

Highland Community Collaboration Council
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2017

The Highlands Community Collaboration Council had a meeting on February 13, 2017 in the Smyth County Office Building.

Welcome and Introductions

Chris opened the meeting at 9:30 and members introduced themselves. A sign-in sheet was passed around the room.

Review and approval of Minutes of November 14, 2016 meeting

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

New Business

- **Marty Holliday, New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development**
Not here today.

- **Angie Mucha, District III**
Not here today.

- **Matt Sackwitz: Grant opportunity**
The Council requires a budget and greater accountability. We spent only \$225 last year. A small amount but what documentation exists? Where did this money come from? Volunteer hours need to be tracked. We need to be transparent. The AEP Foundation has indicated they would like us to apply for a grant. Housing is at the top of the list for soliciting resources. We would like to create a “go fund me” and PayPal account. Housing is the #1 barrier for those re-entering our communities. \$23,000 is needed per year. This will assist with rent assistance and utilities. Matt asks that we consider purchasing a boarding house. He also recommends that we create an account to allow the council access to money as needed. There are times when required fees are due or we have a client with needs that need to be addressed immediately. Howard informs the group there is a Neighborhood Assistance Act that may be pursued by the council. Chris asks for feedback and Manuel asks how we know someone needs help? Matt says referrals are received from DOC, OEI, DSS, etc. and we organize a staffing.
- **Goals for 2017/officer nominations**
Is the goal for the council to be service oriented and provide direct services? Or, are we seeking to be a collaborative council that pursues grant opportunities? Randy recommends that OEI be informed of these potential changes regarding recordkeeping and continued support. The 501c3 status was pursued, in part to allow us to apply for

grants. Howard says the need has overwhelmed the current resources we have. If a grant is obtained, it will have administrative costs built in. We will need to include OEI in this conversation. James recommends that the Executive Committee consider the matters and bring a recommendation to the council.

James says the drug take back boxes have been very successful. The one placed at the sheriff's office had to be emptied twice the day it was placed in Town Halls in Saltville and Chilhowie.

Matt recommends the current slate of officers remain in place. Seconded by Linda. The motion carried. There is a question about officers cycling off after two years. We will clarify this.

Chris Shortt, Chair
Kimberly Sobey, Vice-Chair
Chris Austin, Secretary

Unanimously approved.

- **Proposed Off-site meeting locations**
No suggestions.
- **Proposed new council members**
Brett Harmon, VEC, faith-based organizations, a DARE officer, a deputy, police officer...
- **Invite a friend/new member**

Sub -Committee Reports

Two committees have only one member. Theresa is the only one on substance abuse and Emma on SIC. Howard is the only member on the employment committee. We will send an email to look at committees. It is recommended that some committees be combined so the members will only need to attend one additional meeting per month.

Re-entry Updates

None.

Local Coalition Updates

Wythe County coalition meets on the first of each month. We will invite the other local coalitions to the March meeting.

Questions/Concerns/Comments/Announcements:

Howard announced a telehealth and criminal justice conference in Leesburg, VA on April 2-4.

Remember to send website update requests to Manuel.

Chris gave an update from the state re-entry meeting in December.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.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