

November 11, 2021

To members of the Wake County Drug Overdose Prevention Coalition,

Fellowship Hall (located in Guilford County) and Healing Transitions, two non-profit providers, are providing this joint statement in response to comments made about our organizations during the most recent Coalition meeting. During the October 26th Coalition meeting, Dr. Eric Morse expressed the following in the Zoom chat:

"With Wake County just passing an anti discrimination law, I think it's important that this opioid settlement money may not be spent on programs that discriminate against people who suffer from OUD who are on any of the three FDA approved medications – naltrexone, buprenorphine, and methadone to treat it and cannot fully participate in their programs – Fellowship Hall, Healing Transitions, Strategic Behavioral, etc – until they comply with what's legal, moral, and evidence based."

The Wake County anti-discrimination ordinance was passed by the Wake County Commissioners on October 18, 2021 and goes into effect February 1, 2022. "The ordinance allows a person who believes a business or organization has discriminated against them to file a complaint with the County Manager's Office for investigation. If the complaint falls within the county's jurisdiction and is factually validated, the county will offer a conciliation process to help resolve the dispute. Protected classes covered under the ordinance include: race, natural hair or hairstyles, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, pregnancy, marital or family status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ancestry, National Guard or veteran status, religious belief or non-belief, age or disability."¹

We take serious issue with Dr. Morse's accusations of discrimination, illegal practices, and immoral conduct. These are serious allegations to make in a public forum that do little to engender the collaborative partnerships required to address the complex needs of those seeking recovery from substance use disorders. It is especially disappointing given the degree of linkage being provided to Morse Clinics by Healing Transitions.

We are also including additional information about our respective organizations in response to these allegations.

Respectfully,



Chris Budnick
Executive Director
Healing Transitions



Mike Yow
President/CEO
Fellowship Hall

¹ <https://www.wakegov.com/news/wake-board-adopts-non-discrimination-ordinance>