



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
July 12, 2017**

Members/Guests Present: Marilyn Calfee, Sarah Harrison, Jill Murphy, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, Representative Kent Calfee, Steve Hornsby, Nancy Fowlkes, Dina Jackson, Lacey Hartigan, Kris Brinkmeier, Suzanne Horsfall and Janice Church.

Lacey Hartigan, PhD a Senior Research Associate with EMT Associates, Inc. attended the meeting to hold a focus group with our coalition. The goal of the focus group and the outcomes from the discussion are below:

**Focus Group for Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
Focusing on Health Disparities
July 12, 2017**

The purpose of this focus group was to discuss Roane County's specific health disparity groups, identify strategies for obtaining data on defined groups, and identify methods of outreach and targeting services to these groups.

1. Who is at risk? Thinking about the communities you serve through your coalition, which population subgroups (e.g., defined by age, race, income, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, geographic location) are most likely to experience health disparities based on higher relative risk for opioid misuse or dependence or more limited access to prevention or treatment resources?

- Teens/youth (4 votes)
- Children/families of individuals with substance use disorders (3 votes)
- Low socioeconomic status individuals in outlying areas within the county (2 votes)
- Underemployed individuals/families (1 vote)
- People without—or with inadequate—health insurance (1 vote)
- Elderly (1 vote)
- Youth involved in the juvenile justice system (1 vote)
- Individuals involved in the criminal justice system (1 vote)
- Medical professionals (1 vote)
- Homeless (0 votes)
- Middle-aged individuals with health issues (0 votes)
- State representatives/legislators (0 votes)

Additional Comments from participants on top-rated items (in as close to their words as possible):
Transportation is a huge issue. There's no way to get good transportation.

2. How do we learn more about these groups' needs? Thinking about the groups you listed in question one, what strategies or approaches could be used to learn more about the substance abuse prevention needs within these population subgroups (e.g., key informant interviews, surveys, local archival data sources, etc.)?

- Other health providers [e.g., behavioral health providers] (5 votes)
- Media (3 votes)
- Faith-based groups (2 votes)
- DHS (2 votes)
- Community events (1 vote)
- Schools (1 vote)
- Jails/probation/court system (1 vote)
- DCS (1 vote)
- Focus groups (0 votes)
- Roane County Health Department (0 votes)
- Mid-East Community Action Agency (MECAA) (0 votes)
- Assisted living facilities (0 votes)
- Face-to-face/direct interviews (informal) (0 votes)
- Food pantry (0 votes)
- Free clinic (0 votes)
- Physicians (0 votes)
- Hospitals (0 votes)
- Housing authority (0 votes)
- Employers (0 votes)
- Charitable organizations (0 votes)
- Community/civic groups (0 votes)

Additional Comments from participants on top-rated items (in as close to their words as possible):

There are faith-based groups in the county that are providing services and may not be connected in any way yet to public services.

Behavioral health providers can provide non-specific [de-identified] data.

We should be trying to talk to people in the places they go already (e.g., food pantry, DHS office, health appointments).

3. How do we better serve them? Thinking about the groups you listed in question 1, what types of strategies or approaches could be used to conduct outreach to these population subgroups or to target prevention resources to better meet their unique service needs?

- Self-help support groups/meetings in the community for addicts and family members (5 votes)
- Provide support specific to those recently-released from jail (3 votes)
- Educate doctors on prescribing opiates and on educating their patients (2 votes)
- Education on addiction; changing perceptions; seeing individuals on a case-by-case basis (2 votes)
- Behavioral health providers (1 vote)
- Mentors that provide wraparound/wholistic services (1 vote)
- Community collaboration—linking resources and making connections (1 vote)
- Supporting addicts with life skills and other necessary resources (1 vote)
- Transportation support (0 votes)
- Network of local businesses that are understanding regarding recovering individuals (0 votes)
- Scan program [checks on senior citizens] (0 votes)
- MECAA—supporting programs serving these populations (0 votes)

Additional Comments from participants on top-rated items (in as close to their words as possible):
[Note: we had a lot of discussion throughout and ran out of time at the end for additional discussion]

Participants included (# - organization):

- 3 – WestCare Foundation (behavioral health provider for the Treatment/Recovery Court)
- 2 – Roane Anti-Drug Coalition
- 1 – United Way of Roane County
- 1 – Tennessee Children & Youth
- 1 – Rotary of Kingston/concerned citizen
- 1 – Roane Sheriff's Office/Jail
- 1 – Boys & Girls Clubs of Roane County
- 1 – State Representative
- 1 – Chamber of Commerce Chairperson

Thank you for your participation.

This information was collected by Lacey Hartigan, a Research Associate with EMT Associates, Inc. EMT serves as the lead evaluator on the SPR-Rx grant in Tennessee. If you have any questions about this data please contact Lacey at lacey@emt.org or 615.678.1037.

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