



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)

November 3, 2021

Members/Guests Present: Jeanna Steele-Mack, Nathan Wray, Ashley Freeberg, LaDonna Booker, Robert Woody, Anne Pirtle, Leonora Spangler, Charles Stallings, Patsy Dockery, Laura Conner, Sarah Harrison, Sherry Samples, McKayla Gallaher, Beth Sams, Eve Nite, Demerius Bunch, Shawna Adkins, Sarah Garlington, Wendy Ellmo, Terry Stevens

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

Ashley Freeberg presented on the Red Ribbon Week activities which took place at the elementary schools. The schools participated in a door judging contest and created pictures using the theme, "Drug Free Looks Like Me." The winning classroom from each school was given a pizza party and school supplies.

Nathan Wray presented on the Red Ribbon Week activities which took place in the middle schools and high schools throughout the county. Matt Scoletti, who has been seen on American Ninja Warrior and America's Funniest Home Videos, presented a message of hope and encouragement to the students in Roane County. Matt believes that everyone should live their dream.

Jeanna Steele-Mack advised that Saturday, October 23rd was National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. We were at Kingston City Hall with the Kingston Police Department and collected a total of 248.5 pounds of unused, unwanted and expired medication.

Wendy Ellmo with Brain Links presented on, "Substance Use Disorder and Brain Injury: Interconnections and Ways to Help." Brain Links' mission is enriching the lives of Tennesseans with traumatic brain injury (TBI) by training and empowering the professionals serving them. TBI is a major cause of death and disability in the United States each year as every 9 seconds someone in the US sustains a brain injury, at least 2.8 million people sustain a TBI each year, each year approximately 6,000 Tennesseans are hospitalized with a TBI, and 68 Tennesseans experience a TBI each day. Wendy reported that 70-80% of people with a TBI are discharged from a health care facility with a prescription for opioids, and they are at a greater risk of opioid misuse and overdose. Additionally, 10-20% will develop a substance use disorder in the 8-12 months following their injury. Individuals who need assistance can contact the Tennessee Traumatic Brain Injury Service Coordination Program in their area by calling 1-800-882-0611. Wendy also provided information on brain health and how to have a healthy brain throughout life. All of the information and materials can be found on their website at: www.tndisability.org. The PowerPoint presentation is below these minutes.

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

Trooper Robert Woody advised that a checkpoint will be taking place this month in Roane County and he asked that everyone travel safely over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our next coalition meeting will be Wednesday, December 1st at 12pm via Zoom. Our presenter will be Michael Yates with Ridgeview Behavioral Health. He will present on "Recovery Opportunities from COVID-19."