

**Minutes**  
**Highland Community Collaboration Council**  
Bland, Bristol City, Russell, Smyth, Washington and Wythe  
**Hybrid Meeting**  
**July 10, 2023 (Monday)**  
**9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a hybrid meeting on July 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 32 members in attendance today.

- Check in: Brief introductions for all attendees.

Old Business:

- Review and approval of Draft meeting notes from the June 12, 2023 HCCC meeting. Matt motioned and Jimmy seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

- Guest Speakers:

- John Graham, Clerk of Smyth County Circuit Court: Appalachian Center of Hope. 2017 Mountain States and Wellmont became Ballad Health. There was a workgroup to identify needs in the community. The prevalence of NAS babies and the drug problem in Smyth County were issues that were discussed. Dr. Carter and others said we can't just continue to identify problems, we must act to address the issues. The purpose of the group is to collaborate. The Smyth County Community Foundation received some funding and did a survey at the ER. There was a call to action for churches and 77 people showed up. The discussion was about what could be done to address community issues. They advocated to start the Comprehensive Harm Reduction program in Smyth County. It resulted in a reduced HIV rate.

The facility is on the grounds of the SWVAMHI. The four areas of focus: 1. SA treatment for men. 2. SA treatment for women. 3. Day reporting and 4.

Transitional recovery housing. The Rehab building was built in the 1930's for TB treatment. Cross ventilation was one of the main treatments for TB. Lots of windows and open halls. The GA conveyed the building and 2 ½ acres to Smyth County. Are a 501c3. James Tyler, Joey Carico, Sandy Bryant, Chip Shuler are on the board. They received funding from the foundation, the general assembly and others. 63-bed residential treatment facility. Level 3.1. Is within walking distance to MRCSB. The goal is to make it as nice as possible. Several renderings were

shared with the group. They anticipate a 12-month construction phase. They hope to start in the Fall. The current holdup is a site survey to include the 2.5 acres. The program will be 3-5 months. They will be detoxed and we will be the next step. The supportive housing is planned to assist with the next step.

- Venus Laney, District 17 Probation Officer: RISE UP update, planning for Smyth County resource fair. They are working with HMSP to coordinate the resource fair. One of the hurdles is to get people there and be able to feed them. The target is September. It is recovery awareness month. Richard has made contact with the DMV providing a rep to speak about assistance with fines. We are looking for a contact with VASAP. There are 225 probationers in Smyth County.

#### New Business:

- Determine agenda for August 2023. Q and A? Bland doesn't have anyone. CCAP will arrange for a couple of inmates. Regional jails? They are not interested. Russ would like to get some information about the ROOT program in Powhatan. He will email Charles if he is able to obtain some information.
- Continue Discussion resource fair for Smyth County

#### Wrap Up:

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

ASAC: Tony Hoffman will be speaking in SW VA 8/7 Lincoln at 4. Abingdon 9<sup>th</sup>. BMX world champion. ASAC in Marion 8/10 10-12. Networking breakfast at 9:30.

Mended Women Fire Marshal Inspection today.

BLR is doing well.

Recovery Court graduation this Friday in Smyth.

Smyth Animal Rescue offers community service hours. Off exit 47.

9 8/9/10 Bristol Rhythm and Roots Narcan training.

Living Free Monday at 7 Sugar Grove. Van rides available.

Matt will contact Lavada at OEI regarding money transfers for the resource fair.

#### 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 – August 14, 2023: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday**

<http://www.highlandscce.org>

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**The meeting adjourned at 10:45am.**

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