



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)

August 4, 2021

Members/Guests Present: Jeanna Steele-Mack, Nathan Wray, Ashley Freeberg, Sarah Harrison, LaDonna Booker, Robert Woody, Allen Lutz, Dr. Terry Stevens and his intern, John Mayes, Anne Pirtle, Liz Higbie, Karen Pershing, Sherry Samples, Leonora Spangler, Demerius Bunch, Charles Stallings, Catherine Brunson, Patsy Dockery, Kathleen Cherry, Denise Wray, Ashlee Crouse, Laura Conner, Jolene Cook, Brad Goss, Beth Sams

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our June coalition meeting was held via Zoom.

Sarah Harrison, RCADC Executive Director, provided an overview on the funding that RCADC currently has. RCADC has state contracts as an established coalition, SPF Rx, State Opioid Response grant, Disaster Response project, and the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). RCADC has federal funding through the STOP grant, Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) grant and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Sarah also reminded coalition members that RCADC was awarded correctional careers pathway funding through East Tennessee State University (ETSU) and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Nathan Wray advised that he and Lt. Maretta McNichol conducted the Makin' It Work program for 8 inmates at the Roane County Jail. This program is made possible by the correctional careers pathway funding from East Tennessee State University (ETSU) and the Appalachian Regional Commission. The program provides soft skills such as cognitive, behavioral, and communication as well as a work code of conduct. The course was offered over three days and takes nearly 40 hours to complete. Nathan advised that one of the graduates has already been released and obtained employment within 24 hours after providing her employer with her certificate.

Ashley Freeberg informed coalition members that RCADC staff and volunteers assisted with the summer camps at Midway Elementary and Bowers Elementary during the month of June. RCADC assisted Roane County Schools with their summer nutrition program during the months of June and July at the Kingston Four Apartments. RCADC hosted Drug Awareness Days at the Rockwood Pool on July 7th and the Kingston Pool on July 20th. RCADC sponsored the pool admissions on those dates and spoke with parents on our "Be a Parent, Not a Peer" curriculum. Special thanks to Anne Pirtle with Ridgeview and Gavin Gill with Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) who attended our Drug Awareness Days. RCADC staff and our intern, Savannah, took digital tobacco calendars and signage to tobacco retailers throughout the county. RCADC staff also participated in the 4-H camp by providing medication safety training.

Our presenter was scheduled to be Tatania Jordan with Bark, but they had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances. The Bark app helps families manage and protect their children's online lives by monitoring 30+ of the most popular apps and social media platforms, including text messages and emails, for signs of digital danger. RCADC will reschedule Tatania for a future coalition meeting.

The meeting closed with updates from our community partners. The updates are listed below.

Allen Lutz with the Roane Alliance stated that they are looking for mentors for the Tennessee Scholars Program, and that October 7th is the tentative date for the middle school students career day which will be held at Harriman High School. Jingle and Mingle will be held on November 13th and 14th at the Barn at Maple Creek.

LaDonna Booker with Village Behavioral Health stated that they have beds for adolescents ages 13-17. Village Behavioral Health provides residential treatment to teenagers who are struggling with substance use disorder and mental health.

Robert Woody with the Tennessee Highway Patrol stated that had a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) checkpoint with TWRA, Homeland Security and Probation and Parole on July 16th. He stated that there were 500 vehicles monitored, 38 detained, 20 violations, and they administered 11-12 field sobriety checks. This DUI checkpoint took place in two counties and the other county saw a similar number of vehicles. They also conducted car seat safety checks during the event.

This meeting is available on the RCADC Facebook page. Our next coalition meeting will be Wednesday, September 1st at 12pm via Zoom. Our presenter will be Nathan Wray with RCADC.