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Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)

August 5, 2006 Meeting

Minutes

Members/Guests Present: Sarah Harrison (executive director), Ashley Freeberg (prevention coordinator), Danielle Pritchett (volunteer coordinator), Hailey Eason (Drug Endangered Children Coordinator), Mike Barber, Matilyn Lands, Melinda Edmonds, Kelly Tedder, Teresa Cochran, Danielle Wallee, Annabeth Layne, Kacey Jackson, Sandy Leavell, Joni Mitchelle, Jessica Woodell, Missy Layne, Brad Goss, Barbara Phillips, Dann Buoungioruo, Helen Tommaro, Tim Phillips, Beth Sams, Laura Conner, Tara Boles.

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

The meeting was called to order by Ashley Freeburg. Ashley welcomed attendees. Attendees had the chance to introduce themselves and share updates about their organizations. This month's speaker was introduced- Mr. Mike Barber, Coordinated School Health Director. Mike's presentation was titled "Leading Change: Tobacco Policy."

Mr. Barber began by discussing the makeup of the Roane County and the Roane County School (RCS) System. RCS is comprised of around 6000 students in18 total schools- 6 Elementary, 5 Middle, 5 High, 1 Alternative, and 1 Virtual Academy. He then discussed the statistics leading to the change in tobacco policy 1.803, noting that in the 2022-2023 school year, there were 159 tobacco violations across all middle and high schools. These infractions led to both citations and suspensions, which he noted often results in learning loss and increase in absences. It was highlighted that the tobacco policy at that time ignored the signs of nicotine addiction and lack of coping skills.

Mr. Barber identified the stakeholders involved in changing the RCS tobacco policy and described the process and timeline with which this was completed. The current policy uses a tiered system based on number of violations. Students who violate the tobacco policy one time are considered to be in “tier 1.” These students are assigned 2 days of in school suspension (ISS) and must attend a class on Saturday from 8am-12pm using the American Lung Association’s InDepth curriculum. The parent/guardian of a tier 1 student must also attend the first hour of the class. Failure or refusal to attend class or a second tobacco violation results in “tier 2.” Tier 2 students receive 3 days of ISS and their parent/guardian must attend the whole InDepth class. Failure or refusal to attend class or a third tobacco violation results in “tier 3.” Tier 3 results in the same consequences as tier 2, and failure or refusal to attend class or a fourth tobacco violation results in “tier 4.” Tier 4 students receive 45 days of alternative school and required tobacco

classes. He discussed the other resources available for students, including student support, quit kits, and counseling.

Mr. Barber wrapped up his portion of the presentation discussing how RCS prepared the public for the tobacco policy changes including social media campaigns, letters to parents, and consistent reminders to students and staff. He then introduced Ms. Matilyn Lands, Roane County Health Department Public Educator.

Ms. Lands spoke about the American Lung Association's InDepth curriculum that RCS has implemented. She identified the benefits of the curriculum and the class structure, noting that both parents and students receive the education on nicotine and tobacco. The program consists of 4 one hour long sessions structured around education on tobacco and nicotine, dependence/addictions, alternatives to use, and ends with guiding the students in thinking about their past, present, and future. Students are asked to identify the "why" behind their use and to self-reflect on the signs of addiction and if their use is helping or hindering them on the path to their goals.

The presentation ended with data showing the success of the new tobacco policy. From the 2022-2023 school year to the 2025-2026 school year, middle school tobacco policy violations were reduced 57% (from 68 infractions to 29) and high school was reduced 13.2% (from 91 to 79). Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and reflect on the presentation.

Our next meeting will be held September 2, 2026, at the RCADC office at 151 E. Race St. Kingston, TN