

Highland Community Collaboration Council  
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)  
Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2022  
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a virtual meeting on February 14, 2022

Welcome and Introductions

Linda opened the meeting at 9:50 and members introduced themselves. There were some connectivity issues and Chris was unable to log on initially but was able to join later in the meeting. Linda asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. There were 17 members in attendance today.

- Review and approval of December 13, 2021 meeting: (January meeting canceled). Matt motioned and Felisha seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes are approved.

Guest Speakers:

- Jill Howell: Virginia Lead Navigator (Ballad Health)

**Overview of PEER (Programming-Education-Employment-Recovery) Ms. Howell presented a PowerPoint to the council. A copy will be placed on the council website.**

- Stan Rose: Cognitive Counselor (Bland Correctional Counselor)  
**Q & A with two Inmates to solicit Council input.** Inmate one asked about small business loans. Chris Snipes with People, Inc. replied with a contact at People, Inc. Jeremy Repass is the contact person. He also has an issue with a driver license. A letter states that he must take a VASAP class. He would like to know what he needs to do to correct this. Felisha states he may need to check his compliance summary. Chris Snipes suggests that he get a copy of his compliance summary and see if the DMV can clarify the situation. It appears that he may just need to do the intervention interview. He also requests assistance with clothing. Candace suggests he contact Peer Help once released. He then asked is there is a list of jobs around Carroll County. Angel with Second Chance Employment offers to help with that. They will coordinate that with the clothing delivery.

Inmate two will be living in Russell County upon release. His first question is about clothing. Felisha says Amber at the OEI Thrift Store at 49 Pruner Street

(behind the DMV) will have a voucher for him at the Bargain Basement. He can get with Linda for anything the Thrift Store does not have to help him. He will be released on the 28<sup>th</sup>. He was able to meet his probation officer on the Zoom call. He will report to probation on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30. Chris Snipes provided information about the Virginia Cares program through People, Inc. They can help with getting his driver license reinstated. Linda says there are three food banks in Russell County. Hands and Feet can also help with a food card. Contact Linda for more details. Cindy provided the name and number of a food bank.

### New Business

- Update from Matt Sackwitz, Linda Austin, Felisha McNabb and Howard Chapman regarding 02/08/2022: Healthy Patrick County Coalition. **Provide an update/experience and outcome...** Howard set up an opportunity for the council to connect with the coalition. They discussed how our council was formed and the necessary documents that were prepared to become a non-profit. Patrick County lost their hospital in 2017. There are two PCP's serving 17,800 residents.

### March 14, 2022 Council Presentations:

- **Presenters NEEDED.** Linda offers to present about growing the council impact and effectiveness.

### 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

None

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

Sexton's is still hiring. \$15 per hour in Smyth County.

Rick with BLR provided an update on their recent staff changes and introduced Tracy. They are still at the 40-bed capacity and are expecting a licensing visit. They have a waitlist.

Jennifer says Medicaid increased income limits and SNAP has also increased. She will send the updates to council members.

Chris Snipes reminded everyone that People, Inc. is now offering free tax preparation for anyone who makes less than \$58,000 per year.

Howard reminded the council of a grant opportunity that is due April 19<sup>th</sup>. It is a \$1.5 million grant. Matt says if we are interested in doing this or if we want to help a participant apply, we will need to get started on this. Howard says there must be four organizations that come together to apply. Chris asks Felisha what her thoughts are. She will pull the RFP and take a look at it. She will then contact members.

Linda is looking into opening a facility for women in Washington County. They found a building and have identified funding streams. It would be Medicaid treatment and offer residential housing upon release.

**Next meeting –*March 14th: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday***

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

<http://www.highlandscoc.org>

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**The meeting adjourned at 11:18am.**

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