Public Policy Workshop

March 8, 2016

Financial Assistance for Senior Citizens: Prescription Drugs

Question: Provide scenarios for the additional number of senior citizens that would receive financial assistance based on an increase in funding.

Response: This is difficult to project for (3) reasons:

1. The type of medicine needed per client varies.
2. The per client medicine cost varies.
3. The reimbursement provided by DSS to MedAssist is at cost (which is drastically cheaper) for purchasing the medication in comparison to utilizing another pharmacist/vendor where the County would be required to pay the full retail value.

Scenarios: The table provides estimates based on total FY2015 spend, divided by the number of customer served, based on incremental funding increase:

FY2015				Additional Customers Served via Additional Funds			
Number of Customers	Funds Spent	Per Client Average			$10,000	$20,000	$30,000
311	$ 5,329	$17.14	# of clients served		584	1,167	1,751

Financial Assistance for Senior Citizens: Prescription Drugs

- There is not an unmet need for seniors that contact DSS seeking assistance for prescription drugs

- DSS refer all clients to MedAssist to obtain prescription drugs

- Medicare Part D Prescription Plan
  o Coverage for prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries will only be covered through Medicare Part D Prescription Plan – therefore each Medicare recipient should enroll in Part D prescription plane
  o Medicaid beneficiaries can choose to enroll in Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan upon entitlement to Medicare
  o Medicaid beneficiaries entitled to Medicare and **not** enrolled in Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan initially will be automatically enrolled in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to ensure prescription drug coverage for Medicaid individuals entitled to Medicare.

MedAssist
of Mecklenburg County

- Provides subsidized prescription medications to qualifying low-income seniors and advocates for healthcare education and counseling.

- Demographics:
  o 60% - Female & 40 % Male
  o 66% - represent a minority group
  o 84% - have income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level
  o 74% - are between 45-64 years of age

- $500,000 = FY2016 community service grant funding amount

- 10,500 = FY2015 target of unduplicated individuals served

- 12,020 = FY2015 actually served

- 450 seniors served to-date in FY2016

- Senior Care Program – assist seniors with selecting a Medicare Part D plan & discuss options if Medicare Part D benefits run out during the year

- BOCC increased community service grant funding by $100K in FY2015

Financial Assistance for Senior Citizens: Transportation

Question: Provide scenarios for the additional number of senior citizens that would receive financial assistance based on an increase in funding.

Response: The Elderly General Purpose (EGP) transportation program, funded through local ½ cent sales tax, is the only funding dedicated solely for senior transportation. The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) allocates approximately $112,000 to DSS annually for the EGP program. This program has served 85 customers FY2016 to date but has been closed to new customers for several years. Increased funding would provide additional transportation for seniors as follows:

Transportation--based on a average one-way trip cost of $18.50 on an average miles/trip of 7.6:

Additional Funding	Number of new customers @ 1 round trip/week for six months	Number of new customers @ 1 round trip/week for 1 year
$50,000	56	28
$100,000	112	56
$500,000	563	281
$1,000,000	1,126	563
$2,000,000	2,252	1,126

Upward Mobility: Net Job Growth

Total Employment

— Mecklenburg — Wake — Forsyth — Guilford — Durham
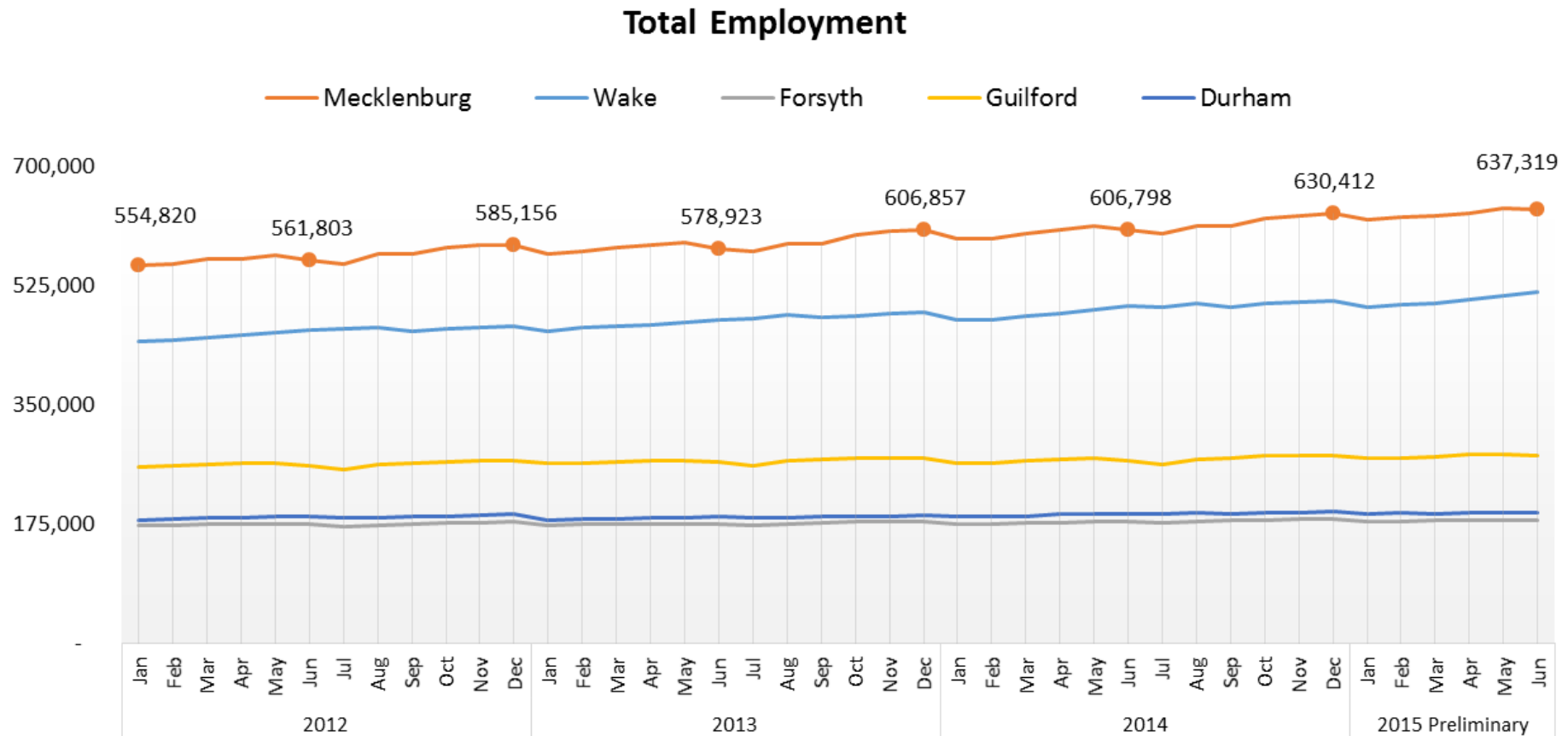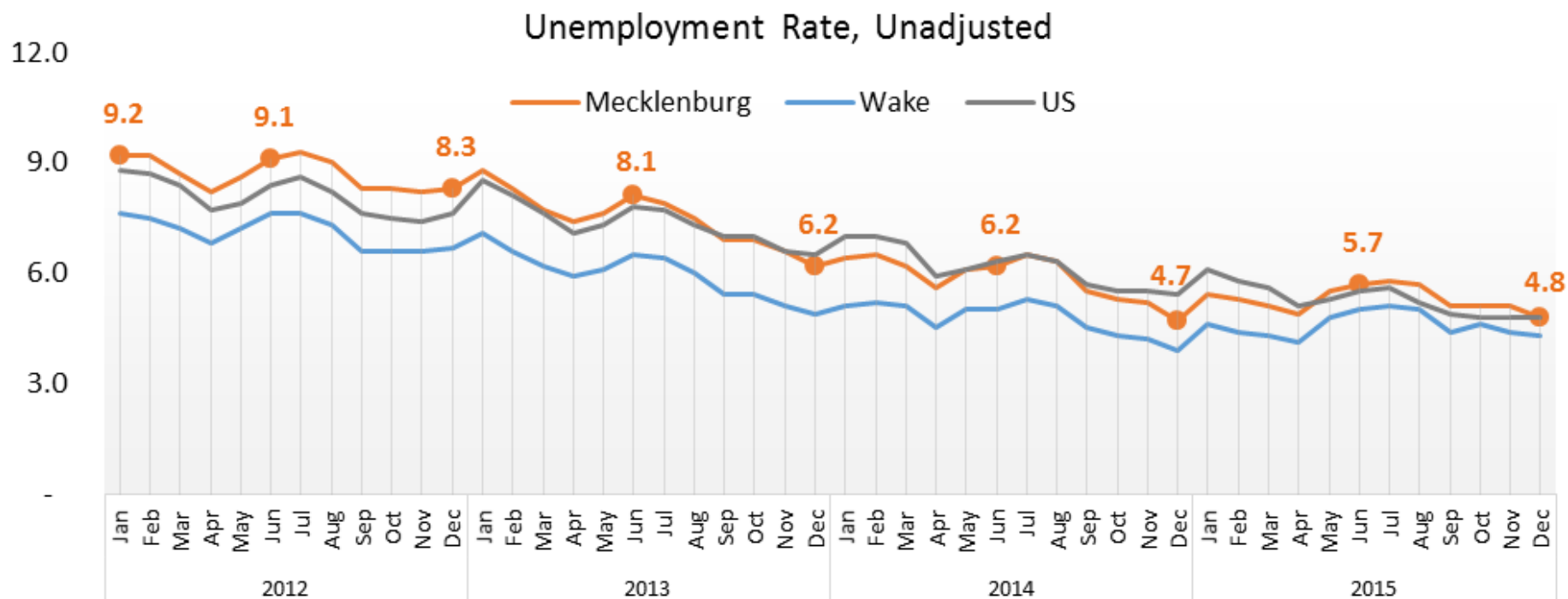

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Upward Mobility: Unemployment Rate

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Upward Mobility: What can be done to create new jobs & decrease unemployment

The Economic Development Department is guiding the Board & the Economic Development Committee through the process of developing a comprehensive strategy to address job attainment and retention:

o The strategy will match the 8,000 entry level jobs with people that need them

o The strategy will address job retention, training, and other barriers keeping people from jobs

o Workforce development strategies

o Small business creation & support strategies

o Using County resource to enhance and grow tourism economy

Homeless Court Update

- Most offenses committed by the homeless aren't a threat to public safety, may be eligible for diversion, & don't require extensive punitive measures to be helped.

- Homeless courts tend to help individuals after they have entered the justice system rather than diverting them from it.

- A specialty court would not provide the tailored support that the homeless need.

Homeless Court Update

- Understanding the need
  - FY2014 – 294 homeless individuals booked in jail
  - 20% received 5 or more bookings
  - 58 unique "Front-End Users" (FEU) in FY2015
  - 76% of FY2015 offenses committed by FEUs were misdemeanors
  - 90% of FY2015 incidents were nonviolent
  - 70% of FY2015 offenses were nonviolent misdemeanors
  - 49% of FY2015 offenses were "public order" offenses

- Charge Type (FY2015) – 340 total charges for FEUs
  - 90 – Nonviolent
  - 76 – Misdemeanor
  - 70 – Nonviolent Misdemeanor
  - 50 – Public Order

Homeless Court Update

- Alternate approaches to establishing homeless court:
  - MeckFUSE is a 45 unit Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program for individuals experiencing homelessness with at least four arrests in the last five years.
  - The creation of a Homeless Justice Team (HJT) consisting of a licensed mental health clinician, a senior social worker, & a peer support specialist.
    - The HJT will divert the homeless from the justice system when possible by meeting them where they are, and connecting them with resources to help prevent low-level offenses.

- If diversion is not possible, HTJ will work with the courts & the jail to help the individual exit the system.

Homelessness Update

Presented to Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

March 8, 2016

Coordinated Assessment

- 3 community sites

- 400 people assessed monthly

- 350 people referred to emergency shelter monthly

- 50 to 60 housing placements monthly

Community Initiatives

Ending Veteran and Chronic Homelessness

- MeckFUSE

- Moore Place

- Shelter Plus Care

Housing Stability Partnerships

- $2,320,109 awarded for supportive services

- 6 agencies received funding

- 281 households served through the collaboration

Data Focus

- Hired two management analysts

- To improve data quality

- To guide decision making

- Funding housing instability & homelessness reports series

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