



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)
December 13, 2017**

Members/Guests Present: Mike Barber, Janice Church, Cathy Day, Ashley Freeberg, Connie Gardner, Sarah Harrison, Maretta McNichol, Jill Murphy, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, Charles Stallings, Jeanna Steele-Mack, Tammy Stepp, and Nathan Wray

Sarah called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone since Marilyn was in Nashville. She began the meeting by introducing herself and asking everyone to introduce themselves as we had several guests/new members.

A Prodigal's Path 2 Recovery: Charles Stallings introduced himself and gave his testimony of being a Marine of 30 years during which time several injuries caused him to struggle with the addictive effects of morphine. After retirement from military service, Charles chose to open an intensive outpatient program in Oliver Springs named, A Prodigal's Path 2 Recovery. A brief overview of services was delivered, which was well received by the attendees. His philosophy and commitment to help those struggling with addictions provides the county with additional resources.

180 Health Partners: Connie Gardner presented an overview of a new program established in the area that focuses on pregnant women with opiate dependency. Their goal is to work with the mother to increase the number of healthy babies being born and to reduce NAS babies. The organization uses teams of four or five individuals that work together with the patient, patient's physician(s), and patient peers to provide necessary support and resources. Since the organization is in its early stages, Connie asked for recommendations of doctors who may be interested in partnering with their program. 180 Health Partners works with TN Care patients and is available to all moms.

New Business: Maretta was asked to report on the outcome of the December auction held to provide some funding for educational programs offered to those incarcerated in the Roane County Jail. Since several attendees were first-timers, she reviewed some of the numerous number of training programs and activities offered by Sheriff Stockton and his staff.

Sarah reported that she has been in contact with Representative Calfee and Senator Yager regarding the Coalition's legislative priorities. She recently met with Wade Creswell, President/CEO of The Roane Alliance, and plans to jointly work with the Alliance on legislative advocacy efforts this year.

The coalition supports the advocacy efforts of the Prevention Alliance of TN in the addition of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) to the definitions of the Children's Act for Clean Indoor Air and the Non-Smoker's Protection Act to protect children and non-smokers from nicotine and other pollutants. The Coalition does not support medical marijuana and plans to allow TBI to take the lead in defeating that initiative. The coalition also supports the American Cancer Society's endorsement of a tobacco preemption repeal that will allow cities and counties in Tennessee to pass local smoke-free ordinances

and protect the rights of citizens to breathe clean smoke-free air. Lastly, Senator Briggs from Knox County plans to introduce a bill addressing gift card fraud that is being abused by some addicts and possibly organized crime in the area. There was considerable discussion of how addicts are encouraged to steal from businesses, such as Walmart, and then individuals associated with the crime organization buy the stolen merchandise with the intention of returning the item to the business; gift cards are then awarded for the return as no receipt is available. The addict receives cash to buy drugs and the criminals instigating the practice receive free gift cards. The practice has been tracked over time and indicates that a number of local overdoses have been linked with gift card fraud. The Coalition plans to support Sen. Briggs in his effort to appropriately address the situation.

Jeanna announced that the monthly meeting in January will include a train-the-trainer session conducted by Kay M Park Consulting Partnership, and it will address How to Talk to Your Teen about Anything, Including Drugs and Alcohol.

The next Coalition meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10 at noon at the RCADC office (151 E. Race St, Kingston).