



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)
October 6, 2021**

Members/Guests Present: Jeanna Steele-Mack, Nathan Wray, Ashley Freeberg, Elizabeth Moore, Sonya Hornbuckle, Gary Bickford, Jill Murphy, LaDonna Booker, Robert Woody, Allen Lutz, Anne Pirtle, Leonora Spangler, Charles Stallings, Catherine Brunson, Patsy Dockery, Laura Conner, Jolene Cook, Sarah Harrison, Shawn Scalf, Mya Putman, Lara Derossett, Nancy Chrisman, Kathy Morrison, Tracy Lawrence, Sherry Samples, Sarah McKinnis, Savannah Tilley, Ashlee Crouse, Ben Briley, Kathy Parks, McKayla Gallaher, Maretta McNichol, Lori Elam, Beth Sams, Kayla Johnson, Michael Yates

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

Ashley Freeberg presented on our LifeSkills program which is implemented in all middle schools throughout the county.

Nathan Wray presented on Red Ribbon Week which is October 23rd-31st and is the largest drug-abuse prevention campaign in the United States. Matt Scoletti will be coming to the Roane County middle schools as well as the Midtown Educational Center to present during Red Ribbon Week. Matt Scoletti is a 2-time world record holder and competed on American Ninja Warrior. The theme for Red Ribbon Week is "Drug Free Looks Like Me." RCADC will host trivia tomorrow, October 7th at 7pm on our Facebook page and Summer Dashe with WATE will be co-hosting virtually.

Jeanna Steele-Mack reminded coalition members that Saturday, October 23rd from 10am-2pm is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. We will be at Kingston City Hall with the Kingston Police Department. We are planning to be at Walgreens in Harriman with the Harriman Police Department but are awaiting confirmation as Sergeant Warren will be on medical leave during that time. We will send out email reminders with the confirmed locations.

Sarah McKinnis with WillowBend Farms presented on human trafficking. WillowBend Farms was established in 2017 in Cleveland, Tennessee and serves 23 counties in East Tennessee. Their mission is to restore survivors of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and sexual violence.

WillowBend Farms focuses on five strategic initiatives:

- restoration of survivors
- prevention, education and awareness
- emergent care housing
- rescue operations for those wanting a safe way out
- demand reduction

Sarah advised that the average age of trafficked victims is 12-14 years old. In Roane County and the Upper Cumberland region, they see familial trafficking as the predominate problem due to drug use. This can occur from family members selling pictures of their children or even selling their children for sex. During 2020 WillowBend Farms provided assistance to 199 survivors and they are currently serving 47 survivors. Sarah advised that victims can text, "Are you awake" to 423-250-5911 to safely receive help. If you suspect that someone might be a victim of

human trafficking, you are encouraged to ask, "Are you safe? Do you want help?" All trainings provided by WillowBend Farms are free of charge.

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

Michael Yates with Ridgeview Behavioral Health provided a flyer on their Oak Ridge Fall Classic BOOtacular 5K which will take place on Saturday, October 30th at 9am. He continues to do his weekly podcast for Ridgeview.

Ben Briley advised that Leadership Roane County will have a seminar on Thursday, November 4th at Roane State Community College on how to run for office. The event will begin at 6:30pm with a leadership reconnect event immediately preceding it at 5:30pm

Kayla Johnson with WestCare advised that they have their Offender Re-Entry Program and can be contacted at 865-234-7030 for assistance.

This coalition meeting was recorded and is available to view on the RCADC Facebook page. Our next coalition meeting will be Wednesday, November 3rd at 12pm via Zoom. Our presenter will be Wendy Ellmo with Brain Links. She will present on Substance Use Disorder and Brain Injury.