



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
April 13, 2016**

Members/Guest Present: Kris Brinkmeier, Jay Cash, Cathy Day, Christy Duncan, Donna Forstrom, Janiece Foust, Ashley Freeburg, Nick Gaston, Stan Grubb, Sarah Harrison, Charlene Hipster, Stacey Maltman, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, Leonora Spangler, Mollie Swallows, Patti Wells

Leonora welcomed members/guests and asked that everyone introduce themselves to the group.

Alcohol Awareness Month: Sarah and Kris began the meeting through a substance abuse awareness activity entitled, "Time of Truth." The activity required participants to privately identify various personal people, relationships, objects, and memories. Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center had written a story in which decisions regarding the individual answers participants had made became a part of the story. The activity prompted serious thinking about one's priorities while listening to a story of the damage substance abuse can cause in one's life. The activity concluded with a discussion of how others could locate this activity and other similar activities to use in alcohol awareness education.

Safe Boating: Sarah announced that the Coalition will be promoting safe boating again this summer and plans for an article in the paper should be prepared soon. There was a question as to whether shirts would again be given away during the promotion to which Sarah said yes.

Prom Promise: Jill was unable to attend the meeting because of an obligation at Harriman and Oliver Springs High Schools. The golf cart is currently being used with DUI goggles to encourage students to abstain from drinking and driving during prom and graduation activities. Jill will be speaking and taking the golf cart to Rockwood High School on Thursday, April 14 and to Midway High on Friday, April 15.

P3: In recognition of alcohol awareness month, the P3 Club at Harriman Middle School is conducting a Poster Contest. About ten students submitted posters to be displayed at their school. Posters can be viewed on the RCADC Facebook page and individuals were encouraged to vote for their favorite posters. Kris hopes to involve other P3 Clubs in similar activities. She expressed that the contest had increased activity on the RCADC Facebook page and hoped it made viewers aware of the many resources the Coalition provides there. In addition to the Poster Contest, some P3 members are conducting peer-to-peer teaching of alcohol awareness at sessions in their respective schools.

There was a brief discussion about potential graduation events that could be planned to deter students from abusing drugs and alcohol during celebrations of graduation. High schools in other counties have and continue to plan special events to keep students safe. This may be a future initiative for the Coalition to consider for Roane County students.

NAS Update: Kris announced that the NAS Town Hall meeting for the general public had been held on April 7 at the courthouse. Ridgeview, the Health Department, and the Coalition sponsored the event

together and provided a panel discussion. About 20 people attended the event. Kris expressed a hope that more people will become involved in supporting the efforts to prevent NAS (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome). On March 11, a NAS breakfast for healthcare professionals at the Roane Medical Center was held with approximately 20 participants.

Kris announced that Rep. Kent Calfee, along with Sen. Yager, have worked diligently to adopt the month of October to promote NAS awareness in the state of Tennessee. Sarah was fairly sure the resolution has passed. A NAS Workshop will be held April 19th at 11:30 in the Coalition office to discuss fund-raising and awareness activities that could be planned in preparation for the upcoming October initiative.

Future Events: Sarah announced that on September 30 at 6:30 there will be a benefit for Celebration of Hope at the Grand Vista Bay Clubhouse. Sponsors are being sought for the event.

April 30 is the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day sponsored by the DEA. It was announced that the Roane County Sheriff's Office is signed up to participate in the event at Walgreens from 10:00-2:00 on that day. Year-round disposals sites in Roane County are located at the Sheriff's Office, Harriman Police Department, and Oliver Springs Police Department. There was discussion about the bins in some of the locations being full. Beth said the Sheriff's Office bin was full and should be ready to collect prescriptions again for disposal by the first week of May. She encouraged people to call the office before bringing in unwanted/outdated prescriptions. There were volunteers from the RCADC staff to assist the law enforcement facilities in the disposal process. Beth plans to schedule a meeting between Sheriff Stockton and RCADC staff to discuss the offer.

Beth announced a fundraiser dinner planned for the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) on Tuesday, May 3. She encouraged participation in the silent auction and support for the cause. There was discussion about the CAC. It has been a great resource for Roane County. One hundred thirty-eight children have been treated there and often there is related substance abuse in the cases. Kris mentioned that the facility keeps a toy chest and gives toys to the abused children regularly. Donations for the funding of toys for this purpose is encouraged for student projects. The CAC "Darkness to Light" program is a great resource to make people aware of the signs of child abuse.

Nick Gaston from Ridgeview announced that he is a recovery specialist and encouraged references be made to the STOP Recovery program. Nick passed out brochures explaining the services provided by the program. An Open House Luncheon is scheduled for April 15 at the Harriman location.

Ways to Support RCADC: Kris provided all attendees with a handout explaining ways to support the Coalition: (1) Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards Program, (2) Sign up for Amazon Smiles, (3) Friend RCADC on Facebook, (4) Follow RCADC on Twitter, and (5) Volunteer for RCADC events and activities.

The next Coalition meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at noon at the RCADC office (151 E. Race St, Kingston).