



Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC) Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2023

Members/Guests Present: Ben Briley (volunteer coordinator), Ashley Freeberg (prevention coordinator), Nathan Wray (prevention coordinator), Sarah Harrison (executive director), Grady Massey, Michelle Massey, Mike Barber, McKayla Gallaher, Felicia Jester, Stephanie Bishop, Sandy Leavell (zoom), Darian Green (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. Nathan Wray opened the meeting with remarks from the National Drug Endangered Children (DEC) conference held in Kansas City in August, and invited everyone to attend DEC Training tomorrow morning, hosted by Tabitha Curtis, DEC Director with the TBI.

Nathan Wray serves as the DEC coordinator for the coalition. Nathan presented on the "Handle with Care" program.

Since 2013, Handle with Care has been shown to help ease childhood trauma through a partnership with the school system and law enforcement. When a student is involved in a potentially trauma inflicting event, a report is made to the child's school by law enforcement. Examples of needs for a 'Handle with Care' report include events such as the arrest of a household member; a search warrant served in a residence; drug/alcohol overdose; death or suicide of a family member; domestic violence, forced displacement, etc.

Reports on a student to the school only read 'Handle with Care', thus eliminating any extrapolated information otherwise private to the student and student's family. A designated school system employee sends a notification to teachers/faculty involved with the child during the day. The notification simply tells staff that the child may have a difficult day and to "handle them with care". If support is needed for the child, the student is referred to school counselor or social worker.

Updates

Ashley reported on the International Overdose Awareness Day Event on August 30, which was a coordinated planning effort with McKayla Gallaher, Roane County Health Department. The event was well attended by both vendors and visitors.

Nathan reported on Hooray 4 Harriman, a main street-type event in Downtown Harriman on Labor Day. Two of our volunteers, Grady and Michelle Massey, helped work RCADC's booth.

Nathan explained efforts to distribute Timby kits to local law enforcement agencies to be given to children they encounter who are dealing with substance use disorder within their family. Timby is a stuffed animal that comes with a children's book that includes information on how to cope with substance use disorder. We also have a Timby mascot costume, which Ashley wore for a picture with meeting attendees.

Our next Coalition meeting is on October 4, 2023, at 12:00pm at the RCADC office. Our speaker will be Capt. Stacey Heatherly with Tennessee Highway Patrol.