



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC) Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2024

Members/Guests Present: Ben Briley (Volunteer Coordinator), Ashley Freeberg (Prevention Coordinator), Sarah Harrison (Executive Director), Connie Gardner, Leonora Spangler, Laura Conner, Denise Graves, Maretta McNichol, Ben Young, Mike Barber, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, Darian Green, Matilyn Lands

Our monthly coalition meeting was held in-person at the RCADC Office at 151 E. Race St., Kingston, Tennessee.

As attendees arrived, they were handed a checklist pertaining to today's program, "Hidden in Plain Sight" presented by Matilyn Lands, public health educator with the Roane County Health Department. This checklist included each aspect of the mock bedroom displayed. Attendees were asked to write anything and everything they could find related to substance misuse before the presentation started.

"Hidden in Plain Sight" is an interactive presentation designed to educate parents/guardians and other community members on potential hiding spots in a child's bedroom where substances may be hidden. This includes a mattress and nightstand to represent a bedroom and another table to represent a desk or other furniture. There are a total of 89 items that either have a secret compartment or a visual aspect, i.e. something that resembles a vape or a popular cartoon with images of narcotics or paraphernalia.

Examples of "Hidden in Plain Sight" items include:

- A full water bottle that twists off to reveal a compartment
- A flowerpot with a lockable compartment
- A simple red solo cup and ping-pong ball
- A flash drive that doubles as a nicotine vape
- A notepad with writings and drawings resembling a marijuana leaf and "420" related comments.

After attendees had an ample opportunity to pick up and examine items, Matilyn thoroughly explained each item and the potential warning signs of each. Such as, if a parent notices a new book that isn't being actively read, they can check if that book is hollowed out and hiding something. Her presentation also included a large number of vapes, some containing nicotine and some containing THC. The challenge presented was how to tell the difference between these two vapes, revealing there is a minimal difference or none at all, highlighting the dangers of unlabeled vaping devices.

Matilyn ended her presentation acknowledging that this presentation is not meant for students or minors and is geared towards parents and educators.

Ben Briley gave a few Coalition updates:

-National DEA Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, April 27 with 5 locations across Roane County: Harriman (Food City & Walgreens), Kingston (City Hall), Oliver Springs (Food City) and Rockwood (Walmart).

-RCADC will have a booth at the TCAT Health Expo on April 15 handing out Narcan and talking to future healthcare professionals about substance misuse.

-The Roane County United Way will be hosting a Volunteer Recruitment Fair on April 12 for potential volunteers for RCADC along with several local organizations.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next Coalition meeting will be May 1, 2024, at E Race St, Kingston, TN, 37763. Our speakers will be Anne Pirtle and Michael Yates with Ridgeview Behavioral Health Services.