



MINUTES

The January 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, January 11th, 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, The Prevention Council
Janine Underwood	Bradley Free Clinic
Christine White	The HOPE Initiative

VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY

None

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Cheri Hartman	Carilion Clinic
Jeremy Hartman	City of Salem Fire EMS

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeremy Holmes	Executive Director, RVARC, as acting Secretary
Ashleigh Bowman	Roanoke Valley Collective Response
Mary Beth Dunkenberg	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:



- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. December 14th, 2022 RVCR CAC meeting minutes

MOTION: by Janine Underwood to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Nancy Hans.

CAC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

4. **REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Clark thanked the Committee for their patience the previous week. Ms. Underwood requested a printed agenda.

5. **WHITE PAPER DRAFT DISCUSSION**

Chair Clark welcomed Mary Beth Dunkenberger from Virginia Tech to discuss a proposed study on the history of the formation of the Collective Response. The study would interview past and present members and provide guidance to future leaders on the development of the program. The process would involve an administrative review of existing documentation, much of which is archived at Family Services or Bradley Free Clinic. Ms. Dunkenberger will set up a Google drive for documents to be deposited, followed by around 20 interviews with key leaders including the CAC, followed by a survey of the general membership. The CAC would be invited to help design the survey and would likely be more of benefit to the CAC. Ms. Dunkenberger expects to start the process in about a month.

Ms. Underwood expressed support for the project, saying that it is good to review our history and there has been changes in meeting attendance that is worth analyzing.

Ms. Dunkenberger suggested the report would be done mid-July to September.

Ms. Hans mentioned this effort could be a good way to engage previous stakeholders to learn why they are not coming to meetings any longer. Ms. Dunkenberger agreed having some interviews could be with folks who no longer come to meetings.

Chair Clark asked if survey results could be shared sooner rather than later to help the RVCR make decisions in the short term to improve participation.

Ms. Hans suggested this effort could engage geographies beyond the current footprint of the RVCR. Several CAC members agreed the timing is good for this effort given the changes in the RVCR staff.

Secretary Holmes mentioned that this effort was well timed with the Opioid Abatement Authority's granting effort and the need for planning districts elsewhere in the state to



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understand how to form coalitions such as the RVCR.

Chair Clark also asked if best practices in other communities could be shared.

Ms. Dunkenberger asked if the intent would be to remain within the RVARC's service footprint. The group discussed that the Roanoke Valley has generally been successful at being very collaborative, though some neighboring communities have had less success. Secretary Holmes suggested that it would be useful to understand if the RVCR's service area is naturally the same as the Commission's or partnerships with neighboring PDCs should be considered to more effectively operate the Collective.

Chair Clark noted there seemed to be support. Ms. Dunkenberger said she would reach out to ask for files over the next several weeks. Chair Clark proposed adding a standing item to the CAC agenda for Ms. Dunkenberger to report out on project progress.

MOTION: by Nancy Hans to move forward with the project. The motion was seconded by Christine Wright.

CAC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Secretary Holmes updated the CAC on the hiring process for a new Director. Twenty-nine applications were submitted for the Director position, of which there were 9 qualified candidates and 4 were asked in for a first round of interviews.

On January 19th, there is an afternoon session at Local Government Day being held by the Opioid Abatement Authority discussing their grant application process. On the 20th, the Commission is hosting a Chief Administrative Officer lunch and will discuss the OAA funding through the localities at that time. The OAA funding will require the RVCR to consider how best to serve the Commission's more rural member governments.

Mr. Natt asked for clarity on how the grants are related to the settlement funds. Secretary Holmes described his understanding of how the OAA was programming its share of the settlement through pots of local, state, multi-jurisdictional, and incentive money. Secretary Holmes noted that the funds are legal settlement funds so the rules are set by the terms of the settlement, not by usual rules of state and federal funding.

Secretary Holmes offered the following update on the SAMHSA grant on behalf of Bailey Helgeson:

We've now held 2 meetings with community stakeholders regarding the

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programs associated with the SAMHSA grant. This is now a monthly reoccurring meeting. The participants will grow as the programs do. We have our first reporting due January 31st.

The Collective Response happily accepted the REVIVE! facilitation portion of the C2C grant that Virginia Tech was having to end. This group meets monthly to coordinate REVIVE! trainings throughout the community. Our second and third scheduled events take place in the next month.

Responders for Recovery is in its next stages! This week RVCR helped host important trainings for all of Salem Fire/EMS. Representatives from a similar and very successful program in Richmond came to share about implementing a PRS into overdose calls. After Wednesday 1/11 all shifts will be trained, the PRS for the pilot program is trained and introduced to these departments, and we'll get to move forward with implementation. Roanoke City EMS and Roanoke County EMS both sent representation to the training which is exciting. We hope this opens hearts and minds to extending the program to more localities in the future. Meetings with both have been scheduled to ensure we keep everyone excited about the benefits of Responders for Recovery.

Secretary Holmes also noted that we need to make progress on the hiring of the peer recovery specialists with the Bradley Free Clinic, with a goal of having some progress made on that process by the January 31 reporting deadline for SAMHSA.

Secretary Holmes also mentioned that Roanoke County has provided funding via ARPA for the Commission to hire a peer recovery coordinator, but no progress has been made on that due to the change of leadership.

Secretary Holmes announced the *Building on Hope* white paper is largely complete. The Stakeholder group provided some feedback on the structure and some content of the paper but comments were few. Ashleigh Bowman pulled together the marked-up pages we received and Secretary Holmes provided a final polish. The CAC was presented with a few questions that some stakeholder members asked.

Ms. Underwood asked if this is an iterative document. Secretary Holmes emphasized this report's primary goal was to meet the City of Roanoke's ARPA deadline, but now that this has been met the report can change as necessary to support future work.

Ms. Hans commented that the paper successfully communicated how important it was to measure the impact of COVID on addiction and recovery.

Mr. Natt asked about data supporting diversity. Secretary Holmes noted one workgroup provided data to support geographic diversity, but some statements concerning unequal impacts were removed due to lack of data. Mr. Natt noted there is a similar statement in the introduction that is unsupported. Secretary Holmes

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agreed the statement could be removed if the CAC was uncomfortable leaving it in.

Ms. Underwood suggested that the Carilion-centered language of one passage on treatment could be softened to reflect more broadly the healthcare providers in the region.

MOTION: by Robert Natt to accept the white paper pending changes discussed in this meeting to be implemented by Friday, January 13th, whereupon Secretary Holmes will submit the report to the City of Roanoke. The motion was seconded by Linda Hentschel.

CAC Action: Motion carried unanimously.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Bailey-Hawkins shared information about Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare's MARCUS alert program and the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Training happening February 13th through 16th. She offered to have someone present on each of these at upcoming RVCR Stakeholder meetings. Ms. Bailey-Hawkins explained how a MARCUS alert worked. She also clarified the DRE training is specific to Roanoke County.

Secretary Holmes also discussed that staff hoped to organize an in-person meetings for the February stakeholder meeting, with a focus on creating an action plan to implement elements of the white paper. Ashleigh Bowman was working on securing a venue and a facilitator. The meeting might need to be scheduled later in the month. Mr. Natt asked how the workgroups might work together to identify cross-sector solutions. Ms. Hans reminded the group that Karen Pillis had once created a "model family" for workgroups to use to build strategies around. Ms. Wright clarified the "model family" was a hypothetical scenario to help workgroups determine how their programs would respond to the example. Mr. Natt said his biggest priority was stakeholder engagement, however the facilitation happened. After discussion, the committee recommended moving the meeting to March.

Ms. Wright asked if we should discuss Ms. Dunkenberger's study at the next stakeholder meeting. Secretary Holmes recommended letting Ms. Dunkenberger drive how that work is communicated to the broader RVCR. Ms. Wright further noted Ms. Dunkenberger's work complemented the white paper well in terms of communicating the status of the RVCR to the community.

Secretary Holmes suggested there is a public relations campaign opportunity in how the white paper is communicated to bring attention to the various partners in the RVCR. Ms. Hans requested clarification if Salem is part of the Commission and



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would hear about the white paper update, to which Secretary Holmes confirmed they were.

Mr. Natt asked for a meeting to design the roll out of the white paper communication. Mr. Natt volunteered to work with Secretary Holmes on that.

Ms. Wright wanted clarification on the February Stakeholder meeting. Secretary Holmes confirmed February was virtual and March would be in person.

number of local partners are working to continue offering as much as possible.

Secretary Holmes updated the group that the Recovery Housing project that Commission was working on had stalled and he was not sure the funding the Commission had set aside to support the project would be able to remain committed to recovery housing.

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:25.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeremy Holmes'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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