

Highland Community Collaboration Council
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2019
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on February 12, 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.

Review and approval of Minutes of October 15, 2018 meeting

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

New Business

None

Guest Speakers:

Debbie Debord with Smyth County DSS gave a presentation about Medicaid Expansion in Virginia. Handouts were provided to the group. Age 19-64. Under 138% FPL, legal presence in the US, be a VA resident. SSN or an application for one. Cannot be combined with Medicare. Resources are not considered. Began accepting applications in October. Several ways to apply. Commonhelp.virginia.gov; the Enterprise Call Center, Marketplace, or at local agency. Plan First who qualified were auto enrolled. Many received green, blue or pink letters that provided information on how to apply. We have 1655 enrolled as of 12/1/18. If an adult female on expanded becomes pregnant, they need to let us know because they will be eligible for dental. Criminal convictions are no problem with Medicaid. People on GAP will later transfer in. The expanded coverage will need to be verified once a year. As long as they continue to be eligible, they will be able to continue the coverage. Did it expand Medicaid's services provided? No, just the number. What about work requirement? Smyth County currently has a waiver for the SNAP program. We do not know if it will apply for Medicaid also. There are many unknowns at this point. The General Assembly is still working out the details for the work component. With the expanded program, did it also include additional staff? Yes, we hired two new workers. It has been an increase in caseloads. How about other localities? Washington County has over 1900. Debbie referred members to the map on the DMAS website. It updates regularly. What does MAGI stand for? Modified Adjusted Gross Income. How about inmates being released? The forms are provided at the facility and they will be eligible upon release. If they have a medical emergency that requires hospitalization, they can apply at that time. 82, 690 newly enrolled adults in Virginia as of today.

Cindy Newman passed around a handout and brochure from the Smyth County Health Department about the Comprehensive Harm Reduction Program. Every county is required to do a health assessment. Our Sheriff is open to the program. Several localities are eligible for the program. The community must meet several criteria. A major requirement is community support. Hepatitis C is also an issue in Smyth. A goal of the program is to reduce the HEP C rates in the county. We need to dispose of the needles properly. We hope to reduce the stigma

associated with drug abuse. We are more than just a needle exchange. The best time to come in on Wednesday from 1-3. They come in and state their name and describe their drug use. We ask about Hepatitis history. We provide testing. We have 4 participants. We have learned a lot about the program. We provide them with an ID card that does not have their name on it. If they get pulled over on the way to exchange, they can show the card for verification. It is a 1:1 needle exchange. If they have clean needles, they aren't sharing hepatitis. We provide condoms and cleaning supplies. We provide information on wound care and safe injection. It is a controversial program. Those who seek needle services are more likely to seek treatment. People have called wanting diabetic needles. We cannot provide those. These funds for needles are just for those in the program. Wise County and Richmond also have the program. We also want to get Narcan out in the community. We plan to offer more trainings and distribute the prescription.

Selinda Robinson would like to conduct a resource fair in Smyth County. Once a citizen goes to court, there are many changes that could impact the individual's life. We would like to direct them toward a program that may take them in a different direction. We would like to give them an opportunity to select a different path. It would be geared toward those on probation as well as those who are being released. Emma says Martinsville just conducted a successful fair. She will provide a contact for the group. It is suggested that the council could take on the project. One obstacle will be to serve the entire coverage area. It is suggested that we plan to conduct several sessions. Wytheville Community College, the Depot at Rural Retreat and Emory and Henry were listed as potential locations. She will return next month to discuss the next steps. Transportation will be an issue. We can contact District 3 and churches to discuss the possibility of their assistance.

March 2019 Council Presentations: Suggestions?

Susan Smith will present in March. Jason Pritchard with Ballad Health may be available to present next month. Janie Edwards with Arise (Family Preservation Services) will also present.

Sub-Committee Reports

Felisha reports we paid the SCC fees and completed the renewal. We are a 501c3. If someone wishes to make a donation, the funds can be assigned to a particular project.

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)

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 is having a resource fair. A flyer was passed around the room. Chris will ask Manuel to post it on the council website.

ASAC has some remaining funding for those who want to attend the conference in Atlanta. Contact Linda if interested.

Jake Moore (5 Bridges) will be returning to complete some work with ex-offenders to create a plan to stay well. If interested, contact Linda. April 10th from 10-1.

BLR application for Medicaid is pending.

Drug Take Back last weekend in April.

The Wythe County judge is on board with creating a drug court.

The Trauma Informed Community Network is still an interest to be considered. There are several agencies that have completed the internal training and that may have hampered the desire of an agency to take the lead. We will keep it tabled until that occurs.

Next meeting: March 11, 2019. We meet the second Monday of each month.

<http://www.highlandsgccc.org>

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The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

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