



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
December 14, 2016**

Members/Guests Present: Rep. Kent Calfee, Cathy Day, Mike Barber, Donna Forstrom, Sarah Harrison, Jill Murphy, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, Leonora Spangler, Stephanie Wright, and Sen. Ken Yager

Leonora called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Introductions were made since City Council Representative Stephanie Wright joined the group for the first time.

Prevention Advocate of the Year: Sarah began the meeting by presenting a plaque to Senator Ken Yager and recognizing him as the Coalition's Prevention Advocate of the Year. Sarah noted that though many individuals have supported the Coalition throughout the year, Senator Yager had gone above and beyond in his service and his support on both a local and state level.

2017 Substance Abuse Legislation: Senator Yager said it was early to announce what the Governor may recommend in 2017 regarding substance abuse legislation, but he assured the Coalition that he would keep us informed and expects some action.

He expressed a personal interest in preparing a bill to address abuse by Suboxone Clinics, possibly requiring a certificate of need per patient or clinic licensing that would require state oversight. Currently, federal legislation seems to protect the clinics from regulation. Rep. Calfee and Sen. Yager want to see more state and local control of the Suboxone Clinics. They recognize the clinics as valuable tools in the battle against drug abuse, but have reports that some clinics may actually be involved in abuse. Ken indicated establishing control over these clinics will be a battle as the clinic business is heavily supported by lobbyists.

The decriminalization of recreational and medicinal use of marijuana is expected to be addressed again in the upcoming legislative discussions. Both Rep. Calfee and Sen. Yager expressed their conviction that they would not support such legislation. It was confirmed that the first graduate of the Roane County Drug Court began his drug use with marijuana. There was discussion about the use of cannabis oil and state research that is underway. The cities of Nashville and Memphis have approved city codes that decriminalize marijuana use and cite violators with a \$50 fine. Senator Yager hopes to see the Legislature overturn such city codes that go against state law.

The senator indicated that in the past he found a White Paper produced by the Prescription Task Force to be helpful to him in his stand against drug use and abuse. Sarah reported an update to the document is currently in process.

2016 – A Year in Review: Sarah distributed handouts listing a number of achievements by the Coalition during 2016. Document is available on our website below these minutes. There was discussion regarding several of the events and tasks. The success in attaining 120 Evzio auto-injectors for Naloxone @ \$2,000

per unit was huge. Sarah applied for this grant in April and recently received the injectors to be distributed to community officers through Baggett Pharmacy. Treatment options cards from the Coalition are to be given anytime an injector is used.

Updates/ New Business: Donna shared an email from Stephanie Strutner regarding a coalition colleague from Sevier County, Nichole Ogle, who lost her home and all belongings in the recent wildfires. Information was shared regarding the family members and their needs. Donations were requested.

Meeting was adjourned.

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