



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)

April 7, 2021

Members/Guests Present: Beth Sams, Jeanna Steele-Mack, Nathan Wray, Leonora Spangler, Ashley Freeberg, Sarah Harrison, LaDonna Booker, Catherine Brunson, Nancy Chrisman, Laura Conner, Kent Stephens, Demerius Bunch, Anne Pirtle, Charles Stallings, Renee Salyers, Lauren Farmer, John Mayes, Marilyn Calfee, Billy Edmonds, Sherry Samples, Patsy Dockery, Lisa McMahan, Joshua Goodling, Tabatha Curtis, Michael Yates and 17 watched on Facebook

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our April coalition meeting was held via Zoom. The meeting began with introductions and was followed by updates from our community partners. The updates are listed below.

Catherine Brunson with ASAP of Anderson advised that there will be a pop-up event in Oak Ridge for Narcan training and distribution. She advised that they need to hold one in Morgan County as there has been an increase in overdoses there. An in-person Narcan training will take place this Saturday at 5:30pm at the First Christian Church in Harriman. She has seen an increase in overdoses, and 44 overdoses were just sent in by the Harriman Fire Department. Heroin with fentanyl is what is causing the majority of the overdoses. Catherine reminded coalition members that Narcan can be picked up at the RCADC office.

John Mayes with the Roane County Sheriff's Office stated that they are staying busy with an influx of overdoses due to the stimulus money which individuals recently received. He advised that there has been an 83% increase in overdoses from last year with 10 confirmed fatal overdoses. 43 is the average age of overdose. Beth Sams with the Roane County Sheriff's Office advised that ROANEnet will be holding classes at Morrison Hill Christian Church to help seniors with digital literacy. She also created her monthly calendar of events which are taking place in Roane County.

Laura Conner with the Roane County Health Department advised that COVID-19 vaccines are available for anyone 16 and older, and they have slots available to administer those vaccinations.

Michael Yates with Ridgeview advised that they will be providing crisis counseling and community education as well as recovery opportunities to better your health and well-being. They also started a YouTube channel. Anne Pirtle with Ridgeview advised that they are continuing to see people in-person and virtually.

Lisa McMahan with UT Extension Office advised that she is starting a walking group and continues to post on Facebook for Wellness Wednesdays. She will also be starting a food preservation class soon and advised that Penny Perry is retiring.

Billy Edmonds with the Free Medical Clinic advised that they are administering the COVID-19 vaccine and are partnering with Roane State Community College in Oak Ridge to administer the vaccines there.

Leonora Spangler with Juvenile Probation advised that the Community Advisory Board is holding a rolling resource fair on April 22nd at the Roane County Park. She is requesting flyers, resources, and swag to include in the 400 bags they will be providing attendees.

Renee Salyers with WestCare advised that they will be holding a one-day camp on April 17th in Newport for children ages 9-12 for families with substance use disorder.

Demerius Bunch with CASA of the Tennessee Valley advised that they will be holding a bass tournament on May 8th in Lenoir City at the canal ramp and first place is \$10,000. There is a \$225 entry fee per boat. They will be offering new training classes soon and new advocates are needed.

Sarah Harrison, RCADC Executive Director, advised that RCADC will be providing a train-the-trainer Mental Health First Aid course as a collaboration with Anderson and Scott counties. The event will be April 22nd from 8am-5pm at the ASAP of Anderson office. This training helps individuals understand mental illness, support timely intervention, and save lives. Jeanna will send the link to register for the training. RCADC received a disaster response state grant and the goals are to:

1. develop a community-wide disaster response plan using the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF).
2. support the implementation of an advertising campaign to increase awareness of mental health and substance use issues that may stem from natural disasters.
3. support the implementation of psychological first aid trainings.
4. stress management trainings for school-age kids and adults.

Jeanna Steele-Mack advised that Drug Endangered Children Day is April 28th and County Executive Ron Woody has already signed a proclamation to that effect. Pinwheels and signs will be used to heighten awareness of the event.

Our presenter was Tabatha Curtis, Statewide Coordinator for the Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. Tabatha advised that, "The vision of the Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is that every child in Tennessee has the opportunity to experience a safe and healthy childhood free from the use of drugs and the effects of drug exposure." She advised that all drug endangered children are at risk and that risk can include prenatal and postnatal risk. Human and sex trafficking is a post-natal risk that often occurs. It is important to understand the long-term needs of drug endangered children in order to implement appropriate strategies. A collaborative mindset is needed to break the cycles of abuse and neglect. They encourage the use of Lifeliners to reduce stigma and help people get into treatment. They use the book *Timbi Talks About Addiction* to validate children's emotions and provide coping skills. A Handle with Care program has been implemented in six counties, and the program provides schools with a heads-up when a child has been identified at the scene of a traumatic event. If you suspect a child as being drug endangered, you should call 877-866-6384 or report suspected child abuse and neglect to 877-237-0004. There will be an in-person conference from the Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children in conjunction with the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children in Nashville from August 24-27th and the cost is \$375.

This meeting is available on the RCADC Facebook page. Our next coalition meeting will be Wednesday, May 5th at 12:00pm via Zoom. Our speaker will be Cheryl Sanders who recently retired from the Tennessee Highway Patrol.