



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
June 14, 2017**

Members/Guests Present: Marilyn Calfee, Genoa Clark, Cathy Day, Donna Forstrom, Sarah Harrison, Maretta McNichol, Jill Murphy, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, Ken Mynatt and Mollie Swallows

Marilyn called the meeting to order and asked that those present introduce themselves. Donna distributed flyers promoting a Drug Awareness Day event scheduled on June 17 at the Oak Ridge city pool. She made a plea for additional volunteers.

Analysis of Local Media on Rx Issues: Sarah began the meeting by distributing a number of copies of the Knoxville Sentinel bringing attention to the number of articles that have recently addressed opioid abuse. One article indicated that the DA in Sullivan County is pursuing a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies in an attempt to hold them more accountable for the prescription abuse. One of the most staggering statistics was presented in an article from the June 12th edition. It listed the number of deaths from various crises throughout the years:

<u>Crisis</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
The Gulf War	149
World War I	53,402
Vietnam War	58,220
World War II	407, 300
Drug Overdose 1999-2015	568,699

There was a lengthy discussion about the increased awareness of substance abuse, and the question was asked, “What is next?” Now that we have the attention of governments and the public, what do we do to address the problem? One topic discussed in an effort to decrease opioid addiction was various other treatments that could be used for pain management.

There was discussion regarding the hesitation of many Roane County law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel to utilize Naloxone on overdose victims. The sheriff’s office reported that the injection results in much discomfort for the one who has overdosed and the victim often becomes very violent. Certainly, preventing death is the priority, but the experience of administering the preventative drug is frightening.

Several videos were discussed regarding the understanding of addiction and the brain. Maretta mentioned a plan to host a video presentation at First Baptist Kingston during Recovery Month. It was suggested that the Coalition help promote the event in an effort to continue educating our community.

AHIDTA: Genoa Clark from AHIDTA – Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area - was asked to tell about her organization. She is working under a grant and serving the Knoxville region, which includes Roane County. The organization is working its way down the East Coast, so far from Maine to Georgia. Their goal is to address the ongoing threats to public health and safety, particularly as it regards prescription drug diversion, the emerging threat of heroin, and the continued threat of other various drugs. Genoa shared information about their effort to standardize reporting policies for overdose victims. All toxicology reporting in TN is now conducted through a national lab rather than TBI. Genoa hopes to help existing organizations, like the Coalition, to connect with other organizations that are in place in order to share resources.

Updates/ New Business: Donna said Dennis Humphrey had contacted her requesting that the Coalition interact more often with our high schools. He is working with a committee focusing on neonatal issues and would like to see some preventative programs on the high school level regarding birth control and the effects drug use has on the unborn. Donna informed Judge Humphrey that the Coalition is very active with middle school P-3 Clubs and that Oliver Springs High has requested a club be reinstated there next year. Sarah mentioned that she previously sought Judge Humphrey's assistance in implementing a high school initiative called "Every 15 Minutes," but has not, to date, been able to implement this program because it will take a lot of planning and will have to be a community-wide effort.

C.A.M.P. Update – Sarah informed the group that C.A.M.P. began on June 12 with 10 youth. The program is being conducted at TCAT with the potential of earning a certificate from the college. She said the schedule still has some openings for speakers/activities. Donna suggested some of the videos that had been discussed earlier in the meeting be shown to the campers. Rep. Calfee plans to fill one of the openings. Jill suggested that we seek media coverage of the C.A.M.P. activities. Sarah will contact local news organizations. Donna also mentioned encountering a former C.A.M.P. participant, and how appreciative the student was years later for the direction received from the C.A.M.P. experience.

Sarah was asked about the status of President Trump's proposed budget cuts that could negatively affect Coalition funding. She was pleasantly surprised to announce the proposal has changed and appears to increase funding for organizations, such as our Coalition, in future years.

Lastly, Sarah announced that the 2016 Student Survey results have been returned and she is still reviewing. At a glance numbers appear to be similar to the last report, which is good as our numbers were low over the past four years. She will submit a full report to the school system before releasing the data to the board or to the public.

Beth distributed event calendars to those interested and announced an upcoming meeting where Dennis Ferguson will address how potential changes initiated by the President could affect Roane County. Cindy Boshears of Rep. Fleischmann's office will also report on the recent shooting incident in Washington. Contact Beth Sams for additional details. Meeting was adjourned.

The next Coalition meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 12 at noon at the RCADC office (151 E. Race St, Kingston).