that one would be rural and one semi-urban, commented Commissioner Dorosin, the fact that they did work out this way affords an opportunity, in this pilot program, to test out ideas appropriate for each context.

With the zones selected, the work will next involve community meetings to begin needs assessments and gap analyses. Priorities will emerge from this process. Borrowing tools from the

[Harlem Childrens Zone](#) and the Obama Administration's [Promise Neighborhoods](#) project that it [inspired](#), Family Success Alliance partners and community members will begin to collect data and determine the best paths forward.

In the absence of robust state and national antipoverty agendas, faced with such overwhelming need, it is tempting to listen to critics who say such programs are [not enough to make a difference](#). And yet this is not the first time that North Carolinians have moved ahead despite weak state leadership. In establishing the [North Carolina Fund](#) in the early 1960s, Gov. Terry Sanford bypassed an unsympathetic General Assembly and turned to the private sector to launch a broadside assault on poverty and racial discrimination. The results of those efforts are still [paying rewards](#).

As someone wise once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Schools Prepare, Advise As Students Return At Peak of Flu Season

By: Linnie Supall

01/05/2015 02:19 PM



RALEIGH -- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are expecting this year's flu season to be severe and now with most schools back in session after the holidays school nurses are keeping a close watch on the impact the flu virus may have in the classroom.

"The nurses I've spoken to haven't seen a great increase of absences at this point," says Linda Joseph, a nurse coordinator with Chapel Hill City Schools.

According to the nurse coordinator with Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, letters are sent to parents if they do see a rise in numbers.

Healthy habits like covering your mouth or nose when coughing or sneezing are taught in the classroom throughout the year.

"In elementary school it's mainly the teachers will make sure the class routinely throughout the day make the class wash their hands at set times before lunch and after playing... handwashing is the biggest thing," says Joseph.

Now with school back in session the next three months will be the most common for flu related absences.

“Usually school nurses will routinely look at their absence rates and you can usually see between January and March you see an increase in absences and you assess how bad those are,” Joseph says.

The school district stays in close contact with the Orange County Health Department and UNC Hospital throughout the season.

But the biggest piece of advice for parents?

If your child is feverish, has the chills or shows flu like symptoms such as coughing, a sore throat or body aches, keep them out of school altogether.

“If they have a fever they shouldn't come to school for 24 hours after the fever is over,” Joseph says.

- See more at: <http://centralnc.twcnews.com/content/news/715539/schools-prepare--advise-as-students-return-at-peak-of-flu-season/#sthash.jD1tpPCY.dpuf>

Family Success Alliance Advisory Council creates anti-poverty programs for Orange County

BY [CLAIRE NIELSEN](#) | January 7, 2015

Members of the new Family Success Alliance Advisory Council are making headway in creating services to address the needs of Orange County children and families living in poverty.

On Dec. 16, the advisory council, made up of 22 representatives from local governments and non-profit organizations across the county, chose two zones within the county to pilot a cradle-to-career program for children in low-income families.

The two zones were chosen from six original zones that were determined by data such as the number of children in Orange County qualifying for free or reduced lunches and those eligible for Medicaid, said Stacy Shelp, spokeswoman for the Orange County Health Department.

“The specific reason the health department became interested was because of research about the long-term effects poverty has on people’s health outcomes,” she said.

Orange County is one of the wealthiest counties in the state, but it also has some of the highest rates of income inequality, said Orange County Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier. According to data provided by the Orange County Health Department, the number of children living in poverty in Orange County increased by 7.4 percent from 2001 to 2011.

“Sometimes families that are struggling within Orange County can fly under the radar,” said Dr. Michael Steiner, chief of the Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at UNC Hospitals and chair of the advisory council.

He said poverty is one of the most effective predictors of a person's overall health and life expectancy.

"A very small portion of people's overall health is related to the quality of the medical care they receive," he said. "A big part of people's overall health is related to what we call social determinants of health."

The advisory council chose Zone 4 and Zone 6 to pilot the program.

Zone 4 is between Interstate 40 and Interstate 85 in central Orange County, and it includes A.L. Stanback Middle and New Hope Elementary schools.

Zone 6 spans downtown Chapel Hill southwest to N.C. 54. Schools in Zone 6 include Phoenix Academy, Carrboro Elementary School, Northside Elementary School, Culbreth Middle School and Carrboro High School.

In the coming months, the Family Success Alliance will conduct a needs assessment in each of the zones.

"We aren't identifying what kind of programs are going to happen yet because we haven't really done that in-depth dive into the communities," Shelp said.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners has allocated \$100,000 from its social justice funds for the future programs and services, Pellissier said.

The Herald-Sun

Resident alleges Chapel Hill condo contaminated

Jan. 08, 2015 @ 05:42 PM

[Katie Jansen](#)

CHAPEL HILL —

On Nov. 24, Jules Carter came home to a flood.

The condo at Mill Creek Condominiums on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard that she shared with her roommate Kristen Carver was wet. It had been raining heavily that weekend, and both UNC-Chapel Hill juniors had been out of town visiting their families.

At first Carter thought it was a flood from the rain, but upon further investigation, she found it was a sewage backup.

The sewage backup was thought to be caused by tree roots growing into the pipes, said Mill House Properties property manager Angela Huffman. An initial fix has been completed, but the permanent solution will take longer and will require digging underneath the building, she said.

Carter said that it was just an accident and no one's fault. But she's unsatisfied with how her property manager has handled the situation since.

Carter said that although the carpet was soaked, maintenance workers replaced the padding underneath without changing the carpet.

Although Carter has received an invoice from a cleaning service, she isn't convinced the condo has been properly cleaned. She said that workers set up fans in an attempt to air the place out.

"It smells like a Porta-John in there," she said. "It smells like feces with a faint bubblegum scent over the top."

Huffman disagrees. She said that everything was cleaned properly to align with standards issued by the town of Chapel Hill and by the Orange County Health Department.

GOVT. INVOLVED

Stacy Shelp, communications manager for the Orange County Health Department, said that although the department doesn't get involved in inspections of privately owned residences, they did send cleaning guidelines recommended by the state to the property owner and the tenant.

Huffman said she is convinced the problem was wrapped up more than a month ago after the cleaning was complete.

"The unit looks and smells great!" she wrote in an email. "You would never know that anything had ever happened."

Huffman gave a voluntary tour of the unit. It is now empty because the students have moved out, and there are still some brown stains on the carpet and some black marks in the bathtubs.

But Huffman said those could have been there before the incident because the tenants may not have kept it clean. She said the brown stains on the carpet were rust stains.

"A stain doesn't make it uninhabitable," she said.

An invoice dated Nov. 28 from Carpet Specialities Company of Carrboro detailed the work completed. Workers cleaned the carpet, changed the pad and moved furniture where needed. They also completed an antimicrobial treatment four times in two days — on the carpet, floors, baseboards and toilets.

“They know what they’re doing,” Huffman said of the company. “I’ve used the same vendor for 10 years.” Huffman said the cleaning also satisfied guidelines set forth by the EPA. She said that the sewage backup wasn’t the worst level because it only involved brown water and not raw sewage.

Huffman said Carter and her mother wanted Mill House to rip out walls, which Huffman said wasn’t necessary to properly clean the place.

“That was just a bit excessive for what actually happened,” Huffman said.

TOWN INSPECTION

On Dec. 10, an inspector from the town came to look at the unit at Carter’s request.

Inspections manager Chelsea Laws said code enforcement officer Warren Lipscomb completed the inspection, took pictures and verified that the cleanup had been done.

Because Carter was still unhappy with the situation, Chapel Hill’s chief building inspector Robert Key said he offered to come out and do another inspection.

However, he said Carter rejected that offer because she said it wouldn’t help.

Key said that his department can only complete a visual inspection focusing on its areas of expertise, including wiring and plumbing.

However, he said, the department can’t determine whether there is bacteria in a unit.

“My understanding is (Lipscomb) really didn’t see too much wrong,” Key said.

Key said he tried to help Carter and sent her resources for landlord/tenant law.

“I understand their plight and I feel bad for them,” he said.

Because the cleanup and inspection had been completed, Huffman told the students it was safe to stay in the condo, but their parents disagreed. Carter said that although she was still finding feces in the tub and on the floor, the property management said they didn’t think it was feces.

They moved out a week before final exams for the semester, living with Carter’s mom in Raleigh and commuting to school.

This semester, they have both found different places to live via subleasing, but are still bound to their lease at Mill Creek Condominiums.

Huffman said there’s no way they can terminate their lease and that they must pay through July 31. Carter has sought legal help to try to get out of their lease.

OTHER CONCERNS

The sewage isn’t their only concern, Carter said. In August, they reported a large spot on the kitchen ceiling. Maintenance workers came and wiped it away, but it grew back darker, she said.

In October, Carter reported the problem again.

Carter took samples of both the feces-like substance and the mold and sent it away for testing. On Dec. 22, Texas-based Moldlab reported the presence of *Stachybotrys*, a type of mold that can produce toxins and is sometimes known as “black mold.”

Also on Dec. 22, the Raleigh division of Pace Analytical reported the presence of fecal coliform, which is a non-pathogenic indicator of bacteria.

The test came back with 59400 as the most probable number of fecal coliform colonies per gram. John Kiviniemi, manager of the Mason Farm wastewater treatment plant, said that generally speaking, that is a high number of fecal coliform.

As a comparison, he said that the limits on outgoing water for the treatment plant are 200 and 400 fecal coliform. However, he also said that many things could affect the sample, depending on how it was taken and the original cause of the sewage backup.

Huffman said she had heard that the tenants took samples, but she said she hasn’t heard anything about the results. She also said she doesn’t attribute much significance to any potential results because the students took the samples themselves.

“They could’ve taken (the samples) from anywhere,” she said.

Carter said she is aware that she might have to get the samples retaken. But she also said she is worried about the management’s commitment to cleaning a more serious problem like sewage based on their response to the mold.

“You can’t see bacteria, obviously,” she said.



OC Health Dept. Offers Limited Free Radon Test Kits This Month

By [Danny Hooley](#)

Posted January 7, 2015 at 5:53 pm



The odorless, colorless gas radon is the second leading cause of deadly lung cancer in the U.S. – and too often, it's found in our homes.

January is National Radon Action Month.

The North Carolina Radon program has distributed approximately 7,000 free radon testing kits across the state, and Orange County only received about 30 of them.

“They are available on a first-come-first-serve basis, said Stacy Shelp, public information officer for the Orange County Health Department. “Anyone’s eligible. There’s no income requirement, etc. People just have to stop by the Environmental Health Dept. in Hillsborough, starting on the 12th of January, or give us a call.”

They’re available through January 30th, or while supplies last.

Thirty test kits aren’t a lot, obviously. But Shelp said there’s no need to panic.

“The good news is that Orange County is not particularly prone to radon,” said Shelp. “You typically find radon in places that, geographically, have high presence of granite-type bedrock. So, the North Carolina mountains, particularly, would be more concerned.

Still, she added, radon is not found more often in any particular kind of structure, so we should all take precautions against it.

Shelp said that once the supply of free kits runs out, the NC Radon Program will return to providing free kits for \$5.35, at a savings of nearly \$10.

You can also buy a kit for around \$15 at a big-box home improvement store, or just about any small hardware store.

The Orange County Environmental Health Department is located at 131 West Margaret Lane, Suite 100.

You can call the EHD at 919-245-2360.

For more information on radon and how you can lower your family's risk of lung cancer, you can visit www.ncradon.org.

Free radon test kits available in Orange County

By Tribune News Service

Published: Monday, January 12, 2015 at 09:04 AM.

DURHAM — Residents in Durham and Orange counties can get free kits to test the level of radon in their homes.

Each year, about 22,000 people die from lung cancer in the United States caused by the invisible, odorless, radioactive gas that can accumulate in homes and buildings, according to health officials. About 54 percent of those diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer are expected to live no more than five years after diagnosis.

In Durham, free kits will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at the Human Services Building, 414 E. Main St. They're also available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. any weekday this month at the Cooperative Extension Service Building, 721 Foster St. Call Chris Salter at 919-560-7800 or Deborah McGiffin at 919-560-0521 for more information.

In Orange County, the Health Department is partnering with the North Carolina Radon Program to provide kits.

A limited supply of the kits is available from Monday through Jan. 30 at the Orange County Environmental Health offices at 131 W. Margaret Lane, Suite 100 in Hillsborough. Call 919-245-2360 for more information.

About 7,000 kits are being distributed statewide, according to Stacy Shelp, public information officer for the Orange County Health Department. The North Carolina Radon Program website, www.ncradon.org, has a list of all participating organizations in the state. It also has a limited supply of kits available.

Only one kit per home is needed to determine if a home has a high level of radon, Shelp said.

Carrboro Police Utilize Life-Saving Anti-Overdose Drug for 1st Time — Successfully

By [Danny Hooley](#)

Posted January 13, 2015 at 4:12 pm



A new program of the Carrboro Police Department and Orange County to prevent drug overdose deaths paid off for the first time on Monday night, as a Carrboro officer administered a drug that saved a life.

“Naloxone is, itself, an old drug, but for law enforcement use, it’s reasonably new,” said Capt. Chris Attack of the Carrboro Police Dept. “We’ve only been carrying it since October of 2014.”

Attack told WCHL that at around 8:15 p.m. Monday, Carrboro police and EMS responded to a report of a drug overdose. A Carrboro police officer arrived first on the scene. After assessing the condition of the overdose victim and talking to a witness, the officer administered naloxone.

The person is out of the hospital and doing well, according to Attack.

Naloxone is an opiate antagonist that temporarily reverses the effects of an overdose, providing a brief window of opportunity.

“When you are overdosing on an opiate, receptors in your brain are blocked by the actual drug itself,” said Attack. “And what naloxone does is, basically, free up those receptors so that your body can continue to function and breathe. It gives you that time where you can get somebody to a medical facility.”

Attack said that, depending on the health of the patient and other factors, that “time bridge,” as he calls it, is between 30 and 60 minutes.

The Carrboro Police Department partnered with Orange County EMS and the Orange County Health Department and the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition to start an emergency naloxone program last fall.

Family Success Alliance targets poverty in children, families

Posted: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 7:00 am

By Amanda VanDerBroek, News of Orange staff writer, a.vanderbroek@newsfororange.com

The voice of poverty is all too often a quiet one.

But the Family Success Alliance hopes to forge change in Orange County by creating a pipeline of success for children.

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, the group made a step toward that goal by choosing two zones out of six identified within the county to pilot the program.

Those selected were zone 4, an area located between Interstates 40 and 85 in central Orange County—which includes A.L. Stanback Middle School and New Hope Elementary—and zone 6, a densely populated area that encompasses downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro southwest of N.C. 54.

“The idea is to increase outcomes for children and families that are struggling in Orange County,” Meredith McMonigle, Family Success Alliance project coordinator, said. “There’s not a real deep awareness about the existence of those families in Orange County. I think part of that initial priority is just to start that conversation that those communities exist here, and this project is designed to support those children and families.”

How it started

McMonigle said Family Success Alliance grew out of discussions in spring of 2014 when the county commissioners sought to address the increasing rate of child poverty.

Data provided by the Orange County Health Department shows the percentage of children living in poverty has increased in both the county and state in recent years. In 2011, 16.8 percent of children were living in poverty compared to 9.4 percent in 2001.

McMonigle said looking at successful models across the nation combating poverty like the Harlem Children’s Zone and the Promise Neighborhoods, the county set out to initiate its own program—and Family Success Alliance was born.

Health Department Communications Manager Stacy Shelp said six zones were identified as being locations in the county that had higher rates of poverty.

“The purpose of the Family Success Alliance was, once those zones were identified and then the two selected from the application process, was to really create a pipeline where kids aren’t falling through the cracks anymore, that’s kind of a cradle to either college or career success stream for them,” Shelp said. “So it’s going to be an ongoing, this is going to be a long-term project for the county.”

McMonigle said another key component is that it’s a collaboration based on research.

“So the health department is the catalyst for getting the project off the ground, but we’re sort of serving behind the scenes as a backbone structure to bring together this collaboration,” McMonigle said. “Anybody and any entity that is working to support children and families we’ll want at the table.”

Creating and choosing the zones

Using data on poverty, zones were identified, including four in the northern part of the county.

“So looking at, for example, the number of children using the Orange County Health Department clinics, the number of kids on free or reduced lunch, the number of kids on Medicaid, a couple of other data points, pulling that together and seeing which neighborhoods have the highest concentrations, those indicators,” McMonigle said. “There’s a written application and we spent September and into October doing community outreach to let folks know that this was an opportunity.”

In the end, six zones were identified.

As the alliance started its public phase, members of the grassroots Initiative on Poverty, an effort involving local churches, started taking interest in the project.

“There’s great synergy between these two projects,” McMonigle said. “A number of the people involved in the Initiative on Poverty have participated in submitting zone applications, became zone champions.”

On Dec. 16, the Family Success Alliance Council—an array of representatives including those from the school systems, local government, health care, civic and nonprofit groups —voted to choose two of the proposed zones.

McConigle said each of the zones were scored before the meeting, and members of the alliance then heard presentations from the zone champions—a person representing an assigned zone.

“I think the applications were due sometime in November, and then the council members basically had a month to grade or score each application,” she said. “So all of those scores were compiled and presented at the beginning of the Dec. 16 meeting. Basically it was one round of scoring the applications, then the zones gave their oral presentation, and after that the council members had an opportunity to revise their initial score based on what they learned in the presentation. ... The fact is that the scores didn’t change.”

Zones 4 and 6 were selected—one from each school district—to pilot the program.

“There were six identified, and then two were selected to pilot the project, recognizing that we could not start in all six at the same time,” McMonigle said. “Even though it’s pretty clear that there is a real interest to support each zone over time.”

Where to go from here

McMonigle said the next phase will be looking at the chosen zones even more closely.

Performing a gap analysis, conducting needs assessment and developing a zone identity are all on tap to understand the areas better.

“We will pull all of that information together, present it to the zones,” McMonigle said. “We’ll have a community meeting in March and say this is a snapshot of the things happening in the zones.

“So they will bring the priorities to the council, and then it will be working together—the council and community—to set those priorities and begin, whether it’s specific interventions or policy changes, and that will happen after the April 20 council meeting.”

tarheel

Carrboro resident saved by overdose drug

By [Maggie Monsrud](#) | Published 9 hours ago

The Carrboro Police Department [saved the life of a resident](#) Monday night — the first time naloxone was used by any police department in North Carolina.

Naloxone is a medicine that stops opiate overdoses.

“We are also the only other police department in the southeast, other than Georgia, to have used the naloxone kit,” said Capt. Chris Atack, spokesman for the Carrboro Police Department.

At 8:14 p.m. Monday, officers were dispatched to an apartment complex on Old Fayetteville Road in response to a call about an overdose.

Carrboro police were the first to arrive on the scene and administered the drug naloxone to stop a suspected heroin overdose.

Naloxone works by reversing overdose and preventing all subsequent effects.

Atack said the victim was able to come out of the overdose and was doing well as of Tuesday morning.

Atack said this was the first time the Carrboro Police Department used one of its naloxone kits.

All Carrboro patrol officers are trained to use the naloxone kits, including community officers and school resource officers, Atack said. He said the kits are not often used because emergency medical service responders usually are first to arrive on the scene.

Additionally, the Orange County Health Department is allowed to provide naloxone to Orange County citizens through a prescription.

Stacy Shelp, spokeswoman for the Orange County Health Department, said the department was the first in North Carolina to issue prescriptions like naloxone.

Shelp said naloxone is for people who are at risk for drug abuse and family or friends who are concerned about someone who is at risk for drug abuse.

In 2014, there were 86 emergency department visits for unintentional medication or drug overdoses in Orange County, she said.

“So many people are concerned about using it, but the good thing about naloxone is that it won’t have any harmful effects,” Shelp said.

She said after the use of naloxone, overdose victims should seek emergency help.

Joshua Mecimore, spokesman for the Chapel Hill Police Department, said in an email that CHPD officers are also trained to use naloxone.

“We are finalizing our policy and procedures and preparing to deploy it in the near future,” he said.

Atack said the events from Monday night indicated that naloxone is an important program, and the police department would like to improve the training process for the assembly of naloxone kits.

“There are always things you can learn,” he said. “The use of naloxone kits is a skill we train once a year but only use every five years.”

Atack said the Carrboro Police Department is working on making an instructional video on how to use the naloxone kits to reinforce the officers’ training.

“When you’re dealing with opioid overdose or something that is potentially lethal, there is a need to get it right,” he said.