

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

Welcome and Introductions

Charles opened the meeting at 9:30 and members introduced themselves. Charles asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. There were 33 virtual members and 6 in-person members in attendance today.

- Check in: Brief introductions for all attendees.
- Mount Rogers Community Health District is working on a community health survey. Can be completed on paper or via QR code. Trying to determine what the real needs are of our community. It is for the entire Mount Rogers Health District.

Old Business:

- Review and approval of Draft meeting notes from the February 12, 2024 HCCC meeting. Linda motioned and Jennifer seconded the motion. All in favor. The February minutes are approved.

Guest Speakers:

- Open Door Community: Executive Director Jordan Stidham. Formerly Hope House. Located near Food City. Bringing the continuum of care back together. Look at what each group offers and how we can support citizens. The café is now a restaurant. Can pay or volunteer and get the same meal as everyone else. Can provide rental assistance. Recently opened a motel based warming shelter. Have a clothing closet and emergency supplies for DSS.
Have been applying for grants. Provide housing for recently released. Have a matching savings account. If they save a dollar, we will match with 10. Wrote grant last week.
Breaking ground on 16-units of housing next week. 12-townhomes (2B, 1 ½ Ba) 80% AMI. Family of three could make up to \$50,000 per year. Plans for 32-units next year. One of the biggest hurdles in the area is housing.
Serves Wythe, Smyth, Bland, Grayson, Carroll and Galax.
- My Shepherd's Farm, Rural Retreat: Chief Regina Alley. Adam and Regina visited the farm and met with Phillip. He visits the Southwest Regional Jail and provides a ministry there. He offers people to come and live and work on his farm. Males and females. Currently zero participants. If anyone is willing to

participate, they would be living in the home with Phillip and his family. His contact information is myshepherdsfarmpsalms23.com. One person has went through the program and has been clean and sober for 6-years.

New Business:

Determine agenda for April 8, 2024. No suggestions given.

Wrap Up:

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

ASAC meets 4/11 at Crossroads in Galax. 3/19 strategic planning meeting at the Government Center in Lebanon.

4/7 Hands and Feet being gifted a church in Damascus. Will be cooperative with Mountain Mission School in Grundy. Can entrust the kids to MM without losing custody. Want to stop removals of children from substance use homes. The parents focus on their recovery at Mended Women and then can come to the Sanctuary for preparation of children returning home. Concert 4/7 as a fundraiser. \$10 tickets. Linda will distribute flyers. Will do Narcan training.

Career Fair at Crossroads

4/10 WCC Career Fair

4/26 CCC Chilhowie job fair.

Mended Women has beds available. 20-graduates so far.

Community Health Assessment. There are some volunteers to set up booths and distribute surveys. There will be focus groups as well.

The Inn at Atkins sober living 4/6 open house.

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 – April 8, 2024: 2nd Monday

<http://www.highlandsgccc.org>

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The meeting adjourned at 10:19am.

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