



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL**  
**commission**

[rvarc.org](http://rvarc.org)

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## MINUTES

The November meeting of the Roanoke Valley Collective Response Collective's Advisory Committee (CAC) was held in person on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

### **1. Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions**

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Lee Clark	Roanoke Rescue Mission
Letitia Hawkins-Beatty	Blue Ridge Behavioral Health
Nancy Hans	Partnership for Community Wellness
Cheri Hartman	Carilion Clinic
Linda Hentschel	Family Services
Janine Underwood	Bradley Free Clinic
Scott Weimer	Virginia Tech

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jeremy Hartman	City of Salem Fire EMS
Cynthia Morrow	Virginia Department of Health
Christine Wright	The HOPE Initiative

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mary Beth Dunkenberger	Virginia Tech
Bailey Helgeson	Peer Recovery Coordinator, RVCR
Jeremy Holmes	Executive Director, RVARC
Robert Natt	Director, RVCR, as acting Secretary



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## **2. Action Requested: Approval of Consent Agenda**

Consent Agenda items were as follows:

- A. Consent agenda approved
- B. October 11, 2023 RVCR CAC Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** by Linda Henstchel to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Cheri Hartman.

**CAC ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously.

## **3. Remarks from the Chair**

No Remarks from the Chair.

## **4. Director Updates**

Robert Natt reported that RVCR just completed the Year 2 SAMHSA grant filing and should receive approval in approximately 1-2 weeks.

RVCR's CRM, Hubspot, was upgraded which will improve communication across all of the Regional Commission's programs.

All applications for the Grant and Program Administrator role have been reviewed and first round interviews will be scheduled soon.

RVCR has been collaborating with the City of Roanoke on an MOU for the VOAA grant. We hope funds will be dispersed this month.

## **5. RVCR Organization Study Update**

Mary Beth Dunkenberger reported that approval to move forward with the RVCR Organizational Study was granted with the request for only minor adjustments from

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the Internal Review Board. Mary Beth provided the survey and interview questions for the CAC to ask questions, offer suggestions, and provide feedback. 36 individuals will be scheduled for interviews.

The survey will be sent out to all RVCR membership and can be completed only once per individual. A communication plan will be developed to ensure participation of at least 60-70%.

Surveys and interviews will begin in December and continue through mid-January, when analysis will begin. Results can be expected in March.

## **6. Stakeholder Meeting Planning**

The CAC suggested focusing the December meeting on youth overdoses and the impact on families and schools. The January 2024 Stakeholder meeting will be cancelled.

## **7. Strategic Planning**

Lee Clark recommended that the CAC should utilize observations and conclusions from the Organizational Study to inform the strategic planning. This phase will likely begin in March.

As the group began to consider strategic planning, Janine Underwood read a statement from RVCR's very first meeting to inspire the continued work and its direction.

Robert Natt and Jeremy Holmes are beginning to map out a growth strategies for RVCR.

## **8. Other Business**

None.

## **9. Comments from Committee Members and/or the Public**

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Jeremy Holmes reported that RVARC has received \$100,000 from The Appalachian Regional Commission and will be using it to hire federal grant writers for projects in rural areas. He offered the support of these resources to any relevant work throughout RVCR.

The PDC Housing Development Program granted the commission \$2 million to build housing, likely with another \$2 million expected next year. If the right partnerships can be developed, this could be a great opportunity to create recovery housing.

There is a new Regional Commission, the South East Crescent Commission, and funds were received to identify barriers that building developers and local government come up against, i.e. zoning codes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

*Robert Natt*

Robert Natt, Secretary

Roanoke Valley Collective Response Collective's Advisory Committee