

Highland Community Collaboration Council
Bland, Bristol City, Russell, Smyth, Washington and Wythe
Hybrid Meeting (In-person/virtual)
March 13, 2023 (Monday)
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a virtual meeting on March 13, 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 27 members in attendance today.

- Check in: Brief introductions for all attendees.

Old Business:

- Review and approval of Draft meeting notes from the last HCCC meeting. Felisha motioned and Linda seconded the motion. All in favor. The February minutes are approved.
- Guest Speakers:
- Blane Clark – Virginia Employment Commission. Veterans Employment Services. Help veterans who have barriers to employment. If you meet a veteran age 18-24 who has difficulty with employment, please refer them. There is someone who does this nationwide.
- Gary Cody – Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society. They cover Christiansburg to Lee County. They have offices in Christiansburg, Castlewood and Marion. There are 37-staff members. Assist low-income clients in civil matters. Custody, child support and housing are the majority of cases at this point. Served 3028 clients in 2022. There are several upcoming presentations in the area. Information will be coming out for those opportunities next week. Intake is completed via a 30-minute telephone call. We must first discuss financial criteria before we can discuss the case. We need to speak directly to the client or POA. Must fall below Federal poverty guidelines. Other assets will be considered. There is an option for an online application. Brochures were provided to the group. They have a new program to assist those in recovery court to expunge their records.
- Sevita works with those with addiction who need assistance with medication and treatment. Counseling is a required component. Just opened an office in Coeburn and will soon be opening in Oakwood. If the referral is received by noon, can usually help that way.

New Business:

- Determine a speaker(s) for April 2023 meeting. Eric Bearson from Wytheville. Habassah House will be invited to present.
- Continue discussion - additional HCCC Board Members needed. Linda Austin has volunteered.

Wrap Up:

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

It is recommended that we conduct a Q and A session once per quarter. One goal is to reach out to the regional jail.

Mended Women is licensed for 65 and will be opening in Abingdon soon. Brochures are available now. It will be on Fairview Housing website soon. Will do a slow roll and will admit 4-at a time. MAT will be allowed at the facility.

Living Free at Sugar Grove will be doing Narcan Training at Sugar Grove Baptist Church on Friday from 6-7:30.

Isaiah 117 House will be hosting a fundraiser soon.

Fentanyl Awareness Day were a success in Smyth County Schools. See naturalhigh.org for a 22-minute video. Just completed program in Buchanan County Schools. Will be doing Washington County Schools over 4-days in April.

Hope House has 11 male beds currently available in Virginia and a women's facility with 35 beds will be opening soon in Suffolk.

Trank is a horse tranquilizer that eats the flesh. It is suspected that some in the area are using this. Could also be Xylozene.

Reminder to complete Medicaid renewals timely so as to not lose benefits.

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

Next meeting – April 10, 2023: 2nd Monday

<http://www.highlandsgcc.org>

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

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

manuelstreet14@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Austin
Secretary