



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition  
October 12, 2016**

**Members/Guests Present:** Kris Brinkmeier, Janice Church, Cathy Day, Nancy Fowlkes, Ashley Freeburg, Sarah Harrison, Suzanne Horsfall, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, and Leonora Spangler

Leonora called the meeting to order and welcomed members. Introductions were not necessary since there were no new members nor guests. She announced that donations are due by the November meeting for anyone who wishes to support the Community Advisory Board with teen stocking gifts. Plans are scheduled to prepare the stockings on December 15<sup>th</sup> and deliver on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Leo suggested hygiene items and candy as possible gifts.

**National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month:** Kris began the meeting with an informative, five-minute video entitled, Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse in Your Community. Because of medicine abuse, this generation has been labeled as Generation RX. Statistics report that 1 out of 10 teens admit abusing cough medicine while 1 out of 5 report misuse of prescription drugs. Reasons youth are choosing these medications as a way of getting high are: (1) teens think legal prescriptions are safe; (2) teens often have easy access to these drugs; and (3) parents may not be aware their youth would abuse these substances. It was stated 50% of teens would be less likely to abuse drugs if parents would regularly discuss the topic with their children. Additional facts can be found at [StopMedicineAbuse.org](http://StopMedicineAbuse.org).

Kris brought attention to the brochure and handout regarding medicine abuse on the table and said that additional copies of both are available for members who would like to distribute them to the community.

She proceeded to present information and lead a discussion on medicine abuse using PowerPoint slides. Parent warning labels are beginning to be placed on cough medicines. Kris shared that there had been a recent incident at the Roane County Alternative School involving over the counter cough medicine. Kris will be presenting information to the staff and students there in the near future at the request of the principal. Kris continues to post information on social media to educate parents, students, and community members about the dangers and facts of medicine abuse. She encouraged members to share the Coalition posts in order to expand the reach of our prevention efforts.

Good discussion and sharing of information of current issues on huffing, meth use, and other drug issues took place. Leonora shared information regarding the drug testing process and how we might help parents know resources available to them to drug test their own children. Ashley brought our attention to how quickly law enforcement is made aware of the purchase of OTC drugs being abused. Others shared personal testimonies and experiences.

**NAS Awareness Month:** Kris announced that October is Neo-Natal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) awareness month. She distributed ribbons and encouraged members to wear them in an effort to raise

awareness of the problem. Roane County has identified 17 babies born with NAS so far this year; though Kris stated that number is grossly under-estimated. Again, she encouraged sharing of social media posted on this topic.

**Updates/ New Business:** Kris drew attention to other handouts on the table. On November 9 (the same date as the regular meeting), the Coalition has scheduled a Thanksgiving lunch to thank everyone for their support this year. Jill provided a handout regarding an event scheduled November 10 from 5:00-7:30 at the Kingston Church of Christ regarding how to incorporate recovery into congregation ministries or into other faith-based organizations. Donna has scheduled the Clayton Balloon Release for November 13 at 1:00 at the Oak Ridge Memorial Park.

Congratulations were offered to the staff and volunteers on the success and professionalism exhibited in hosting the Celebration of Hope event. Speakers were reported as powerful. Sarah shared an incident that occurred in set-up that positively affected one of the inmates who helped with set-up of tables and such. He was humbled by the fact that the community was hosting the event in support of people who were in his circumstances. Sarah said over \$8,000 was collected and she thanked all who made donations, sold tickets, and supported the event in other ways.

Donna shared that the Coalition was one of the winners in a reverse raffle conducted by the Boys and Girls Club. Sponsorship of the event cost the Coalition \$1,000, which included several raffle tickets. The split winnings amounted in \$2,500, so the Coalition cleared \$1,500. It was suggested that the winnings be donated back to the Boys and Girls Club by possibly purchasing a scoreboard for their gym. A Coalition logo could be included on the board giving visibility to the Coalition. Sarah said the idea had been discussed but there was concern about the possibility of the club moving locations. Due to the lack of time, the topic was tabled until the November meeting.

**Senator Yager's Chili Supper:** Sarah announced that the Coalition has been selected by Senator Yager as the charity of choice recipient for his annual Chili Supper scheduled at Roane State on November 18 from 5:00-7:30 pm. Sarah is collecting items for the silent auction, from which the charity donations will be raised. Sarah is pleased about the potential funds, but even more so, excited about the visibility the Coalition will receive from the event. Members were encouraged to volunteer to work at the event, attend the event, and donate potential auction items. She also gave members a template letter to assist in soliciting donations for the auction from area organizations. Members will also be asked to sell tickets when we receive them.

Meeting was adjourned.

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