



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)
February 3, 2021**

Members/Guests Present: Beth Sams, Jeanna Steele-Mack, Nathan Wray, Leonora Spangler, Ashley Freeberg, Sarah Harrison, LaDonna Booker, Catherine Brunson, Allen Lutz, Ashlee Crouse, Nancy Chrisman, Laura Conner, Faye Kelly, Janice Church, Nancy Steele, Lisa Steffensen, Corey Mashburn, Kent Stephens, Marilyn Calfee, Billy Edmonds, Tabatha Curtis

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our February 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.

LaDonna Booker with Village Behavioral Health stated that they have open beds for adolescents ages 13-17. Village Behavioral Health, in conjunction with several other agencies, is offering a training on February 26th at 9am entitled, "Opportunity in the Midst of a Pandemic." To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opportunity-in-the-midst-of-a-pandemic-tickets-139327794183>.

Corey Mashburn with the Roane County Schools advised that Mike Barber is working on how to disseminate the COVID-19 vaccine to school employees.

Catherine Brunson with ASAP of Anderson reminded coalition members that she offers monthly trainings related to Narcan and how to prevent or reverse an opioid overdose. Jeanna Steele-Mack with RCADC sent the February training dates out prior to the coalition meeting.

Allen Lutz with the Roane Alliance stated that they will hold a middle school and high school career day on May 6th at Harriman High School. They have confirmed that 21 businesses will be in attendance and an additional 12 businesses have expressed an interest in attending.

Nancy Steele with Mid-East Community Action Agency stated that the Meals on Wheels program continues to provide meals and friendly visits to seniors in Roane and Loudon Counties, and they have congregate meals which are picked up by seniors who are able to get out of their homes. She advised that March For Meals will occur next month. Early Head Start is being held virtually during the pandemic and Head Start students have the option to attend virtually or in-person at their centers.

Janice Church with WestCare advised that they have an upcoming recovery court graduation and continue to have small group sessions to adhere to CDC guidelines. They have 9-10 small groups per day.

Beth Sams with the Roane County Sheriff's Office reported that Brad Goss with the Roane County Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security installed and tested smoke detectors in senior citizen's homes. Beth contacted local utility companies to get information which was provided to the seniors. She also advised that the Rockwood Community Center is planning to reopen on February 8th. She provided coalition members with a monthly calendar of events. Beth also reminded coalition members about the staff appreciation event at Roane Medical Center on Friday, February 5th at 2:30pm.

Billy Edmonds with the Free Medical Clinic stated that they continue to serve low-income patients, and the clinic is scheduled to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in early to mid-March. They are planning to offer the vaccine to their patients as well as community members.

Jeanna Steele-Mack advised that Kent Stephens was the Roane County honoree for the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA). The Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards is an initiative from Volunteer Tennessee to recognize outstanding volunteers in each of the 95 counties in Tennessee. Due to COVID-19, the event will take place virtually on Sunday, February 7th at 4pm. Sarah Harrison, RCADC Executive Director, congratulated Kent and emphasized Kent's passion and willingness to serve. Kent is an RCADC Board Member and has been the moderator for numerous RCADC events.

Our presenter was Ashlee Crouse who is the Region 2 - Regional Coordinator with the Lifeline Peer Project. She stated that she worked previously as a Navigator. Her purpose is to reduce stigma and increase community support while using evidence-based programming. There are 17 Regional Coordinators across the state who have referred 13,854 people to treatment and helped to establish 660 new recovery meetings. She stated that they are having virtual recovery meetings as well as mindfulness meetings each week. She assists individuals with securing a treatment bed by determining what substance they are using as well as whether they have insurance. The patient then needs to call to complete the assessment. She also provides peer support to families and friends. She is seeing more relapses and overdoses due to COVID-19. Her contact information is 865-410-9527 and acrouse@metrodrug.org. She is available 24/7 to provide hope and support. Ashley reminded coalition members about the upcoming East Tennessee Opioid Conference which will take place virtually on February 18th. To register visit: <https://metrodrug.org/easttnopiodconference/>. She also provided a flyer regarding an upcoming recovery coach academy which will take place March 8th-11th. To register visit: <http://metrodrug.org/recoverycoachacademy/>.

Beth Sams advised that she had the AA meetings listed on her monthly calendar and will forward that information to Ashlee Crouse.

Nathan Wray informed all coalition meeting attendees that they will receive a 10% off coupon for Midtown Ice Cream. This meeting is also available on the RCADC Facebook page. Our next coalition meeting will be Wednesday, March 3rd at 12:00pm via Zoom. Our speaker will be Nancy Chrisman who is the Director of the Family Resource Center and Student Support program with the Roane County Schools.