

Highland Community Collaboration Council
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2018
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on February 12, 2018 at the Smyth County DSS conference room.

Welcome and Introductions

James 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. There is one addition: Sandy Kiser Tatum with CMCSB will be a presenter. She was not in attendance.

Review and approval of Minutes of November 13, 2017 meeting

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

New Business

- **Matt Sackwitz: Grant Update**

Matt has heard nothing from grants and no news is bad news.

- **Manuel Street: Website Update**

232 views per week. That is pretty good for a new website.

- **Russ Gates, the lead Peer Recovery Specialist for MRCSB.**

Literature was distributed. They are implementing a "warmline". It is short of a hotline. The goal is to prevent it from getting to the hotline phase. They offer hope and resources. The goal is to get them into the CSP for evaluation. Russ served on the Wythe Bland council. Dawn Taylor is a peer recovery specialist who is in attendance today and asks that we refer individuals and families to the line. Ruth adds that they are very excited about this program. They hope it grows. It is a grant that we hope will be continued. There are 5 specialists. Chilhowie, Rural Retreat and Bland. It is a 24-hour line. The ER is for Smyth and Wythe. They work with emergency care specialists. The peers are there to do some 1:1 work while paperwork is being completed. James says he appreciates the additional resource. A gentleman came in in full arrest and was given Narcan. He immediately revived and started swinging and was very upset that we took away his high. At a recent meeting there was a discussion about a needle exchange in Smyth County. Russ says prescription overdoses are down 18% but they are being replaced by heroin overdoses. James states that the sheriff reported that meth is very active in our community.

- **Agency Presentations:**

Felisha McNabb (OEI): The non-profit was created over 20-years ago. There is a 3-R's program that provides caseworkers with a load of around 20 who have been

referred by VIEW who have substance abuse issues and need intensive casework. They cover 13-counties in southwest Virginia. Vehicles for Change is a program that provides vehicles for eligible TANF recipients. If they are working 30-hours per week and are insurable, we can help them get a vehicle. They receive a nice vehicle and pay \$82 per month for a year and the vehicle is theirs. It is a great resource for those who otherwise could not afford a vehicle. We placed 70 vehicles last year. They also need to have a eligible child in the household. Together We Can is a program in Lee, Dickenson and Tazewell Counties. The Ticket To Work program is for those who are on disability and can double their income if they return to work at some level. Specialists can provide the impact of working while on disability. We have around 70 clients. If you know someone on SSI and is struggling, this program may be for them. There is a Bargain Basement store in Lebanon that could be a resource for clothing. They are currently in need of men's clothing.

- **Linda Midgett (People, Inc.)**

Linda provided information about Virginia Cares. She would like to be on a future agenda to further discuss People, Inc. and their many programs they offer. The program works with individuals create goals to assist them obtain those goals. Transportation is a barrier. They do job training and do sessions on how to overcome challenges. They use carry guides that include basic job readiness and are specific to criminogenic needs. Those experiencing substance abuse are included. It primarily is focused on employment. If they are employed, they are less likely to require criminal behavior to sustain themselves. If the clients come in to our office, we will provide services. Individuals must make contact themselves. They work with clients for 6-months.

- **Stephanie Carter (Career Support Systems)**

We have a Poverty Phase 6 grant for homeless, Probation and parole, and veterans. We assist with employment. Placement and training services are provided. We do everything we can do to assist them with employment. There are a lot of un-diagnosed disabilities. We are currently partnering with VA Cares. They must have a child and be experiencing poverty. We do a lot of 1:1. We take them out into the community. We get them started with a job to allow them to pay the bills while some may continue the search for sustainable employment. We become the mediator for the employer and employee. We work to address barriers. Josh is a job coach and works along the 81 corridor. We follow clients for years. Partner with DARS and CSB's for community waiver; Covers Bristol to Roanoke. They are not in Norton; must be 18; can also work with DSS clients whose clocks have expired. Contact information was provided to the group.

Matt will create a presentation for the group next month.

March 2018 Council Presentations: Suggestions?

The program coordinator for the drug court would like to present.

- **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

Re-entry Updates

March 5th follow up to the Wythe meeting.

Local Coalition Updates

ASAC is a regional coalition. They have started the faith community initiative. They had a meeting in November that had over 100 in attendance. They will have another meeting soon. Mike Rush will be a presenter. There will be a Faith in Action panel. DePaul will discuss needs in Washington County. See Linda Austin for flyers; April 5th Wellness seminar in Wythe. Hands and Feet is attempting to locate some housing. There are lots of bunk houses with bathrooms on the lake. We would like to be able to access that space as available housing.

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

James asked for an update on the drug court. There is one participant. The 12-24 month program partners with local resources. There is intense screening and Mount Rogers does a mental health screening. The individual needs to have charges to be eligible.

Bland Correctional Center releases inmates almost daily. There are resource fairs that we would love for you to come and participate in. You are also invited to come and speak with inmates.

Howard discussed TeleHealth. There is a conference in Hershey, PA and brochures were distributed. Mid-Atlantic TeleHealth can be searched on the Internet for more information. The APA is looking at mental health disparities in several states. They are looking for people from various disciplines. Margie Tomaine with Healthy Appalachia is a local contact.

Linda says several from ASAC are going to Atlanta in April. If you would like to ride the van, let her know.

Ann Wood started Samaritan House in Glade. They want to assist women coming out of jail. We are looking forward to helping our community.

Next meeting –*March 12, 2018*

<http://www.highlandsgccc.org>

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The meeting adjourned at 10:47am.

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