

**Minutes**  
**Highland Community Collaboration Council**  
Bland, Bristol City, Russell, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe  
Hybrid Meeting  
May 13, 2024 (Monday)  
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Richard opened the meeting at 9:30 and members introduced themselves. Richard asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. There were 24 virtual members and 10 in-person in attendance today.

- Check in: Brief introductions for all attendees.

Old Business:

- Review and approval of Draft meeting notes from the April 8, 2024 HCCC meeting. Matt motioned and Jennifer seconded the motion. All in favor. The April minutes are approved.

Guest Speakers:

· Eric Garrison: The Inn residential program. Pastor at Atkins First Church of God. Started the Inn to give back to the community. Men seeking recovery who are absent to their children. Three phases: regeneration, defense mechanisms, and inner healing. A summary of each phase is provided. Roughly based on the 12-steps. Facility is in the gym at the church. 6-8 guys in rooms above gym. Get PRS certified. A starting point to help others like them. The program is in its infancy. Tobacco-free. No medication assisted treatment. The first group will be part of the leadership. Once certified, they will help teach the classes. Many have kids they have no contact with. One kid is able to come and stay on weekends. Questions: Application process? IN person. Rules and regulations. Turnover rate is high. Similar to the Eagle's Nest program. They provide the literature. They have to take the initiative to come in person to apply. How many can you house? 8. One member diagnosed with cancer. Any disqualifiers? Yes, sex offenders. Schedule: Journaling, class, go to gym, etc. 6-7 month program. (276) 781-6812 for questions. Cost? Free. Focus on recovery. Is there counseling as well? Yes, Mount Rogers. They need money management classes. Can they be on Suboxone? No. You can get high on Suboxone. Chris Snipes will see if they have a program that can come in and provide financial literacy. Linda says she can do a one-day Dave Ramsey.

· Laura Cline: Business Developer for the Virginia Department of Corrections. Started January of last year. Recruit second chance employers throughout the state. Primarily focused on welding programs. Try to connect with all re-entry councils. Employers don't know the benefits of hiring those with justice impacted. There is a job loyalty sense that is 85% as not-impacted peers. Have a bonding program. Have had only one claim in 12-

years. They are less likely to have an incident. Some are worried about liability. My job is to address this. Try to make it as individual as possible. There are many ways we have helped businesses. Can call me anytime. Will not turn away any requests for help. Will work with any business. If you would like to approach a business, I am happy to provide flyers.

New Business:

Determine agenda for June 10, 2024. Fluvanna Correctional Center has females who will be returning to our area. We will have a Q&A session with them. Matt suggests Q&A with Bland soon.

Wrap Up:

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

Remind people to do their Medicaid Renewals.

Chilhowie Older Americans Day is coming up.

5 Bridges to Wellness June 21<sup>st</sup> 10-2 at HMSP.

ASAC Resource Fair August 8<sup>th</sup> 10-2 at the Higher Ed Center.

Wythe Senior Day June 13.

Mountain Mission in Grundy has beds for kids in risk.

The Sanctuary in Damascus is in need of office space. Volunteers are needed for renovations. Raised \$40,000 through concert.

Trail Days are coming up. Linda has brochures.

The Abingdon Fiddler's Convention is happening in June.

Sub-Committee Reports

*Housing Committee/ Service Integration Committee/ Grants/Finance Committee*  
(Matt, Emma, Andy and Linda)

*Employment Committee:* (Jimmy with DARS, Mike with VEC)  
None

*Mentoring Committee/ Substance Abuse Committee:* (Ruth, Teresa, Chris, Charles)  
None

*Public Relations Committee:* (Manuel)  
None

*Executive Committee:* (Charles, Jennifer and Chris).  
None

*Board:* (Linda, Charles, Matt, Jimmy, Chris and Emma)

Re-entry Updates

Local Coalition Updates

None

**Next meeting – June 10, 2024: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday**  
<http://www.highlandsgcc.org>

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**The meeting adjourned at 10:12am.**

If there is someone you would like for us to invite to a future meeting as either a guest or member, please let one of us know.

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Respectfully submitted,

Chris Austin  
Secretary