

Highland Community Collaboration Council
Via Zoom and In Person
Meeting Minutes
September 13 2021
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had an in-person and virtual meeting via Zoom on September 13, 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 29 members in attendance today. A sign in sheet was completed. The following people joined via Zoom: Linda Austin, Si'Andra Lewis, Jennifer Joliffe, Tracy Davidson, Jimmy McKenzie, Chris Snipes, Kimberly Coe, Emma Eaton, Curtis Sizemore, Seekqumarie Hawkins, Kathy Fugate and Richard Keene.

- Review and approval of August 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

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

Guest Speakers:

:• Si'Andra Lewis: (VADOC Peer Recovery Specialist Coordinator) Review of the recovery initiative. Sponsored by a grant. Peer recovery specialists are those with a personal lived experience with someone who has experienced someone with mental health or substance use disorder. They need 72-hour PRS training and be in recovery for 12-months and no pending charges. High school diploma or GED. Must have that training completed in order to qualify for the position. 43 probation districts in Virginia. Can cover multiple programs. The pay is \$18 per hour. Motivators, truth tellers. Role models and mentors. Not sponsors or counselors. Not classified as treatment. It is important to know the role and guidelines within positions. Must be referred by PO. In order to be eligible, one of three criteria, opioid disorder, stimulant disorder or history of overdose. Overdoses are not always recorded. Can be self-disclosed. There is an agreement form. States services are voluntary. During drug court, have the option of jail or drug court. Referrals for anyone who meets eligibility requirements. Those who are using or are in recovery. Peer support is built on mutuality and cooperation. Some have devotional books, some are recovery books. They develop action plans and assist with life skills to meet goals. To date have had 3 PRS trainings. Over 20 students have completed the training. The fourth training for nine students is underway today and will

end the end of September. Meditation books are provided to PRS's. Supervisors are assigned to each region. Pay is also \$18 per hour for supervisors. There are funds to train interested individuals. PRS vacancies are listed on the website for vendors. They have a vision to expand. Are there criminal barriers for participants? No.

- Annie Cleveland: (OXFORD House) She will email the packet to members. She is in long term recovery. A former meth dealer and manufacturer. Living in Oxford House and entering recovery has saved her life. Clients must enter and remain sober. There are men's house, women's houses and women with children houses. Opening a house in Wytheville soon. The cost is weekly and covers rent, utilities, cable and internet. Averages \$100-155 per week. If the house is full, the cost goes down. There is a sliding scale. There is an incentive to get people in. The prior offenses usually don't matter. Some offenses would not get voted in. Sometimes the structure of the house violates probation requirements. There are between 6-12 members per house. There is a house president, secretary, comptroller, treasurer and a safety and chores coordinator. This also teaches life skills. No managers or paid staff on site. It is a peer group system. There is a 12-step support group that includes a sponsor. There is a three step rule system. They only hire people who have lived in the house and know the system. Do not own any of houses. 160 houses in Virginia and they are international. 87% success rate after 15-months. Urine screens at the house. There is a system in place that if you see something, you say something. Narcan in all of the houses. One challenge is "not in my backyard." Not a lot of education and people are not really open to it if it doesn't affect them directly. Need patience and understanding. Houses are democratically ran. There are certain crimes that are frowned upon by the members. The program is evidence based. There is a video on the website. www.oxfordvacancies.com (can apply online). There is a brochure with outreach workers in Virginia. They are in need of donations for the Oxford House in Wytheville. Chris will email the brochure to the members.

- Virtual Tour of BLR (Linda Austin) Rick Mitchell presented the program. It has been underway for 14 months. The long term goal is to be recovery oriented housing to let the person get to their next step of life. Fairview Housing is non-profit. Has been around for over 50 years. Started in Tazewell in 1971. Have had Manna House in Johnson City. Bob Garrett and a friend agreed on a need for supportive housing. It grew and they received some grants. Bought a house in JC downtown and it kept growing. They received some grants and some would stay for a month and other for a couple of years. Some would move out and move back in. It is a 20-bed house. One man has lived there for 12-years. The difference is BLR is over 60,000 square feet. Bob saw the opportunity and was able to take on the project. A schematic of the building was provided to the group. There is a dining hall and full kitchen. A gathering area and a courtyard. There is a second floor. There is a Virginia residential side. There are addiction recovery services available to assist those who are seeking long term treatment. There are three levels. 3.1 residential

treatment. Provide clinically based treatment. Take referrals from hospitals. Provides a level of structure. Low level clinical. Renovation is still ongoing. The program is for adult males and they accept Virginia Medicaid. 75-days is the average stay. Have had a few as 30 and over 100. The current numbers are 81% successful program completions. Have helped over 150 guys. Opened July 7, 2020. Had a forty bed license. Low census at first. On boarded and trained staff for a month before opening. Went for 1-40 over a one-year period. Best practice to grow slowly. Average daily census is 30. Do plan to expand. He provided an online tour. They are a faith based program. Some guys go off site for church services. We want them to fully invest in treatment. They need to connect to primary care. We have a partnership with outside providers. Vocational assistance is provided. There is a daily routine. There is a medication room that provides secure storage. There is a gym on site. In the process of adding 13 resident rooms. The contact number is (276) 821-8030. recover@bristolstylelifestyle.com

Life Center of Galax is a major referrer. They accept most insurances and do some private pay. They are following Covid protocol. They are requiring a negative test at admission. They do MAT with community partners. About 30% of residents have MAT.

New Business

- Refer to committee members: Felisha noted a \$300 donation and she paid the website annual fee.

November 2021 Council Presentations: No meeting in October due to state holiday

- Stan with Bland Correctional Center will host a Q and A.

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

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

Next meeting –November 8, 2021: second Monday

We meet the second Monday of each month.

<http://www.highlandsccc.org>

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The meeting adjourned at 10:42am.

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