

## MINUTES

The December meeting of the Roanoke Valley Collective Response Collective's Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

### 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
Jeremy Hartman	City of Salem Fire EMS
Letitia Hawkins-Beatty	Blue Ridge Behavioral Health
Nancy Hans	The Prevention Council
Linda Hentschel	Family Services
Robert Natt	Board President, The Prevention Council

#### VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY

Cheri Hartman	Carilion Clinic
---------------	-----------------

#### VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Janine Underwood	Bradley Free Clinic
Christine White	The HOPE Initiative

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Jeremy Holmes	Executive Director, RVARC, as acting Secretary
Ashleigh Bowman	Roanoke Valley Collective Response
Bailey Helgeson	Roanoke Valley Collective Response

### 2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clark read the following statement: Cheri Hartman, representing Carilion Clinic, has requested to participate remotely in today's meeting of the Roanoke Valley Collective's Advisory Committee under the Regional Commission's Policy for Electronic Meeting Participation, allowing for remote participation for temporary or permanent disability or other medical reason, and a physical quorum is present. Unless there is an objection, we will consider the request approved by unanimous consent.

There was no objection.



**3. ACTION REQUESTED: AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

Chair Clark proposed the agenda be amended to include a closed session after the consent agenda approval for the discussion of a personnel matter regarding the Director of the Roanoke Valley Collective Response position.

**MOTION:** by Robert Natt to approve the amendment, as presented. The motion was seconded by Linda Hentschel.

**CAC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**4. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda items were as follows:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 RVCR CAC meeting minutes
- C. November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Emergency RVRC CAC meeting minutes

Linda Hentschel requested a correction in both sets of minutes, correcting Family Promise to Family Service of Roanoke Valley.

Nancy Hans noted that the Prevention Council will change its name to the Partnership for Community Wellness.

**MOTION:** by Linda Hentschel to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Nancy Hans.

**CAC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**5. ACTION REQUESTED: MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Clark requested to move into a Closed Meeting Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 A. 1. of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the purpose of discussion a personnel matter relating to the Executive Director's Annual Review.

**MOTION:** by Robert Natt to enter the closed meeting. The motion was seconded by Letitia Hawking-Beatty.

**CAC Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**6. ACTION REQUESTED: RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING**



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL**  
**commission**

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

313 Luck Avenue, SW | Roanoke, Virginia 24016 | P: 540.343.4417 | F: 540.343.4416 | [rvarc@rvarc.org](mailto:rvarc@rvarc.org)

Chair Clark read the following resolution to return from the closed session: Resolution certifying closed meeting was held in conformity with the Code of Virginia.

WHEREAS, the Collective's Advisory Committee has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Collective's Advisory Committee that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Collective's Advisory Committee hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge:

- a. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law discussed in the closed meeting which this certification resolution applies; and
- b. Only public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Collective's Advisory Committee.

## **7. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Clark noted the two main topics for the CAC are the white paper draft review and the hiring committee's review of applications for the RVCR Director. He shared that the hiring committee planned on meeting directly after today's CAC meeting to review the hiring process, and that he had invited Linda Hentschel to replace Christine Wright on the committee.

Nancy Hans asked for a reminder of who was on the committee. Secretary Holmes states Lee Clark, Jeremy Hartman, Linda Hentschel, and Jeremy Holmes are on committee focused on resume review, and that when the team were ready for interviews others might be invited to participate.

## **8. WHITE PAPER DRAFT DISCUSSION**

Chair Clark thanked staff for moving the paper forward and for Cheri Hartman's emailed comments on the draft. Secretary Holmes invited feedback on overall comments, criticisms, or missing content areas. He reiterated the document was the first best attempt to synthesize the documents from the various workgroups into a consistent, succinct document. He noted this could result in important ideas having been lost in that summary and invited comments if so. He also noted this document was always intended to be an incremental document listing what had changed from the Blueprint for Action as a result of Covid-19 but that the Blueprint still holds, so the White Paper could be further edited to focus on specific priorities or needs that have

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



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL**  
**commission**

rvarc.org

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

changed.

Nancy Hans noticed that there is new language in the White Paper that does not appear in the Blueprint and that there is an opportunity to revisit the Blueprint and update in the future. Secretary Holmes noted he envisioned this process as similar to other planning processes at the Commission which have regular, small annual updates each year with more substantive updates every five.

Cheri Hartman noted the benefit of looking at where the different workgroup areas intersect and suggested the addition of a section that reflects these points of intersection. Cheri noted two specific areas of cross-section overlap: crisis intervention and treatment, and public health and public safety. She discussed as an example the need for treatment within jails as one of these intersections. Secretary Holmes emphasized that this is a primary goal of the White Paper, rolling up common goals into the section at the beginning of the paper to strengthen its role as a funding or advocacy document.

Nancy Hans further noted we need to challenge people to not think in boxes, noting that family support is part of recovery. Cheri Hartman noted the value of using systems language to describe these intersections.

Jeremy Hartman noted that Crisis Response came up with three areas of focus: People who use drugs, friends and family, and service providers. All these groups are touched by addiction. Mr. Hartman drew an analogy between addiction and cancer, who hasn't been touched?

Nancy Hans confirmed the usefulness of the public health and public safety overlap. Chair Clark also noted that the comparison to cancer has implications for reducing stigma.

Nancy Hans noted that the distinction between Roanoke City and County needs to be specific, specifically in the Prevention section of the draft paper where a priority need is identified as "Re-engage Roanoke and Salem," should be updated to "Re-engage Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Salem."

Robert Natt confirms the value of the "systems approach" language, in particular in the introduction and conclusion of the white paper. Letitia Hawkins-Bailey and Nancy Hans suggested the workgroups consider these areas of overlap at the January meeting. Secretary Holmes ask to clarify if this workgroup action should be part of the draft or after the draft is done, and Robert Natt confirmed he was thinking of this happening after the draft was done due to the deadline of submitting the white paper.

Secretary Holmes suggested the white paper exercise is a good foundation an annual update process to measure progress towards the blueprint goals. Nancy Hans suggested the annual review could be a way to bring more actual families involved.

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



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL**  
**commission**

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

313 Luck Avenue, SW | Roanoke, Virginia 24016 | P: 540.343.4417 | F: 540.343.4416 | [rvarc@rvarc.org](mailto:rvarc@rvarc.org)

Cheri Hartman noted that a recent action at the Department of Justice has classified substance use disorders as a disability protected by the ADA, which has implications for treatment and recovery. Ashleigh Bowman and Nancy Hans brought up and discussed the implications for youth and access to interventions at school.

Chair Clark discussed Roanoke's overdose rate that appeared in an article in the Sunday Roanoke Times. Nancy Hans expressed concern over the content of the article, particularly in regards to language that could cause more stigma. Cheri Hartman referred to the content as punitive.

Secretary Holmes thanked the group for their input and invited more comment from the CAC over the coming week. Secretary Holmes specified the addition of an opening section specifying the recovery ecosystem/systems approach. Robert Natt noted this is an opportunity for a position statement that suggests the RVCR is uniquely qualified to address the problem.

Nancy Hans noted that the problem of addiction is growing with the increase in the use of fentanyl. Secretary Holmes noted that this document is responding to the ARPA requirements from Treasury and would research to the extent that fentanyl should be considered.

## 9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Secretary Holmes updated the group on the Opioid Abatement Authority's recent listening session. He discussed the two tranches of settlement funding working its way to localities. All localities have received some funding via a formula developed by UVA based on harm impact. The Authority also has funding in four buckets, 15% for localities, 15% for state agencies, 35% for multi-jurisdictional programs, and the balance in a "bonus bucket" that can be used to incentivize various projects meeting OAA priorities which are still development. The only organizations that can apply are localities or state agencies. The OAA are meeting with VML, VACO, and VAPDC reps on 1/19/23 to discuss granting process. Secretary Holmes noted that funding is projected to last for 17 years. Cheri Hartman confirmed that one upcoming virtual listening session. Secretary Holmes also noted that the OAA is not a state agency, but a program implementing a legal settlement, so will likely behave differently than state agencies.

Secretary Holmes shared that a local medical conference group has committed to developing a Creating a Recovery Ecosystem conference in 2024, with support of \$25,000 from Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge. The group is a partnership between the RVCR, Carilion, and Virginia Tech. This will be the first of many conceptual conferences addressing substance use disorder, including opportunities focused on rural Appalachia.

Finally, Secretary Holmes updated the CAC on the hiring status for the new Director.

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



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL**  
**commission**

rvarc.org

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

Resume scoring will take place 12/19/22 through 12/23/22 with interviews scheduled after the new year, with an aggressive goal of making an offer to a new Director by the end of January. The CAC may be engaged during the interview process to help develop questions.

## 10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Clark reminded the group that the next Stakeholders meeting is January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Nancy Hans and Cheri Hartman discussed the opportunity for the CAC to come up with a glossary of terms.

Letitia Hawkins-Bailey shared that BRBH is working on a Marcus Alert training for folks dealing with a mental health crisis. She also shared that BRBH is hosting training for law enforcement to become Drug Identification Experts, having received a grant to train Roanoke County enforcement in February. She offered to have someone present at an upcoming February stakeholder meeting on the training.

Bailey Helgeson shared that on a call with the Virginia Overdose Prevention Resource Collective the Roanoke Valley Collective Response was praised by members of that group.

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

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