



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC) Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2023

Members/Guests Present: Nathan Wray (Prevention Coordinator), Ben Briley (Volunteer Coordinator), Ashley Freeberg (Prevention Coordinator), Sarah Harrison (Executive Director), Danyel Smith, Bethany Bunch, Ben Young, Sandy Leavell, Matilyn Lands, McKayla Gallaher, Sherry Samples, Amy McRorie, Angie Drake, Theresa Jorgensen, Michael Barber, Demerius Bunch, LaDonna Booker, Beth Sams, Darian Green, Carolyn Lawson (Zoom), Denise Graves (Zoom), Tabatha Curtis (Zoom), Aubree Adams (Zoom), Daniella Stewart (Zoom)

Our monthly coalition was a hybrid meeting held in person at the RCADC office at 151 E Race St, Kingston, Tennessee and via Zoom.

Ben Briley began with opening remarks and asked for introductions from attendees.

Nathan introduced our speaker, Aubree Adams, representative of Every Brain Matters, which educates communities on the health and environmental dangers of marijuana and the drug culture expansion by supporting families and governmental advocacy.

- Adams is a former “host mom” from Pueblo, Colorado for the youth and recovery community.

- She outlined the challenges and culture of legalized marijuana in Colorado

- Presented before and after pictures of neighborhoods affected by marijuana legalization

- Told the story of her son and his struggle with substance misuse and marijuana-induced psychosis

- Emphasized the definition of “industrialized marijuana”

- THC/CBD products sold in gas stations, smoke shops, etc. (examples, flavored water, powder/sugar, THC capsules, toothpicks, inhalers, cookies, vapes marketed to a younger audience, etc.)

- Explained her advocacy work pertaining to legalization of marijuana-based products.

- Listed several testimonies and stories from individuals sponsored/hosted by Every Brain Matters.

Ashley Freeberg gave an update on National Night Out, that was held on August 1. Roane County Schools start the fall semester on August 3. Ashley and Nathan have a full of prevention activities planned at each of the schools.

Nathan Wray promoted the app CheckDec, an easy-to-use application for local resources that is maintained by the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.

Ben opened the floor for member updates from those attending:

-Darian Green, now with CIT coordinator for NAMI Tennessee, updated the Coalition of her new position and invited members to attend the NAMI State Conference, September 28-29.

-Demerius Bunch promoted CASA's upcoming fundraiser "Putting on the Ritz" on August 18.

-Daniella Stewart, counselor with WestCare, announced that the WestCare Harriman office has closed and has moved operations to their Dandridge office. WestCare is still accepting clients from Roane, Morgan and Loudon Counties, they just do not have an administrative office in these counties.

-LaDonna Booker, Village Behavioral Health, announced their Community Education Event on Aug 24.

-Matilyn Lands, Roane County Health Department, promoted their Community Baby Shower on August 18 at the Harriman Community Center.

RCADC's next coalition meeting will be on September 6, 2023, at 151 E Race St, Kingston, TN. Our speaker will be Nathan Wray, DEC Coordinator.