



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL**  
**commission**

313 Luck Avenue, SW | Roanoke, Virginia 24016 | P: 540.343.4417 | F: 540.343.4416 | rvarc@rvarc.org

## **MINUTES**

The September 2022 meeting of the Roanoke Valley Collective Response Advisory Committee was held via Zoom Link and hosted from 313 Luck Ave SW. Roanoke VA 24016

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by Lee Clark, Chair of the RVCR Advisory Committee

#### **VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Lee Clark

Jeremy Hartman

Cheri Hartman

Janine Underwood

Christine Wright

Letitia Hawkins-Beatty

Nancy Hans

Linda Hentschel

Jeremy Holmes.

**Others:** Niles Comer

### **1.**

**Action Needed:** Nancy Hans made a motion to add an item to the agenda; a discussion regarding the support RVCR should and should not provide to organizations offering Recovery Housing while utilizing questionable service delivery practices. Janine Underwood seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda including the item added above by Linda Hentschel and seconded by Nancy Hans. The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

**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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## 2.

### Updates

a. Staffing Updates: Offers have been made for the following people and positions: Ashleigh Bowman for the Administrator position and Bailey Helgeson for the Peer Recovery Coordinator. Both are to begin work on October 02, 2022. Each of these positions will be funded through the SAMHSA grant. There are still two additional positions to be filled. These positions will likely be filled once the MOU with Roanoke County is signed.

b. White Paper Updates: Niles has been in contact with workgroups and workgroup leads and believes the project is on target to be completed within the stated timeline.

c. SAMHSA grant: This is a four (4) year grant. The grant request and award does not provide programming details. This was intentional and will enable staff working the program the ability to develop and adjust services as needs surface. The group discussed the need to share information to help one another with grant reporting, especially in reporting of GPRA data, and it was agreed that this type of data sharing would be helpful for all. It was further agreed that a consistent and reliable platform for partner organizations to share other resources is also needed. No action item was attached to this discussion at this meeting.

d. Recovery Community Center: The Recovery Research Institute in Boston, MA has recently released information supporting the importance of a recovery community. Niles informed the committee that local conversations are continuing with the goal of bringing a Recovery Community Center to the Roanoke Valley. As decisions and plans are solidified, more information will be shared.

e. Recovery Housing Initiative Update: Discussions regarding funding and funding gaps for Recovery Housing in Roanoke continue between the State of VA and the Regional Commission. It is believed that once details are settled and decisions are made, recovery housing could be available to those in need within 14 months



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### 3

#### **Additional Business**

a. Next Stakeholder Meeting Agenda: Sheriffs Hash and Orange will be invited to the next stakeholder meeting along with Law enforcement from Salem to provide updates regarding their work in supporting recovery and/or trauma responsive practices. Jeremy Hartman will also share information regarding the impact Peer Recovery Specialists are having as they ride along with EMS staff on calls. Each presenter will be given 10 minutes to speak and an additional 5 minutes for questions. The last part of the meeting will be devoted to workgroups, especially those who need more time to work on the white paper. For workgroups who do not need more time to devote to the white paper, they may choose to adjourn from the meeting.

b. Discussion took place regarding the best way to respond to organizations who do not appear to be utilizing best practice in their provision of Recovery Housing particularly at the time of client discharges and discharge planning. After much discussion, it was agreed that a statement which outlines best practices for Recovery Housing in the Roanoke Valley as well as the type of support that is needed for Recovery Housing should be drafted by the RVCR Advisory Committee. Once this document is drafted and approved by the Advisory Committee, partnering RVCR agencies will be asked to sign off on the document. The document will then be submitted for posting on social media sites, sent to media sources with hope of having the document published in newspapers, and provided to contractors bidding on Recovery Housing projects  
Adjournment at 4:26 p.m.

Nile Comer, Secretary

Secretary to the Roanoke Valley Collective Response Advisory Committee

