



**Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
September 13, 2017**

Members/Guests Present: Sara Alese, Mike Barber, Genoa Clark, Christopher Cook, Cathy Day, Chanel Finnell, Donna Forstrom, Ashley Freeberg, Nick Gaston, Sarah Harrison, Tonya McKenley, Maretta McNichol, Susan Miller, Ken Mynatt, Ashley Myrick, Sherry Samples, Beth Sams, Michelle Smith, Leonora Spangler, Mollie Swallows, Nathan Wray, Senator Ken Yager, and Nikki.

Sarah called the meeting to order and welcomed a number of guests and new members. Everyone introduced themselves around the room. Marilyn Calfee was in San Francisco, so Sarah assumed responsibility in leading the meeting.

Prescription Drug Overdose Data: Sarah welcomed guest speakers, Susan Miller and Tonya McKenley, from the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Informatics & Analytics. Susan explained that their primary goal was to “reunite communities with their data regarding prescription drug overdoses.”

The PowerPoint presentation was very informative and viewer friendly. For example, Susan showed the UT football stadium filled to capacity with approximately 102,000 fans. She then showed a visual with half of the stadium removed to explain that approximately half of that number or about 52,000 people had died of a drug overdose in TN during the year 2016. Her visuals effectively enabled comprehension of the statistics that were shared throughout the presentation.

Her office is providing data, including data by county, regarding the drug abuse crisis in order to assist coalitions such as the RCADC in their work. She explained how to read the data provided by the Health Department website through data briefs and on the data dashboard. A glossary of terms was available to assure all readers are on the same page with the terminology. The website may be accessed at www.tn.gov/health/section/pdo.

There was an extended discussion after the presentation to include questions regarding statistics for Vivitrol, Suboxone, and methamphetamine usage. The state representatives appeared to be pleased with challenging questions and valuable suggestions.

Other Business: Guest, Sara Alese, HCV Prevention Coordinator for Project ACT (Awareness, Counseling, Testing) provided flyers to promote free testing for Hepatitis C and HIV. She asked for assistance from the Coalition in making the services offered to parties where there might be a potential need.

Donna and Sarah invited members/guests to support the Boys & Girls Reverse Raffle and Dinner to be held at the Oak Ridge Country Club on Saturday, October 7 at 6:30.

Maretta announced that September is Recovery Month and the jail will sponsor an upcoming Hope Candlelight Service for inmates who have lost loved ones to overdoses throughout the year. She

provided details and indicated that there have been 20 losses this year among the inmate's families and friends. Maretta also announced that on September 29 there will be a volunteer appreciation dinner to express thanks for the many community volunteers who serve and give to the prison ministries. She invited members of the Coalition to attend.

Lastly, Sarah introduced and welcomed Nathan Wray as the new Coalition Prevention Coordinator. Sarah also announced that Jeanna Steele-Mack has joined the staff and will be serving as the RSVP Project Director; she was attending a training in Knoxville on Wednesday, but should be able to attend the next coalition meeting.

The next Coalition meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11 at noon at the RCADC office (151 E. Race St, Kingston).