

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

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on March 9, 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 17 members in attendance today.

**Review and approval of Minutes of February 10, 2020 meeting**

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

**Guest Speakers:**

**March 2020 Council Presentations:**

- Rev. Steven L. Davis, Sr., MAHS, PRS  
  
Brothers for Christ Community Response  
Gray House  
A PowerPoint presentation was presented to the group. A copy will be placed on the Council website.
- Sharon Galimore from the Wythe Refuge & Mercy House/Wytheville. House women and children since 2016. They receive no grant funding. They have single rooms. They are required to be employed. Assist with back rent and utility bills. Work with banks for second chances. Must be out of bed by 8:30am. Laziness is not acceptable. The goal is self-sufficiency. Drug tests are given. Referred to local resources such as CR and AA. They are required to participate in a treatment program if they are experiencing issues. Local church provides childcare. Cameras are online 24/7. They are given two chances. Drug use in house is not acceptable. The ladies in house are on their way to recovery. The program is 16-months. If they cannot obtain housing within that timeframe they are not put out. The first graduate got saved while there. Services every Saturday night. She owed \$3000 in fines. She was able to pay off debt, took classes at WCC, has her own apartment, has a job and wants to be a social worker. She was in a family of addicts and has overcome that. If God is in it, you are gonna win it. They need assistance with website and some financial assistance. They plan to pursue grants. They plan to open a thrift store. Daycare is an issue. A grant writer would be beneficial. Many of these

women have such a low self-worth. The shelter was full recently and a lady needed help so I brought her into my home. She grew up in foster care and has a habit of seeking men with issues. Recent relationship ended badly and he totaled her vehicle. A recent graduate left the program with \$5000 in a savings account and \$1000 in her checking account. Some of the ladies are just waiting on housing. They receive referrals from several sources. They are always full and currently have 6 on the wait list. They have space for 16. It is an old nursing home. If they had funding, they could update the sprinkler system and could house many more residents. They are a 501C3. Some local churches help. Council members suggest that she contact King College, Emory and Henry, and Virginia Tech for volunteer grant writers. They have applied for one grant and did not receive it. They are also in need of new Board members. Recent graduates of the program are living independently. Once employment is obtained, the residents are required to pay 10% of their take home pay to the residence. Smyth County DSS has referred several. They come from Roanoke, Carroll, Galax and surrounding areas. DSS is a major referral source. A bus has been donated to convert to a food truck. It now needs to be built out. Made good money selling funnel cakes last summer. Many people don't know we exist. Local radio stations sometimes announce us.

### **New Business**

Council Structure/Alignment: A motion was made to dissolve committees with the exception of executive committee. No action was taken. Chris suggested that Matt make a presentation of the overview of the committees. We will also discuss and plan a strategic planning session. He will also prepare to allow Kathy Fugate to the Board.

### **April 2020 Council Presentations: Suggestions?**

Carissa Strouth with 2-1-1. Jennifer Jolliffe with Magellan will present Smyth County RAM and DSS. Linda Austin will present at the May meeting. Kim will present about strategic planning.

### **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:* (Manuel)  
None

*Executive Committee:* (Chris, Richard, Felisha and Chris).  
None

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

Linda provided some information about an ACES class. Top Pod for Abingdon Regional. Looking for people to come in and provide classes. BLR should open within the next 45-days. ASAC had about 70 people at their last meeting. If interested in participating, contact Linda. Mountain Movers Saltville is active. 22 bed facility in Russell County will be opening soon.

**Next meeting –April 13 2020: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday**

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

<http://www.highlandsgccc.org>

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**The meeting adjourned at 11:09am.**

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