

Highland Community Collaboration Council
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2020
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on February 10, 2020 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 22 members in attendance today.

Review and approval of Minutes of January 13, 2020 meeting

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

Guest Speakers:

February 2020 Council Presentations:

- Lawson Keppel, MSW, (Executive Director of the VA Harm Reduction Coalition): They started as an advocacy group. Wise and Smyth Counties were the first in the state. Naloxone treatment and HEP C testing around the Roanoke Valley has been their primary focus. They attempt to get people into care immediately. They have a mobile clinic called Dose Buster. There is a public health perspective as well as a social movement. They use quality of life and health outcomes as their measurement. Those who use drugs typically do not seek medical treatment until it becomes life threatening. Under current law, those who call for help are charged with possession of drugs. They distributed 15,000 doses of Naloxone last year. To have Naloxone not labeled as a controlled substance is one of our social advocacy projects. Chris asked about the plan for Meth. Meth is cheaper than Heroin and more readily available. Injection drug use must be a clean environment. Harm Reduction is a part of this. Drinking water and getting sleep is very important. Our hope is to allow people to help their friends and not get in trouble.
- Christin Long (Smyth Co Crisis Center): Christin and Jimmy presented information about the center to the group. The SCCC opened 9/17/19. It is a new model. It is an integrated care center to keep people out of psych centers. Medical services are provided throughout the process. It keeps people in the community. It is the first model of this type in the state. They are located in the old VEC building (1590 North Main Street). Members are invited to stop by for a tour. There is a living room style room for people to just stop by and relax. We see everyone there. A trend is that hospitals stay at capacity through seeking services at

ER's. The goal is to eliminate the use of ER's for crisis mental health care. They want to get to the point that they can keep individuals up to 23-hours per day. Detox is also available at the crisis stabilization unit. They have several groups to provide stabilization. They are monitoring services. They are open 7-days a week. Can be referred or dust walk in. Now open 8-8. There will be services available near the hospital in Wytheville. There has been a dramatic decrease in the number of TDO's. We normally see around 200 per month. There is an intake (pre-screening assessment) being competed on clients. Cornerstone is local and can be an additional option to hospitalization.

- Felisha McNabb: Update on SCC status: The form will be submitted today.
- Tracy Davidson: Major, App. CCAP/Honaker. Overview of VADOC CCAP: A PowerPoint presentation was presented to the group. It will also be available on the Council website.

New Business

Council Structure/Alignment: Kathy Fugate is interested in joining the Board of Directors.

March 2020 Council Presentations: Suggestions?

Pastor Davis with the Gray House in Bristol. Sharon Gallimore with the Grace House in Wytheville.

Sub-Committee Reports

Re-entry Updates

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: (Kim, Manuel)
None

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

None

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

House of Valor in Abingdon is a new faith based facility.

ASAC has applied for a new grant. They are requesting a letter of commitment. Let Linda know if you are willing to sign a letter. It is due March 6th.

The Bristol Call Center has a program where they will call and check on people. The Just Checking and Are You Okay programs are currently in operation.

Next meeting March 9, 2020. We meet the second Monday of each month.

<http://www.highlandsgccc.org>

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The meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

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