

Highland Community Collaboration Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 08, 2019  
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on April 08, 2019 at the Smyth County DSS conference room.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chris opened the meeting at 9:30 and members introduced themselves. A sign-in sheet was passed around the room. He asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. There were 25 members in attendance today.

**Review and approval of Minutes of March 11, 2019 meeting**

Matt motioned and Russ seconded the minutes. All in favor. The minutes are approved

**New Business**

None

**Guest Speakers:**

**Janie Edwards with Arise (Family Preservation Services)** Janie presented a PowerPoint presentation. A copy will be made available on the website. Brochures were also distributed. There was a discussion about the majority of new clients being those with expanded Medicaid. DSS and probation are the primary referral sources.

**Josh Richardson with Mr. Rogers CSB will present on Intercept 2 (Jail Diversion).** Josh distributed flyers to the group. The program has five steps. This is post arrest, pre-hearing treatment. We received a grant last December. The magistrate can order the assessment. We attempt to divert them out of jail. We anticipate co-occurring issues. George Mason University has a simulator tool that we use to assess risk and needs. A program is established from that point. We offer MRT, anger management, peer support and substance abuse treatment. Housing services are available. The primary issue must be serious mental illness. This regularly includes substance abuse. There is a question about referrals. We partner with anyone associated with the legal system. Magistrates, judges, defense attorneys, any community partner can make a referral. If they have co-occurring MI and SA, we treat the two simultaneously. We do not just target criminals. The goal of legal outcome is to treat them in the community and keep them out of jail. It could have a negative effect if they are non-compliant and this is reported to the court. They receive treatment at the jail and the environment is not the most favorable. The average jail time is 70 days at \$108 per day. Josh and Phillip do the case management and treatment. The hop is that we can extend this program to all of southwest Virginia. It results in cost saving to counties. Chris adds that there are some other diversion programs but they do not address mental health issues.

**Sober Friends Social and Support Group.** Not in attendance today.

## **May 2019 Council Presentations: Suggestions?**

Lori Gates Addison with Cumberland Mountain Community Services has a program called “Are you okay?” Clients are contacted post-treatment for services.

Curtis Sizemore, Recovery Support Navigator with the MAT program through DOC.

## **Sub-Committee Reports**

None

## **Re-entry Updates**

None

## **Local Coalition Updates**

### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

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

None

*Employment Committee: (Jimmy with DARS, Mike with VEC)*

None

*Mentoring Committee/ Substance Abuse Committee: (Ruth, Teresa, Chris, Chuck)*

None

*Public Relations Committee: (Kim, Manuel)*

None

*Executive Committee: (Chris, Kim, Felisha and Chris).*

None

## **Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:**

Pocahontas has a resource fair on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Bland is having a resource fair on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

The job fair is still being organized. She has reached out to the Henderson Art Center in Marion. Tentative timeframe is June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Currently 17 participants in Comprehensive Harm Reduction program in Smyth. This up from 10 from last month. Pamphlets are available. There are 3 receiving treatment for HEP-C.

Linda says ASAC had a couple of meetings and engaged over 150 people. There is a meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> in Lee County. Five Bridges to Wellness will meet on Wednesday at Hungry Mother State Park. Lunch is provided. On Friday in Abingdon, Facets of Recovery. Lunch and dinner are provided. This looks at recovery from a variety of perspectives. There is progress on the re-opening of BLR.

Matt asked that we consider Narcan training for the members. Chris says most members have received the training. Those who need the training can simply stop by the health department and receive the training.

Appalachian Detention Center is having a resource fair on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Hope for New Parents is a support group through Hands and Feet. Brochures were distributed.

Manuel says we are averaging around 300 hits per month on the website.

**Next meeting May 13, 2019. We meet the second Monday of each month.**

<http://www.highlandsgccc.org>

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**The meeting adjourned at 10:29am.**

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