



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL**  
**commission**

rvarc.org

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## MINUTES

The February meeting of the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission was held on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

### VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING

Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, Sr.	Botetourt County
Lorie Smith	Franklin County
Chris Whitlow	Franklin County
Dean Martin	Roanoke County
Phil North, <i>Chair</i>	Roanoke County
Richard Caywood	Roanoke County
Lee Osborne	Roanoke County
Joseph Cobb	City of Roanoke
Dawn Erdman	City of Roanoke
Robert Jeffrey	City of Roanoke
Stephanie Moon Reynolds	City of Roanoke
Denise King	City of Salem
Mayor Bradley Grose	Town of Vinton
Richard "Pete" Peters	Town of Vinton
Robert Wood	Town of Rocky Mount

### VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Shannon Cox	Alleghany County
Pete Huber	Alleghany County
James Griffith	Alleghany County
Erin Henderson	Botetourt County
Gary Larrowe	Botetourt County
Dan Collins	Craig County
Jesse Spence	Craig County
Ronald Mitchell	Franklin County
Mike Carter	Franklin County
Roy Enslow	Franklin County
Peter Volosin	City of Roanoke
John Saunders	City of Salem
Jim W. Wallace III	City of Salem
Kevin Hutchins	Roanoke County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Mark Newbill	Town of Rocky Mount
Chuck Unroe	Town of Clifton Forge

**Member Governments:** Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke, Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont'd)**

Debbie Laurdermilk	Town of Clifton Forge
Krystal Onaitis	City of Covington
Allan Tucker	City of Covington

**1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair North called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Others:** Dr. John Rainone (via zoom), Dabney S. Lancaster Community College; Barbara Duerk, citizen.

**Staff:** Bryan Hill, Jeremy Holmes, Virginia Mullen, Eddie Wells, Cristina Finch, Sherry Dean, Niles Comer, Emma Howard-Woods, and Amanda McGee.

Chair North reported that Ms. Krystal Onaitis, representing the City of Covington, requested to participate remotely in today's meeting of the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission, under the Commission's policy for electronic meeting participation, allowing for remote participation for emergency or personal matters and a physical quorum is present. Chair North asked if there were any objections. None were voiced. The request was approved by unanimous consent.

**2. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The Consent Agenda items were as follows:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. January 27, 2022 RVARC Minutes
- C. Financial Reports Ending January 31, 2022

Chair North asked for consideration to amend today's agenda to include a report from the Nominating Committee recommending a candidate to fill the Vice Chair seat (vacated by Mayor Pamela Marshall in January 2022). The Nominating Committee report would follow immediately after item #5 "Executive Director's Report".

**MOTION:** by Lorie Smith to amend the agenda by adding "Nominating Committee Report" to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Moon Reynolds.

**Regional Commission Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** by Stephanie Moon Reynolds to approve items (A), as amended; (B) & (C) under the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Robert Jeffrey.

**Regional Commission Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**3. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

- Chair North provided a brief update on HB105, the bill moving through the General Assembly that supports the expansion and modernization of Catawba Hospital to include recovery services and modernized mental health services. That bill unanimously passed out of the appropriations committee two weeks ago and continues to move through the General Assembly with continued bipartisan support. Delegate Rasoul's office has been in communication with the Roanoke Valley Collective Response here at the Commission, and they have been helping provide additional education and outreach efforts on behalf of the legislation.
- Chair North reported the Infrastructure Investment and Job Act money are becoming available to the region first in the form of RAISE grants that have been opened for application. RAISE is the current version of the TIGER grants that many are familiar with, bolstered with additional funding for a total of \$1.5 billion of available funds for competitive grant applications. The application period for these grants is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Commission staff are available to assist if you have any questions. Further, Senator Warner's office has launched an online calendar that includes the various funding opportunities available via the IIRJ including their application deadlines. Members can contact Jeremy Holmes for a link to that calendar.
- Chair North thanked the City of Salem for volunteering to present their Locality Highlight in May, and for Franklin County for volunteering to present this summer. Chair North encouraged interested localities to volunteer to present at the April meeting, or to reach out to find a time on this year's calendar that works best for them.
- Chair North reminded Commission members that the new Regional Commission board size reduction approved last year will take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Franklin County, Botetourt, the City of Salem, and Alleghany County will all need to reduce representation by 1 or 2 members. If there are any questions or need of assistance members can contact Jeremy Holmes.

#### **4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Jeremy Holmes reported the Executive Committee met to review responses to the RFQs for auditing services that was released last December. The Commission received one response from Robinson Farmer Cox, who has provided auditing services to the Commission for a number of years. The Executive Committee recommends acceptance of the firm's proposal for auditing services.

**MOTION:** by Mayor Grose to accept the proposal for auditing services from Robinson Farmer Cox. The motion was seconded by Phil North.

**Regional Commission Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jeremy Holmes reported that the Work Program Committee met last week to discuss potential process changes for how the Commission brings projects to the annual work program. The Committee agreed using the time to set strategic priorities for the year,

rather than individual projects, will allow the Commission to take on work throughout the year that aligns with what the board has identified as our main regional needs. Further, the Committee has expressed an interest in being involved throughout the year to assist in monitoring the progress of projects. Finally, the Committee expressed a desire to see a more formal onboarding process for projects, and an evaluation phase at the end of projects so Commission staff have a clear understanding of the intended outcomes of these projects, and whether or not the planning team met those outcomes. The work of the committee is ongoing. Mr. Holmes expressed his appreciation for the time and energy of those Commissioners who are assisting in the process.

**6. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Jeremy Holmes reported Commission's Vice Chair Pamela Marshall resigned from the Clifton Forge's Town Council in January 2022. Following her resignation, the Nominating Committee was tasked to recommend an individual to fulfill the unexpired term of Vice Chair Marshall, ending October 2023. The Nominating Committee nominated Mr. Steve Clinton, Botetourt County representative.

Mr. Steve Clinton served on the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors since 1999, which is also when he was first appointed as a representative to the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission. He has served the Commission on and off for various terms ever since. Mr. Clinton has an extensive business background based here in the Roanoke Valley, starting with a successful career at HSMM where he rose to the position of Chief Operating Officer, then continued in a leadership role with the company after its merger with AECOM in 2007. After retiring from AECOM, he was briefly called to serve again in 2012 when he took on the Chief Operating Officer role of Minneapolis-based Sebesta Inc., where he spent the next four years successfully working to streamline the company and bring it to profitability. Previous to his business career, Mr. Clinton served in the United States Air Force and the Virginia Air National Guard for 25 years. He holds degrees from Radford University, the University of Virginia, and The Citadel.

Chair North asked if there are any nominations from the floor. None were voiced.

**MOTION:** by Billy Martin to accept the recommendation from the Nominating Committee that Mr. Steve Clinton serve as the Commission's Vice Chair for a term, ending October 2023. The motion was seconded by Phil North.

**Regional Commission Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Holmes thanked Mr. Clinton for agreeing to serve as Vice-Chair, and for his continued dedication to regionalism.

**7. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PRIORITIES**

Eddie Wells reported that each year the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) asks the Regional Commission to assist with

setting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) priorities for the region. GDBG non-entitlement localities were surveyed about potential CDBG applications in 2022. DHCD would award CDBG Community Improvement Grant proposals points on their application score sheet based on the priority group in which the Regional Commission places them. Mr. Wells noted that regional priorities for Franklin County and the towns of Boones Mill and Rocky Mount are set by West Piedmont PDC.

The following priorities were proposed:

**Priority One** (Highest value – each of the project types in this category will receive 50 points)

Economic Development – Business District Revitalization  
Housing – Housing Rehabilitation  
Public Infrastructure

**Priority Two** (Medium Value – each of the project types in this category will receive 30 points)

Comprehensive Community Development  
Community Service Facility

**Priority Three** (Lowest value- each of the project types in this category will receive 15 points)

Mr. Wells listed the following as the anticipated 2021 CDBG Community Improvement Grant applications:

- City of Covington – Business District Revitalization
- Town of Vinton – Cleveland Ave Neighborhood Housing Rehabilitation
- Town of Vinton – Business District/Civic Infrastructure Development Support'
- Town of Vinton – Bypass Rd/River Park Shopping Center Town Center Development Study

**MOTION:** by Richard Caywood to approve of the 2022 CDBG, as presented. The motion was seconded by Billy Martin.

**Regional Commission Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

8. **ACTION REQUESTED: SELECTION OF FY24 SMART SCALE RVARC CANDIDATE PROJECTS TO PURSUE**

Mr. Bryan Hill reminded the Commission that at their January meeting, they were briefed on the process of submitting and selecting RVARC candidate project applications for the FY24 round of SMART SCALE. The process entailed each locality or modal stakeholder requesting the RVARC to apply on its behalf for a SMART SCALE project to complete and submit the *Candidate Project Request Form for RVARC SMART SCALE Applications*. Mr. Hill reviewed the information provided in the staff report (pages 29 through 32) which explained the process and the applications that were received.

Mr. Hill reported that the RVTPO, just prior to this meeting, had approved pursuing the following five projects from an overall list of 10:

**FY24 SMART SCALE Project Preapplication Selections for the RVTPO Policy Board**

Rank	Agency	Project Name
1	Roanoke County	West Main Street Phase 3 Sidewalk
2	Roanoke County	Pedestrian Crossing Improvements on Route 419 and at Plantation/Hershberger Intersections (UPC 117212)
3	Roanoke County	Pedestrian Improvements on Williamson Road (UPC 113947)
4	City of Roanoke	Orange Ave and Williamson Rd. Intersection Improvements
5	Roanoke County	Route 419 Intersections/Projects (one or more) between Bower Road and Apperson Drive

The remaining scored project requests, eligible to be considered by the Regional Commission Board, were:

**Remaining Urbanized Area Project Requests for Consideration by the RVARC Board**

Rank	Agency	Project Name
1	City of Roanoke	I-581/Orange Ave Interchange Improvements
2	Roanoke County	U.S. Route 11/460 at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements
3	Botetourt County	Exit 150 Improvement Project
4	City of Roanoke	Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute Interchange Project

Since the Franklin County project (Realign Rte. 220 NB at Henry Road (Rte. 605) /Rte. 220 Intersection) was assumed to take one of the RVARC's spots, it was necessary to prioritize among the remaining projects to fill three additional application spots. Five applications in total may be initiated though only four of those may be ultimately submitted.

Mr. Hill recommended the following five projects to pursue preapplications:

**Staff Recommended Projects to Pursue Preapplication**

Rank	Agency	Project Name
1	Franklin County	Realign Rte. 220 NB at Henry Road (Rte. 605)/ Rte. 220 Intersection
2	City of Roanoke	I-581/Orange Ave Interchange Improvements
3	Roanoke County	U.S. Route 11/460 at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements
4	Botetourt County	Exit 150 Improvement Project
5	City of Roanoke	Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute Interchange Project

Mr. Lee Osborne asked if the Commission needs to approve these applications since the RVTPO just approved them at their meeting earlier today. Mr. Hill explained that these are the project requests which were not approved by the RVTPO.

Mr. Osborne asked if the RVTPO and RVARC project applications are competing against each other. Mr. Caywood explained that the RVTPO and RVARC applications are competing for statewide, high priority funds. He added that locality applications compete VDOT District-wide for district grant funds. Mr. Hill clarified that localities are eligible to receive District Grant Program and High Priority Projects Program funding.

**MOTION:** by Lee Osborne to approve the selection of FY24 SMART SCALE RVARC candidate projects to pursue, as presented (also listed on page 32 of the agenda packet). The motion was seconded by Richard Caywood.

**Regional Commission Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**9. PRESENTATION ON ROANOKE VALLEY COLLECTIVE RESPONSE**

Niles Comer and Emma Howard-Woods presented an overview of the work and activities of the Roanoke Valley Collective Response. (The PowerPoint presentation is included in the Minutes.)

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

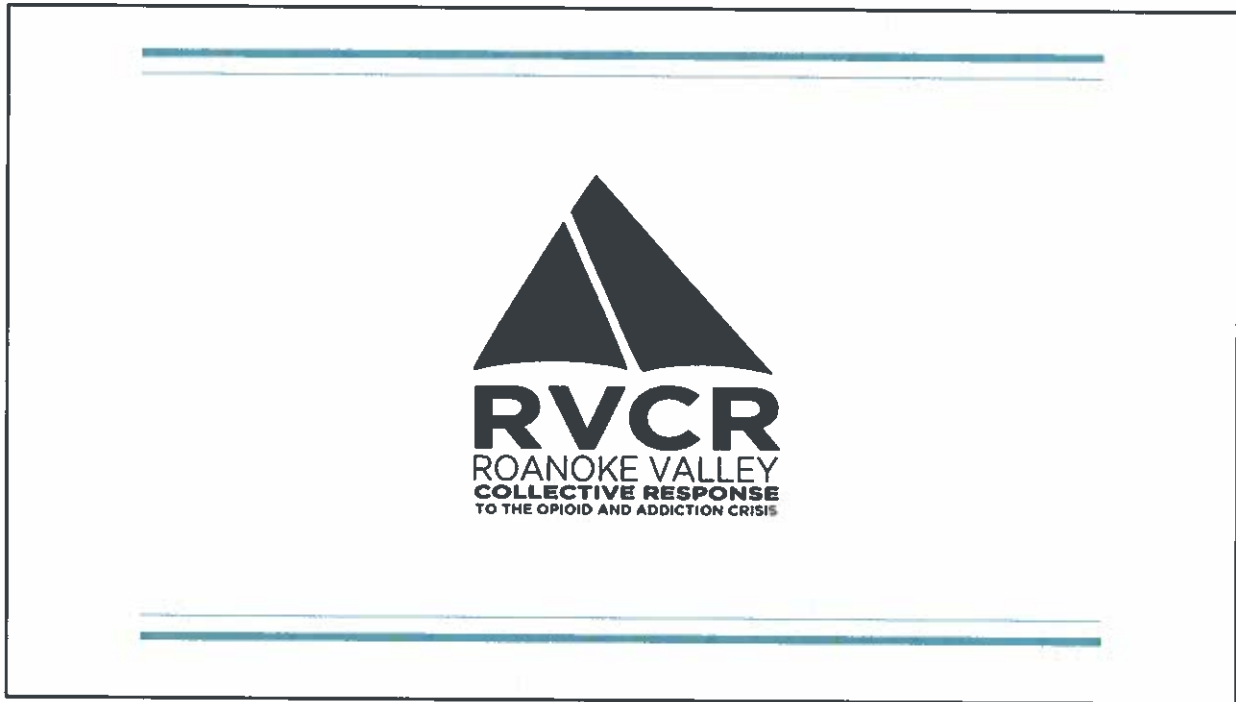
**11. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND/OR THE PUBLIC**

Mr. North commented that the grocery tax bill will impact every locality in the room. Mr. North asked members to look at the VACO note that was sent out earlier to find out more about the impact from the tax bill. He asked if anyone would like to get a copy of the note to reach out to him.

Citizen Barbara Duerk expressed a willingness to speak. Ms. Duerk commented that she had been involved with alternative transportation of walking and bicycling for a long time. She was in contact with delegate Austin about possible funding for the Craig Valley Scenic Trail. Ms. Duerk recalls the Regional Commission being involved in the past with numerous projects and studies in that regard. Ms. Duerk said she learned that the senate version of the budget includes \$233 million in funding for multi-use trails, \$50 million for trails office and \$207 million that is unspoken for and will be left up for decision making. Ms. Duerk asked members for their support for P & E for the Valley to Valley Trail, and for other trails in the area. She pleaded that the RVRC will ask our representatives in the general assembly to support the \$233 million that is being funded for multi-use trails, including the Craig Valley Scenic Trail.

Adjournment at 4:21 p.m.

  
Jeremy Holmes, Secretary  
Secretary to the Regional Commission



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## RVCR Leadership

### Staff

- **Niles Comer:** Director
- **Emma Howard-Woods:** Project Administrator

### Steering Committee

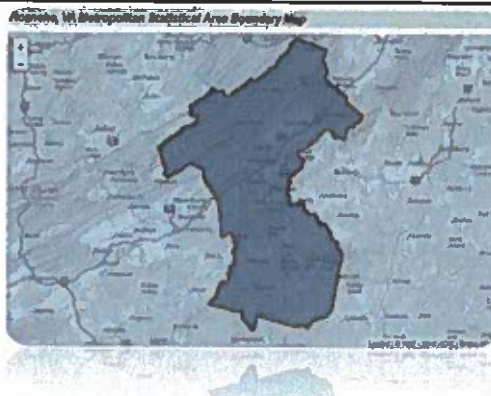
- **Lee Clark:** CEO, Rescue Mission of Roanoke
- **Janine Underwood:** Executive Director, Bradley Free Clinic
- **Jimmy Chapman:** Assistant Chief of Police, Roanoke County Police Department
- **Mary Beth Dunkenberger:** Associate Director, Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance
- **Nancy Hans:** Executive Director, Prevention Council of Roanoke County
- **Cheri Hartman:** Trainer/Faculty, Carilion Clinic Dept. of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry
- **Letitia Hawkins-Beatty:** Director, Adult and Family Services, Blue Ridge Behavioral Health
- **Linda Hentschel:** President & CEO, Family Service of Roanoke Valley
- **Jeremy Holmes:** Executive Director, Roanoke-Valley Alleghany Regional Commission
- **Kimberly Horn:** Scientist/Professor, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Virginia Tech
- **Robert Natt:** Business Development Director, IMPACT Lab, Radford University
- **Christine Wright:** Behavioral Health Program Manager for Psychiatry, Counseling and Peer Recovery Services, Bradley Free Clinic/HOPE Initiative

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## What is the RVCR?

- The RVCR is a community collective, using a multi-sector and multi-jurisdictional approach, to find new and innovative ways to alleviate the addiction crisis in Southwest Virginia.
- Our mission: we are **“united to build, sustain, and support communities by responding to addiction and promoting recovery and wellness”**
- The RVCR has over 300 community stakeholders in over 130 organizations
- Members span multiple sectors including: Law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, healthcare, local and state government, education, community support organizations, faith community, the business community, and individuals and families personally touched by addiction



**LEARN MORE WE HAVE A PLAN. YOU HAVE A PART.**

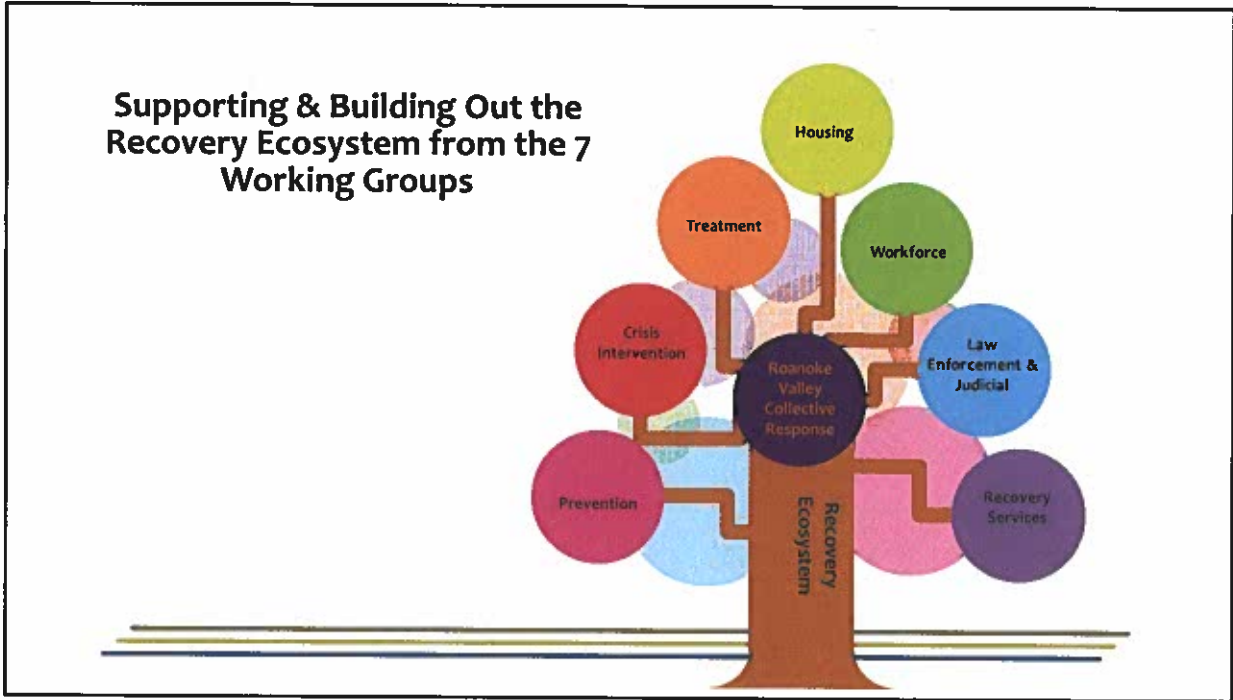


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## What the Collective Response

- Assist in building out the Recovery Ecosystem in the Roanoke Valley and Alleghany Region
- Increase the availability of recovery services for individuals, families, and the community
- Lower the barriers to entering recovery
- Increase the positive impact of recovery so that it, in turn, increases overall community wellness and quality of life in the region.

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## Progress Update (ref. p. 10-11)

Framework for success

The infographic is titled '5 CONDITIONS FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT' and is set against a dark blue background. It features five distinct icons, each with a corresponding label: 1. 'COMMON AGENDA' with a checklist icon; 2. 'SHARED MEASUREMENT' with a bar chart icon; 3. 'MUTUALLY REINFORCING ACTIVITIES' with a circular flow icon; 4. 'BACKBONE ORGANIZATION' with an icon of several people; 5. 'CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION' with a speech bubble icon.

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# Progress Update

**FOUNDED  
SEPT. 2018**

RAPID START-UP  
FIXED MONTHLY  
MEETINGS

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## Blueprint for Action

- **Blueprint purpose:** to provide a 3-year plan of action that offers innovative and evidence-based solutions tailored to our community
- **Blueprint focus:** the RVCR identified five strategic working groups (now changed to seven) to focus our recommendations: **Prevention, Treatment, Crisis Response, Recovery, and Child and Family Support.**
- **Blueprint product:** The blueprint includes 22 recommendations based on these insights, experiences, and evidence. Recommendations are **not** weighted or ranked.
  - Each recommendation includes **action steps, sustainability needs, and model program/practice options.**

**RVCR**  
ROANOKE VALLEY  
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE

**BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION**

A COMMUNITY DRIVEN PLAN TO ABATE THE OPIOID AND ADDICTION CRISIS IN THE ROANOKE VALLEY.

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## Current Projects

### Recovery Housing Initiative:

- Partnering with the RVARC to utilize Virginia Housing funds to create new, sustainable, and innovative recovery housing solutions

### Peer Recovery Network:

- Carilion Warm Line Initiative
- Creating a collaborative network to provide resources and networking opportunities for Peer Recovery Specialists

### Catawba Hospital:

- HB 105: Creating an action plan to turn Catawba Hospital into a state-of-the-art Recovery campus, to create a comprehensive recovery ecosystem in the Roanoke Valley

### Community Training & Education

- Community Conversations with the Prevention Council of Roanoke County
- Trauma Informed Care with the RVTICN
- Hosting the April 2022 Law Enforcement Summit and a HIDTA-directed training for law enforcement

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## Next Steps:

- **ORGANIZATIONAL** - Building the **organizational infrastructure** including developing current initiatives
- **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** - Update our Blueprint with new identified **resources/gaps** within the new 7 workgroups
- **VALUE ADD TO PARTNERS** - Present/promote the Blueprint to various community stakeholder groups, regional and state officials, and individual stakeholders
- **SUSTAINABILITY** - Prepare a **financial model** for budget estimates and financial sustainability, including securing funding sources
- **ADVOCACY** - Make prioritized **policy and practice** recommendations at local levels
- **LONG-TERM GOALS** - Determine RVCR roles for short- and long-term **implementation** of blueprint recommendations

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## Get the word out...



• PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.RVCOLLECTIVERESPONSE.ORG](https://www.rvcollectiveresponse.org)

• **FACEBOOK:** Roanoke Valley Collective Response



• **TWITTER:** @RVCollectiveR



• **INSTAGRAM:** @RVCollectiveResponse



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