

Highland Community Collaboration Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2021  
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a virtual meeting via Zoom on April 12, 2021.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chris opened the meeting at 9:30 and members introduced themselves. He asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. There were 12 members in attendance today. Chris Shortt, Manuel Street, Chris Snipes, Linda Austin, Kathy Fugate, Cynthia Williams, Carissa South, Chris Austin, Emma Eaton, Carla Mullis, Jimmy McKenzie and Charles Stanley were in attendance.

**Review and approval of Minutes of March 8, 2021 meeting**

Emma motioned and Jimmy seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes are approved

**Guest Speakers:**

Chris Snipes, Virginia Cares: This is a statewide program through People, Inc. There are some who have contracted for the service. Lee, Scott, Wise, Tazewell, Smyth Wythe and the City of Norton are not included in the territory. It started in Roanoke in 1981. There are peer groups. Must be an offender who has been released from a Virginia prison within a year. The work with local jails and help people get birth certificates before release. Explain tax credits. Offer client service funds. Can pay for certificates and reinstatement fees. Driver license fees. A portion of rent or utility deposits. Do a risk assessment and look at static and dynamic factors. Then do a case plan. Housing, clothing, and work tools can be purchased up to \$200. Determine what goals are and assist them with resources. Can stay in the program up to 18-months. The digital inclusion grant expired last month. They could subsidize internet and provide cell phones. 51 devices and 55 subsidized. Proof of attending meetings and registering with VEC go them special consideration. Chris then provided a brief overview of the many programs at People, Inc. Kathy asked about the counties that are not currently being served. There is no timeline for inclusion. Chris asked what we can do to help. He says to go ahead and refer. There are things he can do without spending funds. The funding is limited and some are placed on a waitlist. Chris asked if there is anything the council can do to expand the service area. Chris asked for a letter of support that he can send to Roanoke. Manuel asked if the organization accepts donations from churches. Yes. The church can designate how they want the funds distributed. Chris can be contacted at (276) 274-2514 or [csnipes@peopleinc.net](mailto:csnipes@peopleinc.net)

**New Business**

Felisha McNabb, SCC Registration Update: Chris spoke with Felisha. We are good until the Fall. The postcard has been updated and Manuel has been paid for website work.

**May 2021 Council Presentations: Suggestions?**

Kathy Fugate  
Carissa South with 2-1-1 Virginia.  
Cynthia will reach out to Pocahontas regarding a presenter for June.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

#### **Re-entry Updates**

Emma has been working with problematic releases and several new resources throughout the state. A lot of offenders are being released. Not sure when she will be allowed to go back into the institutions. Cynthia has a list of employers who are willing to work with ex-offenders. She will send a list to Chris for distribution.

### **Local Coalition Updates**

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

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

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

None

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

None

*Public Relations Committee:* (Manuel)

None

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

None

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

Linda said over 400 people are in the ASAC Coalition. Dr. Pratt gave an update on legislation. An addiction psychiatrist from Virginia Beach did a presentation. The next meeting is June 10<sup>th</sup>. Looking at having that meeting in person at the Higher Ed Center. She will send a flyer to Chris regarding the Dr. Lloyd meeting in April. There is a new facility being planned at Smyth County at the state hospital site. She will ask John Graham to come and speak with us about that. Fire by Night is going on in Damascus in the town park. 6-8pm every Sunday night until June. She will approach SVRJA regarding Narcan training for inmates. They can be trained while incarcerated and will be able to receive the Narcan upon release. Hands and Feet grant is about to end. In 2020, 83.5 % went to consumer assistance. There are no paid employees. They often partner with Virginia Cares. Reach out if you have clients who need assistance.

Carla says <https://www.thecaf.org/get-narcan> provides training and Narcan are available online.

Next meeting –May 10, 2021

**We meet the second Monday of each month.**

<http://www.highlandsgcc.org>

Please Like and visit us on Facebook at Highlands Community Collaboration Council

**The meeting adjourned at 10:32am.**

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.

[christopher.shortt@vadoc.virginia.gov](mailto:christopher.shortt@vadoc.virginia.gov)

[manuelstreet14@gmail.com](mailto:manuelstreet14@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Austin  
Secretary