



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
October 11, 2017**

Members/Guests Present: Vince Brown, Marilyn Calfee, Jeff Caudill, Janice Church, Cathy Day, Ashley Freeberg, Chanel Fenel, Sarah Harrison, Suzanne Horsfall, Charlene Hipsher, Renee Salyers, Sherry Samples, Jeanna Steele-Mack, Mollie Swallows, and Nathan Wray

Marilyn called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She began by introducing herself and her interest in the Coalition and asked others to do the same.

Middle School Project: Nathan was asked to explain the empty boxes and craft materials that were scattered on the table. He explained that there had been 26 overdose deaths in Roane County last year leaving a loved one missing in 26 homes. Therefore, he has initiated a project to create 26 empty houses out of cardboard to represent these homes that have had a loss. Several finished examples were located on the shelf. Nathan explained that he hopes to have 26 completed houses to take to the middle schools at Rockwood, Cherokee, and Midway next month to provide a visual of the number of homes missing loved ones that were affected from drug overdoses in our community. A WestCare representative volunteered to take some materials for their clients to participate in the project. Nathan encouraged creative attendees to feel free to construct or decorate a house during the following video presentation.

Video Presentation: Sarah asked Nathan to introduce a Netflix video entitled, "Heroin (E)." The documentary was filmed in Huntington, WV and painted a very real picture of the overdose crisis many communities face. Testimonies of drug court officials, current and former addicts, first responders, community volunteers, and others told the story of addicts who are struggling individual in need of help. The overall picture painted was that each of us has a moral obligation to help those who are in need. One character in the video actually died twice, but was revived and is now a recovering addict actively serving and assisting struggling addicts. The message was that there is hope.

A lengthy discussion followed the video as attendees compared the Roane County problem with the one witnessed in WV. The pill problem here seems to have changed to a heroin and fentanyl problem as it has in other states. Excellent and informative presentation.

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