

Highland Community Collaboration Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2018  
9:30am

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on June 11, 2018 at the Smyth County DSS conference room.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chris 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 May 14, 2018 meeting**

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

**New Business**

- **Matt Sackwitz: Grant Update**

We have been comparing prices for marketing materials. Rack Cards, professionally designed and printed brochures, etc. A trauma-informed care group of presenters from Richmond is estimated to cost around \$3,000. \$2000 for the event and \$1000 for the presenters. We are looking for a space for 50 participants. The Copenhaver Room at the library is available for free. James recommends contacting E&H for space. Ruth has contacted the presenters and is excited about it. Printing brochures will cost \$165 for 2500. The PSA is free. WCYB does a noon interview for free. If we have a message to get out, these opportunities are available. We need to request some funding. The Resettlement Journey was a successful partnership. The institution and P&P offices were at the table. It was beneficial to know available community resources. HCCC maintains a website with a list of resources. Much information is there. We lack Giles, Carroll and Grayson. Some entities in District 16 are not included. These localities are not within the boundaries of HCCC. If citizens can access the website for information, they will not need to come before the Service Integration Committee. Chris says the DOC website can be updated with information presented by the unit director. Having a high quality website is beneficial to the services we are providing. There is a DOC resource page but it is difficult to maneuver.

- **Manuel Street: Website Update**

144 views this week. We are usually over 200. Regina discussed how helpful the website has been in presenting information about the Council to those who are not

familiar with the resource. Chris adds that the agenda and minutes will be included for all meetings.

- **Agency Presentations:**

None.

- **Speakers:**

- **Shatona Williams:**

She represents Volunteers of America Chesapeake and has the SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) grant. The grant serves qualifying veterans and their families with housing. She will be discussing how a veteran qualifies for the program, the two categories a veteran could qualify for, types of services we provide, service area, and how to make a referral to our program.

Shatona has an office in Bristol, VA. Brochures were distributed. This is a housing first program. We provide housing then implement wrap around services. Some of the qualifications include: prior service member (except dishonorable or court martial); or they must be homeless or have an eviction notice. The grant is from the VA. It is a national program. We can provide services within 2-hours travel from Bristol. We currently have funding available. Rapid Re-Housing and Homeless Prevention are the two categories. If the veteran doesn't qualify, we refer to veteran resources. We can connect them with up to \$500 for energy credit. They need DD-214, driver's license, verification of income and a letter from a third party who can verify. An eviction notice and lease as well as bank statements are needed. We are working on promoting self-sufficiency. The CM meets with the veteran once a week. A FSP is developed. Budgeting is one component. We can provide transportation assistance, employment programs, and education. We assist with furniture, clothing, food, etc. The (844) number on the brochure is available for intake. A presentation was provided at Pocahontas last month. It was well attended. The (276) number is the Case Manager. The referral form was discussed and will be emailed to members. The web address is: [voachesapeake.org](http://voachesapeake.org)

Question from Robert: Timeframe from intake to housing? CM does assessment within one week and they begin to look at housing. Once housing is found, the CM does an inspection of the property. We submit a request for payment and let the landlord know when payment is projected. The process normally takes 30-days.

Question from Matt: If another agency provides housing, can you provide wrap-around services? Yes.

- **Mike Frye and Robert Myers:**

They are Veterans Service Representatives for the Virginia Employment Commission. They work with veterans with Significant Barriers to Employment such as disabled veterans, ex-offenders, homeless, and low income. They provide intensive services including counseling, resume building, interviewing help, and job leads

Robert presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group. A copy of the PowerPoint will be placed on the HCCC website. Brochures and business cards were presented to the group.

**July 9, 2018 Council Presentations: Suggestions**

Ruth Cox and Russ Gates with Mount Rogers will present current trends in recovery in July.

Ben with Pocahontas will present in July.

Regina will present about the Resettlement Journey in August.

- **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**

None

### **Local Coalition Updates**

Linda says the ASAC meetings will be meeting in different locations throughout Southwest Virginia. The Gathering Place in Wytheville is the next location from 10am-12pm. Linda will send the invitation to Manuel to put on the website. There are some good free trainings throughout southwest. Contact Linda for more details.

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

OEI is moving its office to Abingdon next week.

**Next meeting July 9, 2018**

<http://www.highlandsgccc.org>

Please Like and visit us on Facebook at Highlands Community Collaboration Council

**The meeting adjourned at 10:50am.**

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,

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