



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)  
August 5, 2020**

**Members/Guests Present: Beth Sams, Jeanna Steele-Mack, Nathan Wray, Leonora Spangler, Ashley Freeberg, Sarah Harrison, Laura Conner, Demerius Bunch, Patsy Dockery, Nancy Steele, Shawna Adkins, LaDonna Booker, Tiffany Brown, Catherine Brunson, Jill Murphy, Sarah Walsh, Lauren Farmer, Wanda Komjathy, Brad Goss, Terry Stevens, Michael Yates, Carrie Landenberger, Dr. Thomas Boduch**

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our August coalition meeting was held via Zoom. Dr. Thomas Boduch, Roane County Medical Examiner, provided an update on overdose deaths and suicide deaths in Roane County. Dr. Boduch provided data on the fatal overdoses in Roane County from 2015 to the present. For 2020, there have been 21 overdose deaths in Roane County. The average age of death was 43.8 and 10 males and 11 females have died from overdose. Of the 2020 overdose deaths: 15 had methamphetamine in their system, and 11 had heroin/fentanyl. The other substances found included: benzodiazepines, alcohol, THC, opiates, cocaine, kratom, venlafaxine, Benadryl, and gabapentin. The total number of suicides in Roane County from 2015 to 2020 was 71 with an average age of 49.8. 54 were male and 17 were female. Dr. Boduch reported that mid-life males are most likely to commit suicide. The method most commonly used for suicide in Roane County was gunshot, followed by hanging. Dr. Boduch advised that common household items are often used for hangings. These items can include: ropes, belts, extension cords, ties, and panty hose. Dr. Boduch advised that suicides do not appear to have increased in Roane County due to COVID-19, but that law enforcement are reporting an increase in domestic disturbances.

Organizational updates are listed below.

LaDonna Booker with Village Behavioral Health stated that they have beds available for youth ages 13-17 years old.

Demerius Bunch with CASA of the TN Valley advised that they will have a training on human trafficking on August 11th at 10:00am in Morgan County and August 13th at 6:00pm at the Harriman Church of God. Sarah Harrison, RCADC Executive Director, requested that Demerius send the training information to RCADC staff, so that we can forward the information to our coalition members.

Sarah Harrison advised that RCADC staff continues to work remotely but are in the office as needed. We continue to provide evidence-based programming while maintaining social distance. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2nd at 12:00pm via Zoom.