



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)
August 7, 2019**

Members/Guests Present: Jeanna Steele-Mack, Ashley Freeberg, Sarah Harrison, Nathan Wray, Beth Sams, Marilyn Calfee, Representative Kent Calfee, Terry Stevens, Sherry Samples, Tabatha Curtis, Raquel Leal, Jill Murphy, Brenda Adams, Samantha Hicks, Lisa Rentenbach, Angie Pfeifle, Ben Young, Dr. Timothy Bell

Marilyn Calfee opened the meeting with introductions and then proceeded to introduce Tabatha Curtis, Statewide Coordinator, with Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. The Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is part of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). Their vision is for every child in Tennessee to have the opportunity to experience a safe and healthy childhood free from the use of drugs and the effects of drug exposure. The Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children was one of six recipients for a \$1 million-dollar grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to be used over three years. Tabatha is generating a call to action across the state and has provided training to 618 people since January of 2019. She is tasked with creating six action teams across the state through the use of anti-drug coalitions as those individuals are already at the table working to increase prevention efforts and decrease substance use disorder. She stresses the importance of working together to engage professionals from multiple disciplines to develop a collaborative approach to rescue, defend, shelter and support children living in drug environments. By collaborating: it increases the likelihood of success for children and families, it makes your organization a part of the larger solution, it connects you to other professionals working on the same challenges, and it helps you advocate more effectively on behalf of children and their families in Tennessee. Tabatha also mentioned the importance of engaging the faith-based communities to assist in the efforts. There were 57,000 drug endangered allegations in Tennessee during 2018. A drug exposed child is one whose brain and/or body has been affected because their parents used drugs or alcohol during pregnancy, and/or who is living in a home where drugs are abused and/or illegally made, sold, traded, or given away. For more information on Drug Endangered Children please contact National DEC at www.nationaldec.org.

RCADC Executive Director, Sarah Harrison, stated that several local agencies partnered to create a Drug Endangered Children protocol several years ago, and RCADC will work to reengage those agencies to review, revise and update the protocol as needed. Tabatha Curtis expressed her interest in assisting with updating the protocol.

Nathan Wray mentioned that there were several items in the room which didn't belong and asked coalition attendees to search for items which appeared out of place. The items included: deodorant, chap stick, sharpie marker, large nut and bolt, hair brush, and sun screen. Coalition members found many of the items but were unable to locate all of them. These objects are "stash diversion containers" which individuals can use to hide their illegal substances in. RCADC plans to take them to parent only training events in order to show parents where/how their children may be hiding items in plain sight.

Beth Sams, with the Roane County Sheriff's Office, provided a monthly activity calendar of events which will take place during the month of August in Roane County.

The next coalition meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4th, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at the RCADC office.