



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition  
February 9, 2016**

**Members/Guest Present:** Kris (Hontz) Brinkmeier, Cathy Day, Chanel Finnell, Donna Forstrom, Janiece Foust, Ashley Freeburg, Stan Grubb, Monica Hughes, Dina Jackson, Tabatha McKinney, Jill Murphy, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, Leonora Spangler, Mollie Swallows and Sarah Harrison.

**Legislative Update:** The meeting began with an update by Sarah regarding some legislative actions. She distributed a document noting “Bills of Interest” to the Coalition and an Advocacy Update printed by the Prevention Alliance of Tennessee. Sarah did not go in to detail with most of the proposed legislation as it is so early in the process and changes are expected before bills will be in their final form.

Sarah noted that Senator Yager had sponsored a bill to change statutes and regulations regulating Suboxone and Subutex and she would keep us informed as to its progress.

She also shared information regarding a bill that McNally has reentered that may potentially fund coalitions across the state. In general a \$25 fine may be added to each court case to support coalitions. Scott County is currently funding their preventive action program through this stream of revenue. Sarah will keep tabs on the progress of this bill and report to the Coalition.

Beth Sams invited Sarah to speak to the Roane County Republican Women on Feb. 25 to provide a brief legislative update. Beth indicated the organization may choose to write a letter in support of this legislation.

Sarah invited Board members to attend the United Way Interview on Thursday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the United Way office.

**Recovery Court:** Ashley Freeberg announced that Recovery Court was official as of January 25, though the media announced it on February 1. Per the grant the Court may have 15-20 participants per year and she has 9 participants confirmed to date. The team working with participants trained in Johnson City and Murfreesboro. Participants must complete four phases to fully complete and graduate from the program. Ashley distributed a handout outlining the steps required in each phase.

Janiece Foust helped Ashley describe basic requirements of the program, such as participants report weekly in court to report their progress, meet regularly with mentors, and attend three self-help sessions per week. Ashley described the referral process and the admission process. Her commitment to the program and enthusiasm about the program potential was evident. She thanked RCADC for our support and the relationship we provide to their efforts. The program is an alternative to incarceration, teaching participants accountability and how to successfully initiate daily life changing behaviors; overall it provides a second chance with any supportive resources.

Sarah stated that for every \$1 spent on prevention in Roane County, \$14.66 is saved in public burden spending. She thanks Ashley and Janiece for sharing with the Coalition an overview of Recovery Court.

Sarah recognized Doug and Jane Jackson who began the Coalition in 2003 and the progress the county has made in substance abuse prevention and treatment since that time.

Stan took an opportunity at that time to brag about the RCADC and how the group has worked together with other agencies to make a positive impact on the people in our county.

**New Business:** There was none discussed.

The next coalition meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9 at noon at the RCADC office (151 E. Race St, Kingston).