



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)
March 2, 2022**

Members/Guests Present: Jeanna Steele-Mack, Nathan Wray, Ashley Freeberg, Robert Woody, Anne Pirtle, Laura Conner, Sarah Harrison, Sherry Samples, McKayla Gallaher, Beth Sams, Michael Yates, Catherine Brunson, LaDonna Booker, Kathy Parks, Maretta McNichol, Donna Miller, Stephanie Puckett, Brad Goss, Will Johnson, Kylee Dick, Whitley Hodges

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.

Ashley Freeberg provided coalition members with an update on the Prevention Alliance of Tennessee (PAT) Day on the Hill which took place virtually in January. The students chosen were: Madison Williams from Cherokee Middle School, Noah Hendrickson from Midway Middle School, Lane Taylor from Harriman Middle School, Aubree Reed from Oliver Springs Middle School and Alex Adams from Rockwood Middle School. RCADC staff scheduled a Zoom meeting with State Senator Ken Yager, and the students were taken to meet various leaders throughout Roane County. These leaders included: Kim Henry with Mane Support, County Commissioner Ron Berry, Harriman Mayor Wayne Best, Harriman Police Department Chief Baron Tapp, TCAT of Harriman Instructor Andrew Aydelott, Leonora Spangler with Juvenile Probation, and Roane County Sheriff Jack Stockton. Each student was awarded a scholarship from the Jayne Jackson Memorial Scholarship which is funded by donations made in Jayne's memory.

Nathan Wray updated attendees on the two latest Makin' It Work Classes which were held at First Baptist Church in Kingston with Lieutenant Maretta McNichol. The Makin' It Work program consists of 10 lessons and is designed to help returning citizens who are transitioning from corrections to the community. Maretta stressed the importance of the class as it helps inmates with their work release program by allowing them to save money and pay toward their fines. She stated that the participants are working to get their licenses back as well.

Sarah Harrison, RCADC Executive Director, provided an update on The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) meeting which took place in February. The purpose of the meeting was to advance community-based solutions for justice-involved people with mental and substance use disorders. Roane County was 1 of 10 counties in Tennessee chosen for the \$450,000 funding from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services through the Bureau of Justice Affairs. The list of priorities identified were:

1. Multi-generational substance use prevention, education and programs for youth and families
2. Jail re-entry services with assessments for community resources, providing action plans and follow-up post release
3. Pre-trial release services from court appearances until case disposition
4. A housing and transportation system for individuals with substance use disorder or mental health issues including a shared tracking system for services
5. A community outreach campaign to increase awareness.

LaDonna Booker with Village Behavioral Health Treatment Center was the presenter. LaDonna stated that their program is for youth ages 10-17. Previously they just saw children ages 13-17, but they recently began their "NOVA" program which is designed for children ages 10-12. The children in the NOVA program are always kept separate from the older children. Males and females of all ages are kept separate except when attending school as the NOVA program is co-ed for education. Their school has licensed teachers and a principal. Most children that they serve are dually diagnosed. All of their therapists are master's level. They offer equine and dog therapy and also have rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs. They have a store at Village Behavioral Health where the children can use "money" that they earn for good

behavior to buy items. They are not a locked facility and when at full capacity can serve 104 youth. As of today, they are serving 93 children with 7 of those being younger children in the NOVA program. The typical stay is between 90-120 days. The facility is open for visits and is willing to host team-building exercises. The PowerPoint presentation is on the RCADC website.

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

Beth Sams with the Roane County Sheriff's Office stated that she created a calendar of events for the month. She reminded everyone that Saturday, March 26th is Household Hazardous Waste Day at the Roane County Recycling Center in Harriman.

Catherine Brunson with ASAP of Anderson stated that she continues to do Zoom trainings and is willing to do in-person trainings for how to reverse an opioid overdose using Narcan.

McKayla Gallaher with the Roane County Health Department is the Harm Reduction Navigator. She is working to increase awareness surrounding her position and stated that she is seeing more clients.

Laura Conner with the Roane County Health Department stated that the COVID-19 numbers are decreasing. She stated that the community health assessment with Roane Medical Center has begun. She strongly encouraged everyone to participate if you are asked to do so. She stated that in addition to the survey, they will conduct focus groups. This information will be used to create a community health improvement plan.

Anne Pirtle with Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services advised that they continue to offer same day access through their intake clinic. She stated that March is Social Work Month.

Michael Yates with Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services stated that they are working on the health survey with Methodist Medical Center for Anderson County and encouraged everyone to complete the survey for the county where they reside.

Kathy Parks advised that there is a Leadership Roane County Engage program that is being held on March 9th and 10th. This new program was created for anyone interested in learning more about Roane County assets and volunteer opportunities.

Kylee Dick with Unite US states that they support non-profits by standardizing how health care and social care providers communicate and track outcomes by aligning stakeholders from healthcare, government and the community.

Whitley Hodges with Volunteer Behavioral Health stated that Candy Livesay, who previously attended our meetings, recently left their organization and they are now hiring.

Will Johnson with the Tennessee National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force stated that the next DEA Drug Take Back Day will be Saturday, April 30th from 10am-2pm. He reminded coalition members that the Stashed Away Trailer is available for presentations.

Robert Woody with the Tennessee Highway Patrol stated they have DUI trainings scheduled twice during the month of March. They conducted an 8-hour class with the Boy Scouts in February, and stated that they plan to assist with Prom Promises in Roane County during March and April.

Our next coalition meeting will be Wednesday, April 6th at 12:00pm via Zoom. Our speaker will be Tabatha Floyd with Centerstone.