



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)

January 4, 2023

Members/Guests Present: Sarah Harrison (executive director), Nathan Wray (prevention coordinator), Ashley Freeberg (prevention coordinator), Ben Briley (volunteer coordinator), Missy Wallace, Tracy Christian, Bo Lewis, Laura Conner, McKayla Gallaher, Laura Buckingham, Jessica Woodall, Maretta McNichol, Donnie Ryans, Donna Miller, Brad Goss, Demerius Bunch, Dudley Evans, Mike Barber, Caitlin Ensley, Leonora Spangler, Ashley Sutton, Terry Stevens Sr, Rose Meza, Jeanna Steele-Mack, Chasity Lowery, Brandon Byrd, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams

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

Nathan Wray opens the meeting with introductory remarks. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and give one New Years' Resolution for 2023.

Nathan Wray turns program over to Dr Thomas Boduch, Roane County Medical Examiner. Dr Boduch presented on the updated overdose and suicide data from 2022. Please see the charts and graphs included in the corresponding presentation for more details.

-Dr. Boduch notes the 2022 data is preliminary and may change as the reports are finalized.

-Deaths from opiates have decreased, however overdose deaths overall have increased significantly, most of which caused by methamphetamines and fentanyl. Referencing a 2022 report published by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), more than 10,000 pounds of powdered fentanyl and almost 51 million fake prescription pills containing the deadly drug were seized. The DEA says, that is enough fentanyl to constitute 379 potentially fatal doses- more than enough to kill every single person in the US.

-Another troubling find from 2022 are the increase in drugs laced with xylazine. Xylazine is a veterinary drug used as a horse tranquilizer. It is much more potent than fentanyl and is often easier to acquire.

-In 2022, there were 58 reported overdose deaths in Roane County. The average age of overdose is 44.6.

-Vast majority of overdoses are caused by two or more substances. In 2022, one of the most common polydrug combinations was Xanax laced with fentanyl.

-Dr Boduch has been tracking suicide data for 96 months. In that time, Roane County has seen 97 suicides, averaging one per month. April is the most common month for suicides. Gunshots and hangings account for 90% of suicides in Roane County.

Sarah Harrison distributed the FY22 Annual Report and applauds the social media work by the team. Along with social media, she highlights the extensive reach from RCADC billboards throughout the County and via RCADC's website, roaneantidrug.org. Additional highlights from 2022 include:

- 208 presentations reaching 12,781 community members
- 26,993 substance misuse prevention materials disseminated in the community
- 654.2 pounds of medication collected

Meeting closes with updates from our community partners:

-Caitlin Ensley, Mental Health Association of East Tennessee, mentions the Treatment Access Bank; subsidized treatment & mental health access for those who cannot access affordable or timely care.

-McKayla Gallaher and Laura Buckingham mentions their Homeless Outreach Program's recent partnership with HUD to receive accurate and recent data of the homeless population in Roane County.

-Jessica Woodell, Ridgeview Behavioral Health, mentions their two programs: OnTrack, a first-time psychosis program, and a walk-in clinic for Mobile Crisis in the Roane County office.

Our next coalition meeting will be February 1, 2023. Sarah Cannon, the training and outreach director for the Avalon Center, will be the presenter.