Highland Community Collaboration Council

Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and In-Person)

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2022

9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a hybrid meeting on December 12, 2022

Welcome and Introductions

Richard opened the meeting at 9:30 and members introduced themselves. Chris asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. There were 21 members in attendance today.

* Review and approval of August 8, 2022 meeting. Matt motioned and Felisha seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes are approved.

Guest Speakers:

* Richard Keene, DARS will briefly present State Vocational Services. It is a federal state program. Works with those who have barriers to work. Some have difficulty obtaining or retaining a job. Work with those who have SSI or SSDI. This is not a requirement. Must have a barrier to work and they believe there is a need. If they want to go to work, they learn about our services and can be referred by anyone. Another possible criterion is a physical or cognitive barrier. Would assist those who have a condition that is not short-term. Diagnosed mental health issues or substance use disorder are considered. Those who need assistance with diagnosis are also encouraged to apply. Can work with recent graduates to discuss career goals. There are local offices at Abingdon, Wytheville, Pounding Mill and Norton. There are rehabilitation engineers that can provide custom plans for workstations. Call the office that is closest to the individual’s address. We partner well with other resources in the area.

• Linda Austin ASAC will present the Mended Women’s Lifestyle Recovery House – Abingdon (Linda is not available today. Felisha and Rick shared the following). Felisha says the facility will be located in Abingdon. They have been meeting for about six-months. They heard about a former assisted living facility that is currently on the market. They think the facility will work well. They have received about $70,000 in funding and need a total of $719,000. Rick says Fairview Housing has several facilities in the Johnson City and Bristol area. The Bristol Lifestyle Recovery facility provides treatment services to those who are detoxed. They develop a treatment plan and provide supportive services. There is a wellness trainer onsite as well as a nursing staff. The average stay is 2-3 months. The bigger need is a care for men facility. They opened as a men only facility so there is a need for a facility for women. Several ladies came together to address the need. They found a location and contacted Fairview Housing for support. The Abingdon facility is perfect. All beds in place and also has the required space and restrooms. Also a house on the premises that can be set up for new mothers. Smyth County has made a contribution to the facility. Linda has several large requests that are awaiting reply. The anticipated opening date is summer 2023.

Emma requests that Richard email the address and contact information for BLR. The phone number is (276) 821-8030. He will send it to the distribution list. There is a sober living home with 16-beds (8 male and 8 female) in Dickenson County opening in 2023. Initially for Dickenson residents and hope to later open to other counties.

The ASAC website is: stopsubstanceabuse.com

Matt says Freedom Tabernacle Church in Atkins is in the process of opening a day shelter. Angel says she will be visiting there tomorrow and will get some information. Matt asks her to invite them to our meeting next month.

New Business

• Discuss HCCC being a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Smyth County. Jennifer says she thinks Linda joined through ASAC last month. We will check with Linda during the next meeting.

• Increasing VEC and Housing Representation. We have four VEC and one housing representative in attendance today. Richard encouraged members to let him know other housing partners that could be involved. Matt suggests that we contact the local housing authorities.

• Discuss increasing representation from Bristol, Bland and Russell. There was a discussion about the VEC’s, housing and Chambers.

• Determine a speaker(s) for January 2023 meeting. Angel will reach out to Freedom Tabernacle and make a request. Jennifer suggest that a neutral party can speak about changes with Medicaid.

• Discuss- HCCC Board Members needed Wrap Up: Matt says we need 12-members and we currently have seven. Our bylaws state we must have between 7-15 members. We are looking for diversity. If anyone is interested in being on the board, please let Richard know.

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

Re-entry Updates

Local Coalition Updates

None

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

Richard will work on the technology for the next meeting.

**Next meeting –*January 9, 2023: 2nd Monday***

<http://www.highlandsccc.org>

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**The meeting adjourned at 11:04am.**

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.

[charles.stanley@vadoc.virginia.gov](mailto:charles.stanley@vadoc.virginia.gov)

[**manuelstreet14@gmail.com**](mailto:manuelstreet14@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Austin

Secretary