



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
May 11, 2016**

Members/Guests Present: Chris Averette, Kris Brinkmeier, Monty Burks, Cathy Day, Janiece Foust, Ashley Freeburg, Nick Gaston, Chad Gibson, Stan Grubb, Charlene Hipster, Tim McMichael, Jill Murphy, Sherry Samples, John Shacter, Leonora Spangler, Mollie Swallows, Patti Wells, Larry Williams

Leonora called the meeting to order and welcomed members/guests. She asked that everyone introduce themselves and share with the group their interest in the coalition. Leonora then shared the sad news of our colleague, Christy Duncan, being the victim of a fatal drunk-driving accident; Leonora led the group in prayer for the family.

Tennessee Faith-Based Community Initiative: Monty Burks, Director of Special Projects for the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, was the guest speaker for the May meeting. The monthly coalition meeting followed a specially-called meeting by the state for community spiritual leaders. Monty presented a state initiative to them intended to provide recovery support services through local churches and other faith-based groups. He extended his presentation to inform the coalition how the state hopes to heal communities of substance abuse through this new initiative.

Monty expressed gratitude for the interest of our Coalition in providing community support for individuals recovering from substance abuse. He distributed a handout providing details regarding the Tennessee Faith-Based Community Initiative (TFBCI) after sharing his personal journey and his interest in the mission of the TFBCI. The overall objective is to build a cohesive prevention, treatment, and recovery network focusing on substance abuse through faith-based organizations in order to strengthen and restore communities.

He shared that prior to our meeting he introduced the initiative to approximately 12 local individuals representing faith-based organizations. Coalition members were encouraged to share information with their individual churches that may not have been represented and with organizations that might have an interest in the program. The Coalition staff will be working with Monty to continue an awareness of the state initiative.

Monty asked Chad Gibson, Lifeline Coordinator for Region 2, to introduce himself. He is the direct contact for substance abuse information and programs in our region. Chad shared some examples of how he has assisted in providing treatment options for individuals who have contacted him.

Updates: Kris announced that we were accepted by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) into a new social media training. ORAU accepted five applicants for a grant-based program with the goal of assisting organizations in reaching the public through social media. Kris explained that the Coalition currently has approximately 1800 followers on Facebook and that both Twitter and Pinterest are used by

staff to reach the public. However, staff are always seeking new avenues to reach the public and make more people aware of Coalition initiatives.

Jill asked if everyone had received the monthly newsletter and acknowledged the state report indicating that coalitions statewide are positively affecting communities.

Future Events: Kris announced that the next NAS (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome) workgroup will meet at 11:30 on May 17th in the RCADC office. She reminded attendees that Rep. Kent Calfee is ready to announce Tennessee's adoption of October as the state's month to promote NAS awareness.

Sherry announced that the Boys and Girls Club 4th Annual 5K Run will be held on August 20. More details to come.

Jill made a motion for the meeting to adjourn.

The next Coalition meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 8 at noon at the RCADC office (151 E. Race St, Kingston).