

Highland Community Collaboration Council
Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2018
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on August 13, 2018 at the Smyth County DSS conference room.

Welcome and Introductions

Matthew 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 July 9, 2018 meeting

Russ motioned and Regina seconded the minutes. All in favor. The minutes are approved

New Business

- **Matt Sackwitz:** Proposed Trauma Informed Care Network Summit: Tentative date: Sept 17 @ Wytheville Comm. College
It is a Trauma Informed Community network. WCC has provided a room and we need \$1200 for the speaker. Mr. Tyler is pursuing a funding source. If he is not successful, we will seek funding from members. If we can't achieve funding soon, we will focus our efforts on Spring 2019. Ruth will contact and update the presenters. If you are interested in donating, please contact Felisha.
- **Guest Speakers:** District #16 Deputy Chief Regina Alley will discuss Offender Resettlement Journey
Regina discussed the ORJ. The re-entry process started in 2010. The average prison sentence was 45-month. Only 10% were in for life. 37,000 inmates. 65,000 on probation. The average was 33% released per year. Ranked 6th in recidivism. In 2013, re-entry methods were established. A basic orientation, a COMPAS needs assessment with 120 questions. Criminal history, mental health, education, substance abuse, family issues, anger management, etc. Breaking Barriers, T4C, and other programs were implemented. Basic life skills training was implemented. In 2014, the recidivism reduction plan was put into place. There are probation officers and an executive team the meets twice per month to address issues. The evidence based practices, including EPICS were introduced. Much of the information came from COMPAS. In 2017, we had 30,000 inmates but there was an increase of those on probation (66,000). Virginia was ranked #1 in having the lowest recidivism. We then began the ORJ. Those who were out of the system and had been on probation for a while were interviewed to see what lessons could be learned. Wytheville probation was paired with Pocahontas. Other regions performed a similar assessment. The leaders got together and

compiled the results. The focus for our ORJ was resources. We had to have an offender releasing from Pocahontas that would be coming to Wytheville area. We interviewed them about their experience. We networked and several from this room were in attendance. We found that we need to strengthen the link between facility and community and other tasks. We took some of these topics and developed our individual needs. After doing that, we had a meeting a WCC (30 attendees). The topic was Bridging the Gap. The second meeting was at the District Office in Wytheville. We learned what the counselors were doing in the prisons. We each learned what each entity was doing. It allowed us to have a clear picture of the services being provided. The last meeting in April was held at Pocahontas. The topic was enhancing communication with one another. We knew that we needed a re-entry position. Pocahontas is a re-entry prison yet doesn't have a re-entry position. This has been requested. We concluded and wrote up our findings. We are not sure what the next phase is. We have detention diversion, AA/NA, Celebrate Recovery, T4C, Reformers Unanimous, a weekly substance abuse program, aftercare, warm line and day reporting in 3 counties. We are now more aware of the resources available. We still need help with the homeless. There is a veteran's homeless housing complex in Wytheville. We use the Hope House in Galax. The Director has been very involved in this. He is aware of what we need and he is seeking funding. We would love to have a DOC homeless shelter. There has been major improvements and we are excited to see what is in store. Matt has attended every meeting and his input has been invaluable. Susan Smith is our mental health clinician and we are excited about having her on board.

- Howard Chapman: (Tri-County Comm. Health): Plans to discuss Virginia Health Systems.
Howard presented a PowerPoint describing VHC and provided handouts to the group. The presentation will be available on the website.

September 2018 Council Presentations: Suggestions?

Linda Austin volunteered. Mike Williams with Mountain CAP will also present.

Sub-Committee Reports

The housing committee has been focused on the Trauma Informed Community training.

Re-entry Updates

Matt reports that an inmate released from SWVRJA received assistance from HOPE. Mt. Rogers has assisted with transportation. He is doing well.

Local Coalition Updates

None.

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:

Linda reports that BLR will re-open this year. They hope to have a day center.

HOPE is opening a “pay what you can” lunch 5-days per week. If there is anyone in Wytheville who can benefit from this service, please contact Andy Kegley. Those who have the ability to pay are encouraged to support this resource.

Linda made the members aware of the need for an incinerator to dispose of the drug-take-back boxes in the area. The cost is \$4,000.

Matt spoke with Felisha about a PayPal account linked to our account to allow online giving.

Linda says 48 people attended the ASAC meeting last month. Hands and Feet is hosting a golf tournament in Marion. They are looking for hole sponsors (\$100). See Linda for details.

Howard said Psychiatry in the Mountains will be having a conference in Johnson City.

Linda reported that Johnson City is a certified Trauma-Informed Community. They regularly provide training. Some are specially trained to train law enforcement and librarians.

Next meeting –September 10, 2018

<http://www.highlandsgcc.org>

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The meeting adjourned at 10:53am.

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