



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC) Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2025

Members/Guests Present: Sarah Harrison (executive director), Ashley Freeberg (prevention coordinator), Ben Briley (volunteer coordinator), Kristy Bentley, Yvette Reeder, Jessica Woodell, Terry Stevens, Laura Buckingham Haynes, Shelia Staggs, Caitlin Moore, Denise Graves, Mike Barber, Sherry Samples, Maretta McNichol, David Choate, LaDonna Booker, Laina Buche, Leonora Spangler, Patti Johnson, Kaitlyn Schaub, Kate Parsons, Olivia Allen, McKayla Gallaher

Our monthly coalition meeting was held in-person at the RCADC office at 151 E Race St, Kingston, Tennessee.

Ben called the meeting to order and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. He then turned the meeting over to Sarah Harrison, RCADC Executive Director.

Sarah began the meeting with an overview of the Roane County Opioid Abatement Council. Many community partners from various fields are represented on this committee, including, but not limited to, county officials, educators, healthcare administrators, non-profit organizations and first responder agencies. Our presenters today currently hold positions created by the Opioid Abatement Council, a Trauma Informed Specialist with Roane County Schools, a Community Navigator with Roane County Health Department, and a Peer Recovery Navigator with Roane Medical Center.

Sarah then introduced our first speaker: Yvette Reeder, Trauma-Informed Specialist with Roane County Schools.

(Please refer to April Presentation for information presented.)

Yvette began by expressing her appreciation and joy of being able to work with students in this capacity. Her presentation highlighted many of her efforts with 50 different students across 7 different schools each week. Some of those efforts include communication skills, table manners and social emotional learning (SEL). She also trains and works with adults covering topics such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and positive childhood experiences (PCEs), youth mental health first aid, and trauma informed practices. She has been able to train 240 people this school year. Ninety teachers and/or staff are set to be trained in youth mental health first aid throughout the summer of 2025. Included in Yvette's responsibilities include Handle with Care, receiving 58 notices to date. Yvette Reeder can be reached at yereeder@roaneschools.com.

Our next speaker was Caitlin Moore, Peer Recovery Navigator with Roane Medical Center.

As a recovery navigator, Caitlin meets those with addiction treatment needs in Roane County. Her goal is to connect these individuals with the proper path to recovery, which could include anything from transportation to insurance. The goal of this program is to break the cycle of overdoses and increase the number of individuals who relate to treatment and recovery services by meeting patients in the emergency department after an overdose. Since October 2024, Caitlin has met with

176 patients, 160 of which sought out treatment services. The average age of a patient seen by the recovery navigator is 45 years old, with 50% more male patients than female. Twelve other counties have utilized the peer navigator services at Roane Medical Center. Caitlin mentioned some prominent challenges being insurance, availability of beds at treatment facilities, transportation, safe and stable housing, employment opportunities and ongoing stigmas surrounding substance misuse recovery. Caitlin can be reached by phone at 865-316-2054 and by email at cmoore29@covhlth.com.

Our next speaker was Kristy Bentley, Community Navigator with Roane County Health Department.

Kristy began by introducing herself and explaining her role as community navigator, with a focus on justice-involved individuals, although noted her services are not limited to this community. Out of the individuals seen by Kristy, 63% are male, 36% are female and the most common age ranges are 35-44 years old (33%) and 25-34 years old (28%). Referring to a recent survey of justice-involved individuals, Kristy reported that 70% do not feel supported in their community. However, 91% are open to participating in peer support and 84% are open to substance use treatment. The top five substances of choice, in order, are methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, THC and cocaine/crack. Kristy's position is also tasked with monitoring Roane County's unhoused population. She reported that 66% of those incarcerated experienced a history of being unhoused. Some of the challenges for justice-involved individuals are access to phones, identification requirements, sober living deposits and transition materials. Since October 2024, Kristy has had 194 total encounters with 38 active cases. Kristy can be reached by phone at (865)354-1220 ext. 122 or by email at kristy.bentley@roanecountytn.gov.

Sarah concluded the presentation with supplemental information about the future of the Opioid Abatement Council. A data collection committee has been established to determine metrics of reporting and population as well as a transportation committee. Also recently established is a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Committee which gauges how the OAC reaches the community, government, media and various populations.

Ben mentioned important dates for attendees to be aware of:

- Prom Promise at all 5 Roane County high schools (throughout the month of April & May)
- National DEA Prescription Take Back Day (April 26)
- C.A.M.P. (June-July)
- Operation Dry Water (July 4-6)

Ben opened the floor for community updates:

- Laine Buche, Ridgeview Behavioral Health, announced a Rural Fatherhood Grant.
- Olivia Allen, TN National Guard, announced a mental health & fitness class on May 14 in Oneida.
- Kate Parsons, Hamilton County Coalition, introduced her new role and her interest in collaborative efforts in Roane County.

Our next meeting will be on May 7, 2025, at the RCADC office at 151 E Race St, Kingston, TN, 37763.

