

Highland Community Collaboration Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2017

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on May 8, 2017 in the Smyth County Office Building.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chris opened the meeting at 9:34 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 April 10, 2017 meeting**

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

**New Business**

- **Matt Sackwitz: Grant update**

The grant application is ready to go. Needs a copy of the 501-c3. Felisha received the document last week and will scan and send it to Matt and Chris. Matt requests a logo. Manuel will send it to him. Matt will send a draft of the grant application to the group before submission. A part-time AmeriCorp position is included. Matt has contacted Target and will continue to pursue this opportunity. There are many other grant opportunities. We have an approved budget and a plan so we should be able to create effective proposals. We have a limited client pool and that is mainly due to limited financial resources

- **Manuel Street: Council web-site update**

The 2-1-1link will be updated. The minutes for 2017 will be added to the website. Chris will forward to Manuel. Does the organization want a facebook page? Manuel can manage the page. Yes. Manuel will be the administrator. It will be helpful when meeting times are changed or meetings are cancelled. We can post pictures of council members, meeting dates and items for discussion. Will also be helpful for clients in need of services. Are we ready to accept donations? Yes, through OEI, as the fiscal agent. Matt adds that donors have no way to direct their donation. If such an instance occurs, it would be best to help that individual personally. We are currently helping with first month rent and deposit. This is something that needs to be considered on a case by case basis. Chris adds that in the future we may need to consider forming a committee that can direct the activities. Manuel will send friend requests to the group.

- **Linda Austin: Bristol Lifestyle Recovery update**

There was an open house this weekend. They are set to be operational on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Some gas lines need to be replaced. This is due to the building sitting vacant. Kitchen

appliances will be delivered soon. Many good things are happening. They have over 30 applications. They will be reviewed and clients will begin to move in early June.

- **Emma Eaton: Update on Council working with Bristol Lifestyle Recovery regarding future endeavors.**

Has been going to BLR the past couple of weeks. Problematic releases and general referrals are being considered. Funding has been an issue. Is it possible that this group through grants could assist with finding for BLR. We have had discussions about funding our own house through the council. At this time, it would be more beneficial to partner with BLR. Matt says it doesn't sound attractive to him. The money we receive would go further in the community. They could rent a house and pay bills with \$800. BLR is also not open to sex offenders. It is also difficult to obtain grants to simply give them to other non-profits. The \$800 for the first month would be ok but what about after that? Linda says the client should be able to pay their own way after the first month. Chris says donors would be able to make a donation then our committee would be able to make decisions about the best location for that individual. We are putting all the pieces in place and it will fall in line later. Emma says there may be a way to recoup some funds from those who have benefitted from the grant/donor funds. Linda says there are four churches who are currently set up to sponsor clients. Manuel says this may be something we could set up on our council facebook page. Linda says the first 30 days in, clients are not pushed into employment. If they already have a job, they can maintain it but for those who don't, employment will be pursued after the first 30 days. Linda says BLR is also pursuing grants. BLR is the only program of its kind in southwest Virginia. There are similar programs in Lebanon and Roanoke. BLR will serve 13 counties in Virginia and 8 in Tennessee. They anticipate being filled to capacity within 12-months.

- **Propose June Meeting be held at Bristol Lifestyle Recovery: Thoughts ????**

Chris says he thinks it would be good to meet at BLR and maybe take a tour. The group is in agreement to meet there on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Emma asked for the agenda to be delivered earlier before the next meeting.

- **Sub -Committee Reports: Suggestions for new members ????**

*Housing Committee/ Service Integration Committee/ Grants/Finance Committee (Matt, Emma, Andy, Felisha, Andy and Linda)*

*Employment Committee: (Jimmy with DARS)*

*Mentoring Committee/ Substance Abuse Committee: (Ruth, Teresa, Chris, Chuck)*

*Public Relations Committee: (Kim, Manuel)*

*Executive Committee: (Chris, Kim, Felisha and Chris).*

## **Re-entry Updates**

None

## **Local Coalition Updates**

Linda says Tennessee has a faith coalition. ASAC in Wise County will begin recruiting churches.

A faith based and substance abuse program will be formed in Kingsport. Teresa says the group will educate faith based groups on trauma and serving those with substance abuse issues. They are recruiting people from Virginia.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30-5 at SWVHEC there will be a program.

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

Bland and Smyth are having resource fairs.

DDS in Roanoke (Melissa Phillips) may want to present at the meeting next month at BLR.

Howard says ACA will not serve 24 million people. Potential for Medicaid cuts. \$8 million program.

**Next meeting –June 12, 2017 at 9:30 at Bristol Lifestyle Recovery.**

<http://www.highlandsgccc.org>

## **The meeting adjourned at 10:30a.m.**

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