



MINUTES

The February meeting of the Roanoke Valley Collective Response Collective's Advisory Committee (CAC) was held in person at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission's office on Wednesday, February 8th, at 9:00 a.m.

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 9 a. m. A quorum was present.

VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING

Lee Clark	Roanoke Rescue Mission
Nancy Hans	Partnership for Community Wellness
Letitia Hawkins-Beatty	Blue Ridge Behavioral Health
Linda Hentschel	Family Services
Robert Natt	Board President, Partnership for Community Wellness

VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY

Cheri Hartman	Carilion Clinic
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VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeremy Hartman	City of Salem Fire EMS
Janine Underwood	Bradley Free Clinic
Christine Wright	The HOPE Initiative

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeremy Holmes	Executive Director, RVARC, as acting Secretary
Mary Beth Dunkenberger	Virginia Tech

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was held.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items were as follows:

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



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- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. January 11th, 2023 RVCR CAC meeting minutes

MOTION: by Nancy Hans to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Letitia Hawkins-Beatty.

CAC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Remarks from the Chair**

Chair Clark commented that he thought the stakeholder meeting on 2/1 went very well and thanked the participants and presenters.

5. **RVCR Organization Study Update**

Mary Beth Dunkenberger shared the progress on the RVCR organization study. News articles, website information, additional reports, meeting agendas, notes, funding data and MOUs, grant proposals and awards are all items she is considering for secondary sources. Robert Natt noted and Secretary Holmes noted all these documents are public information and available for review.

The group discussed how best to provide these various documents to Mary Beth, identifying the CAC members and others who may have access to the files. Chair Clark suggested Janine Underwood may have access to some files, and Linda Hentschel said she would look for files at Family Services. Nancy Hans noted that Kimberly Horn had a Basecamp application through Virginia Tech that might have files available. Secretary Holmes confirmed that Mary Beth should come to him for any documents generated after the RVCR came under the Commission. She offered to provide access to a Google Drive that could accept submitted documents.

Mary Beth then shared a possible interview list. The group discussed who should be added in addition to the CAC, the original Steering Committee, and other key stakeholders. Mary Beth asked the group to email her any additional names she should consider. She then shared draft question ideas for the interviewees, including goals and strategies, internal and external factors, actors and activities, governance structure, impact of covid, and access to resources. She said she would share the questions for direct feedback after she had developed them more.

Nancy Hans asked for clarification if this study included Craig County and Franklin County in its scope. Secretary Holmes suggested that anything looking forward should consider the boundaries of the Regional Commission, which does include Craig and Franklin. Nancy Hans asked if Alleghany County is included and Secretary Holmes confirmed they would be. Cheri Hartmann asked Letitia Hawkins-Beatty if

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another CSB would be included and she confirmed. The group discussed how the various CSBs overlapped the RVARC boundaries and the West Piedmont PDC boundaries that include Franklin County.

Mary Beth solicited members with gmail addresses to share the Google Drive information, and offered to share the documents developed so far with the membership.

6. **SAMHSA Grant Updates**

Bailey Helgeson shared that we have had our first two reporting dates to SAMHSA, a progress report for January and a non-compete grant application for the second year of the four-year grant. Bailey reported making progress with various EMS agencies, including Roanoke City and had a meeting on the calendar to hire the Roanoke County peer. RVCR staff are being invited to more forums to share information about peers and she is satisfied with where she is being asked to sit at the table.

She updated that we are continuing to facilitate the REVIVE training, having taken over a grant.

Secretary Holmes corrected that the peers that we are looking at hiring are the two identified in the SAMHSA, not the Roanoke County grant, though there are discussions happening about that position.

Chair Clark mentioned that Bailey should give an update at the next Stakeholder meeting.

Cheri Hartmann asked if we were including Franklin County in our peer meetings. Bailey confirmed that we have been in contact with them and they are involved in the peers network.

7. **Building on Hope Promotion and Outreach**

Secretary Holmes noted that the next item on the agenda was significant so he would keep his update on this topic short. He noted that the release of the Building on Hope white paper is a good public relations opportunity to reintroduce the RVCR. He and Robert Natt met approximately two weeks ago to discuss a communications plan for the release of the white paper, which was immediately disrupted by the necessity to release the paper to support Delegate Rasoul's Catawba Hospital bill.

He noted that he and Robert Natt had developed a roughly three week communications calendar that would focus on how the white paper release could bring attention to the various RVCR member programs. Secretary Holmes reported having already spoken with Chris Turnbull with Carilion Clinic who shared some ideas, including sharing the report with Cardinal News' Dwayne Yancey. A few other ideas

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were shared, including hosting a webinar, and possibly holding an actual press conference that would include elected officials from the Commission board.

Robert Natt said the focus was on shared ownership and shared vision. He noted that the benefit of this report is that we can share challenges, and how member organizations are addressing these challenges.

Secretary Holmes noted we'll begin this effort in earnest when the new Director comes on board. He solicited any additional ideas or needs from the CAC. Chair Clark noted the benefit of including the communications staff from member organizations.

Cheri Hartman clarified the mid-March conference is the March 13th conference offered by Gerard Lawson on Trauma Informed Care.

8. **Opioid Abatement Authority Update**

Secretary Holmes noted that there a couple of large items concerning the abatement authority and the RVCR. He offered a brief review of the granting function of the OAA: one pot of money is going directly to localities, the rules of which are set by the legal settlement, with a smaller portion being programmed by the OAA. The smaller portion is essentially a budget the OAA has set for each locality, and the locality accesses that money by submitting projects. Secretary Holmes noted that this pot of money amounts to roughly tens of thousands of dollars, which isn't much. The second pot of money is available to state agencies. The third is the incentive pot. The fourth pot is the cooperative grant project grant, which is about 35% of the OAA's total budget or \$9 million this year and up to \$15 million each year after that. To access this grant, two or more qualifying localities have to apply, along with any number of other partners, and one of the qualifying localities has to be the fiscal agent. There are two benefits to accessing the cooperative grant program. The first is that it is much easier for each locality to sign on to a big regional program than support it through their local pots. The second is that indirect/overhead costs are not allowable costs under the settlement for the grantee, but a third party can charge administrative costs to operating a program under the funding. Ultimately, though, the locality is on the hook for meeting grant requirements.

Secretary Holmes said that the Regional Commission intends on pursuing a cooperative grant to continue funding the Roanoke Valley Collective Response and asked for assistance from CAC members to assist RVCR staff in developing the grant application. Janine Underwood had previously volunteered to assist. Nancy Hans also volunteered. Chair Clark also offered to help. Secretary Holmes noted

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that May 5th is the due date, and that the entire application will come before the CAC for approval.

Secretary Holmes also noted that some RVARC member governments have expressed an interest in developing a mechanism to coordinate prospective projects regionally to avoid each government fielding multiple asks from agencies across the commission's service area. Holmes noted that the Commission already provides a mechanism like this through its Transportation Technical Committee, which received, reviews, and prioritizes projects that are then sent to the TPO for consideration. Holmes noted the CAC could play a similar role. He also noted that RVARC member localities are assigning OAA-related duties to specific locality staff, and that the CAC might consider inviting these folks to become part of the CAC or another body related to OAA project approval. Holmes said while there were many details to work out, he recommended the CAC present one or more possible roles we could play to support our local governments in their OAA efforts.

Robert Natt asked if we are considering a special committee that would involve local government members, or if they would be part of the CAC. Secretary Holmes said this is part of the discussion, and that the localities may direct that discuss based on their comfort level.

Nancy Hans asked if the OAA had been informed by families and other people affected directly by SUD. Secretary Holmes noted that OAA activities are ultimately guided by the terms of the legal settlement, but that the OAA is still developing.

Chair Clark asked what the request of the CAC is today. Secretary Holmes clarified that the Committee is being asked if it will consider bring local government members onto the committee, and if the CAC would consider taking a role in possibly reviewing and prioritizing projects submitted from the broader community.

Letitia Hawkins-Beatty expressed concern that this effort wouldn't replace or supplant the CAC/RVCR's job as a convener and expressed a preference for a special taskforce focused on the OAA grant application process. Chair Clark noted we don't have those answers today but wanted to request support from the CAC to move forward conceptually. Secretary Holmes noted that this could involve including a grant management position within RVCR staff to provide technical support for ongoing OAA's effort.

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MOTION: by Robert Natt to move forward with developing a potential OAA prioritization process for RVARC member localities. The motion was seconded by Linda Hentschel.

CAC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

9. Director's Update

Secretary Holmes updated the group on the Catawba Hospital project. The \$147 million bill failed to make the Senate but a \$14.8 million bill to plan for some level of renovation is in the works. The Commission plans to meet with Rasoul and Terry Austin after the General Assembly to discuss further.

Secretary Holmes thanked Chair Clark, Linda Hentschel, and Jeremy Hartman for their help on the hiring team. Secretary Holmes announced that Robert Natt has been offered and has accepted the Director of the Roanoke Valley Collective Response position.

Secretary Holmes finally noted that the Roanoke Valley Collective Response may need to consider a name change that is more inclusive of the Commission's other member localities including Franklin County and the Alleghany Highlands.

10. Other Business

Letitia Hawkins-Beatty reminded the CAC that BRBH was due to have information on their DRE (Drug Recognition Education) training at the next Stakeholder meeting, but that she had received feedback that this might not be appropriate since this DRE is focused on law enforcement and arrests. Nancy Hans shared that she could not imagine why this would be an issue and views it as education. Chair Clark asked if the CAC had any issue moving forward with the presentation. Robert Natt said that as a convener, this made sense to include as law enforcement is an important stakeholder. There was no objection to moving forward.

Nancy Hans asked who potential CR members should be referred to. Secretary Holmes said to send them to him for the next five days.

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:17.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Holmes".

Jeremy Holmes, Secretary
Roanoke Valley Collective Response Collective's Advisory Committee

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