

Highland Community Collaboration Council  
Via Zoom  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2021  
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a virtual meeting via Zoom on May 10, 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 16 members in attendance today. Chris Shortt, Manuel Street, Chris Snipes, Linda Austin, Berk Artrip, Cynthia Williams, Pastor Steven L. Davis, Sr., Kathy Fugate, Sam Rhodes, Howard Chapman, Seekqumarie Hawkins, Felisha McNabb, Kim Coe, Chris Austin, Emma Eaton and Matthew Sackwitz were in attendance.

- Review and approval of April 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

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

Guest Speakers:

- Kathy Fugate: Division of Child Support Enforcement/Family Engagement Services. Family engagement is a program to assist absent parents identify barriers and provide support to overcome those barriers. Cannot help with legal matters or reinstatement fees at DMV. The two main barriers are transportation and employment. They maintain weekly contact and provide employment opportunities. There are partners ready to help. People, Inc. and OEI have cars programs. OEI's program is tied to a TANF grant. They have a TANF debt compromise program. They can match payments dollar for dollar. Please reach out to Kathy for details. They are also trained in mediation. They do not assist with custody issues. If you have a returning citizen that does not reside in Virginia, they can also assist by reaching out to the neighboring state. Kathy will email a flyer to Chris to be distributed to the group.

New Business

- Refer to committee members.

June 2021 Council Presentations:

- **Carissa South**

SWVA Regional Outreach Specialist  
2-1-1 VIRGINIA

- Seekumarie Hawkins (**Verify via Cynthia Williams**)  
Work Force Development Specialist (Pocahontas State Correctional Center)

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

Re-entry Updates

None

Local Coalition Updates

ASAC meets June 10<sup>th</sup>. It is difficult to find indoor venues. A recent outdoor event was \$900 worth of rainbow trout and various activities. Heroin is now being laced with meth. She recommends everyone receive Narcan training. Had a meeting at Abingdon Regional Jail. They expect to begin allowing trustees into the community and have community resources in the facility within 6-7 weeks. There are meetings with DSS regarding ACES. Trying to develop programs. Jimmy Wayne has written a book and has become a motivational speaker. He brings awareness to this situation. We hope to bring him to the area this fall. BLR is open and doing great work. They have a 60-day program that accepts Virginia Medicaid.

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

Manuel says he saw a Facebook post about 30 employers who are seeking applicants between Atkins and Marion. Linda says transportation is likely an issue.

Pastor Davis with the Gray House provided an update and shared some success stories. They hover around 65-75% success rate. They have one open bed and are holding it for probation and parole. Linda says Pastor Davis has written a book and it is available on Amazon. It is titled: You Better Know...The Three No's That Got Me Through. It is being used in Celebrate Recovery. It is a story of someone who has been there. It is available on Amazon for \$14.99.

Matthew says we are running low on Directors. There is currently Matthew Sackwitz, Chris Shortt, Richard Keene (Vice Chair), Chris Austin (secretary) and Emma Eaton. Matthew states that if we needed to vote on something, we may not have enough to participate. Chris will check the roster and get back with the council next month.

Berk says referrals are down now. As of this morning, they have 63 and have a capacity of 106.

**Next meeting –June 14: second Monday**

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

<http://www.highlandsgccc.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.

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Respectfully submitted,

Chris Austin  
Secretary