

**Highland Community Collaboration Council**  
Bland, Bristol City, Russell, Smyth, Washington and Wythe

**Hybrid Meeting (In-person/virtual)**

**April 10, 2023 (Monday)**

**9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a virtual meeting on April 10, 2023.

Welcome and Introductions

Charles opened the meeting at 9:30 and members introduced themselves. Charles asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. There were 27 members in attendance today.

- Check in: Brief introductions for all attendees.

Old Business:

- Review and approval of Draft meeting notes from the last HCCC meeting. Matt motioned and Felisha seconded the motion. All in favor. The March minutes are approved.

Guest Speakers:

- Scott Turner – Forensic Discharge Planner – Highlands Community Services. Works for Highlands but has an office in the jail. Primarily works with the mental health population. There are 4 staff assigned to the jail. Most also have substance abuse history. Work with them while incarcerated and up to 90-days post release. Main goal is to connect them with mental health services. Coordinate with PO's and help enroll in Medicaid. Assist with transportation and SSI. Often make referrals to Virginia Cares. Housing is an issue. Matt requests that a HCCC brochure be made available. He agrees and suggests we reach out to the counselors and provide the information to them.
- Zac Holt – The Table / Mark 117 program. He shared his story of addiction and recovery. The Tennessee side of BLR was remodeled in January 2022. The participants live and serve from that site. They eventually live on mission and casually talk about their experiences and start new groups. The first cohort graduated last month. There are daily requirements and curfew expectations. They currently have 14 members and are considering three applications. Members usually are released, enter BLR and then transition to 117. The Table is a centralized gathering. They meet at the Boys and Girls Club. It begins with a Sunday meal at 5:30. Small group discussion time. Some eat and leave and it's fine. Some kids don't have ready access to food. Those who relapse are always provided with a path back to the program.

New Business:

- Determine a speaker(s) for May 2023 meeting. The Hidasa House will present next month. Angel with Living Free will also present. Q and A in June.
- Continue discussion - additional HCCC Board Members needed. Linda Austin has volunteered. Added.
- Directory for HCCC members

### Wrap Up:

#### Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

Linda shared that there will be an ASAC Meeting at Mended Women next week. AG is the speaker. Ribbon cutting and reception to follow. Isaiah 117 fundraising event reached \$75,000 goal. Broke record for Narcan training this year.

Matt says Pocahontas had a job fair last week. 28-inmates participated.

There is a Living Free meeting every Friday night at Sugar Grove Baptist Church. Hidasa Home residents are transported there for the meeting.

Vinny said KVWV Traffic Control is looking for 5-10 operators and they are a second chance employer. Start with no experience at \$19.50/hr. After 90-days 100% medical. Guaranteed 40-hours per week. Can contact VEC for details.

VHCC has a 3-day forklift fast track program.

WCC will check on forklift training.

### 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:* (Charles, Richard, Felisha and Chris).  
None

*Board:* (Linda, Charles, Matt, Richard, Felisha, Jimmy, Chris and Emma)

### Re-entry Updates

Local Coalition Updates

None

**Next meeting – May 8, 2023: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday**

<http://www.highlandsgccc.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