



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)
March 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, Kent Stephens, Demerius Bunch, Anne Pirtle, Jill Murphy, Charles Stallings, Dr. Tim Bell, Dr. Terry Stevens, Shawn Scalf, Amanda Daugherty

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

Catherine Brunson with ASAP of Anderson advised that Narcan training is available and that Narcan is located at the RCADC office and is free to anyone in need.

Beth Sams with the Roane County Sheriff's Office advised that the Roane County Chamber Ambassadors are collecting food for Ridgeview Elementary students to take home during Spring Break. Drop off locations for the food are: TCAT of Harriman, Renaissance Terrace, Rockwood Municipal Building, Roane Alliance, Coldwell Banker, Roane County News, and Roane County Sheriff's Office.

Allen Lutz with the Roane Alliance stated that the middle school and high school career day which was scheduled for May 6th at Harriman High School has been canceled and will be held as a virtual event.

Janice Church with WestCare advised that on April 10th there will be a yard sale, and the proceeds from the sale will be used to create gift baskets which will be distributed to nursing home residents. The sale is being conducted by three recovery court participants who must complete a giving back project prior to their graduation.

Shawn Scalf with Kingston Church of Christ advised that they are participating in the USDA Farmers to Families program and are providing 70 boxes of food every other week to Midtown, Midway and Kingston Elementary families and to Mid-East Community Action Agency Head Start families. He advised that The Grove Church is participating as well and is focused on providing their boxes to the elderly. They are hopeful that the program continues through the summer but are not sure how long it will last. Shawn also advised that the elderly Meals on Wheels recipients are tired of being at home and are wanting to get out of the house. He reminded everyone that the pandemic is trying on both young people as well as the elderly.

Dr. Tim Bell stated that the Kingston Rotary Club is judging a poster contest surrounding the dangers of vaping.

Laura Conner with the Roane County Health Department advised that we are in Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan which supports school educators and staff and the school system applied for their own vaccines and are beginning to wrap up their first doses. Monday begins phase 1C which includes individuals with chronic disease, so that will allow a large section of the population to be vaccinated. The vaccine is also available in more locations.

Amanda Daugherty with the Office of Emergency Services advised that this is Severe Weather Awareness Week, and there is a statewide tornado drill this Friday at 10:30am.

Ashley Freeberg updated coalition members on our Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) LifeSkills program. She advised that COVID-19 has been a barrier for getting into the schools, but we continue to meet with students before and after school outside during drop-off and pick-up. RCADC staff returned to Oliver Springs Middle School and Midtown Educational Center in January and are teaching children how to cope with anxiety, self-image, self-improvement, assertiveness, social skills, as well as anger management. She advised that we are also implementing the curriculum during tobacco education class which occurs each month through juvenile probation. Ashley presented last month during the quarterly meeting for TCCY and they conducted a virtual site visit in February as well.

Jeanna Steele-Mack advised that next week is AmeriCorps week and RCADC submitted a video related to the upcoming event. The video can be viewed on the RCADC Facebook page.

Our presenter was Nancy Chrisman, Director of the Family Resource Center with Roane County Schools. Nancy presented on, "Mental Health and Teens." She informed coalition members that the social lives of students have primarily gone online, and we recognize the dangers associated with that. Even students who are doing in-person learning are experiencing educational disruptions. Students have experienced a decrease in available services or the delivery of services. Student Support Services report a decrease in contact with the most vulnerable students. She stated that students reported increased anxiety, and increased depressive symptoms which include: sleep disturbance, low motivation, difficulty concentrating, and hopelessness. Nancy informed coalition members that hopelessness is a serious problem for teenagers as they are not having activities to look forward to. She advised that it is very important to have a self-care plan, but also emphasized that kids are adaptive and resilient. To approach stressed out students she recommends: regulation, relationships and reason. The suicide crisis line is: 855-274-7471 or text TN to 741741. For COVID-19 mental health services call: 833-503-0348 between 8:00am-8:00pm seven days a week. She advised that donations are always needed for the Family Resource Center, and they often need toiletries and feminine hygiene supplies as well as money and gas cards. Often transportation is a barrier for the families that they serve in Roane County. Nancy advised that soon they should have a storage unit where they can store larger donated items such as: washers, dryers, and mattresses.

This meeting is available on the RCADC Facebook page. Our next coalition meeting will be Wednesday, April 7th at 12:00pm via Zoom. Our speaker will be Tabatha Curtis, Statewide Coordinator with Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.