



## **MINUTES**

The March 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, March 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
Janine Underwood	Bradley Free Clinic

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY**

Cheri Hartman	Carilion Clinic
Jeremy Hartman	City of Salem Fire EMS

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christine Wright	The HOPE Initiative
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#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Robert Natt	Director, RVCR, as acting Secretary
Jeremy Holmes	Executive Director, RVARC

### **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. February 8, 2023 RVCR CAC meeting minutes

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

**CAC ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Remarks from the Chair**

No Remarks from the Chair.

5. **RVCR Organization Study Update**

Mary Beth Dunkenberger was unable to attend, but provided a brief update to Robert Natt. She expects the study to pass through internal review by April, and then will have more exciting updates next month.

6. **CAC Membership and Bylaw Requirements**

Jeremy Holmes provided a staff report regarding CAC membership. Bylaws require a minimum of two members representing Higher Education and Law Enforcement. With Robert Natt becoming RVCR Director, there are now two open positions on CAC committee under Higher Education. Jeremy also pointed out that the Law Enforcement group only has just one representative, Jeremy Hartman, leaving one position open. According to the bylaws, candidates for those positions should be identified, nominated, and voted in by next meeting. Jeremy encouraged the group to discuss members.

Nancy Hans asked about the requirements for Higher Education/Academic Institutions and where she might fall under, as PCW provides significant education within K-12 and general public. With her 40+ years of work in education, she volunteered to represent Academic Institutions if allowable.

Beyond compliance, Robert Natt asked the group if bylaws need to be amended in the future to provide greater clarity and current need. Robert understood the bylaws to mean colleges and universities for the Higher Education group.

Janine Underwood said previously the group was not specific to colleges and universities. Nancy Hans noticed the committee was currently heavy on mental health representation.

Lee recapped; one new member needed for Higher Education and one for Law



Enforcement. Lee asked for candidate suggestions. Linda Henschel suggested Hal Irvine with Virginia Tech and Lee asked for the group's thoughts on Hal. Nancy Hans suggested Jimmy Chapman for law enforcement. Nancy said she would speak with him. Robert and Lee agreed that he would be great.

Robert suggested Becky McIntire with Radford University Carillon, or someone else from RUC, for the Higher Education group. CAC members agreed.

Jeremy Hartman suggested Eric Ingram from Franklin County Sheriff's Office for Law Enforcement, pointing out that he would also represent a rural area. Jeremy thought he would have a good understanding of rural areas. Jeremy Holmes shared that Franklin County has expressed interest in participating in The Collective Response. Nancy Hans agreed with the Eric Ingram suggestion. Jeremy Holmes pointed out the benefit of geographic expansion and diversity.

Nancy Hans suggested more "real people" to be a part of the CAC, thinking broadly. Who are the people in the trenches? Also, she suggested young people, from late 20s to early 30s.

Jeremy Holmes added that the requirement of members with lived experience is one half. Jeremy encouraged group to think about the deficiencies of current by laws. He stated that the bylaws are flexible in bringing on new members.

**CAC ACTION:** Nancy Hans reaching out to Jimmy Chapman, Jeremy Hartman reaching out to Eric Ingram, Robert Natt reaching out to Becky McIntire, Linda Henschel reaching out to Hal Irving. Members will continue to think of new CAC members.

## 7. Opioid Abatement Authority Grant Opportunities

Robert Natt updated the group on the huge, yet complex, opportunities approaching with the OAA grant opportunities. The Collective Response is now receiving requests to support locality grant applications and multi-jurisdictional cooperative grants.

Bob Cowell asked The Collective Response to provide technical assistance to the City of Roanoke with an April grant application. Bob requested assistance in prioritizing projects before 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting and make recommendations in line with Blueprint for Action and *Building on Hope* white paper. Robert Natt reported that the White Paper will hopefully be released in April, and that will be a great time to align project recommendations with identified priorities in these documents.



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Robert asked regarding the Roanoke City task force: Should it be modified CAC with locality representation? Or should a special task force be formed? The purpose of this task force will be to convene and facilitate discussions to be sure there is appropriate work and avoid repetition. CAC members asked qualifying questions about the task force's purpose.

Jeremy pointed out that a meeting on March 22 will primarily focus on Catawba Hospital but will also include discussion of OAA grant priorities. The priority of a task force will be to look at regional funding requests, so input will be needed from other localities. Mr. Caywood expressed similar interests in support from a task force, but again, more will be revealed at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Sometime between now and second city council meeting, Bob Cowell will bring resolution to City Council on OAA funding for the next 5 years. Bob Cowell is looking to The Collective Response to help him define that resolution. Specific projects to be identified in the next 30 days. Janine Underwood echoed the importance of meeting now and giving Roanoke City the recommendations.

Chair Clark asked if the group should be who is already convened as the CAC or if a new group should be formed. Robert Natt asked about flexibility to accommodate multiple localities as requests will likely increase. The CAC agreed to include other localities as requested.

The CAC decided to move forward with creating a work group. The group is open to any CAC member who would like to participate, but a minimum of 4 must be present to meet.

Robert will convene the group weekly between now and April 12<sup>th</sup>, strive to have 4 members of the CAC present, and invite Roanoke City Representative. The group will bring recommendations from that meeting to April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of entire CAC.

**MOTION:** by Janine to authorize creating a subgroup for Roanoke City technical assistance. Seconded by Nancy Hans.

**CAC ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. SAMHSA Grant Updates

Bailey Helgeson shared about several ongoing projects under SAMHSA:

- Responders for Recovery, which is currently hiring two Peer Recovery

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Specialists to work at Bradley Free Clinic.

- Revive! event facilitation, which recently trained 120 people at Roanoke Comprehensive Treatment Center.
- The PEERS Network meets once a month for a lunch meeting and sends out a minimum of two monthly communication newsletters.
- OD Response, currently working with The Department of Health to maximize the implementation of OD Maps throughout the state.
- Community Outreach, currently speaking inside schools, jails and with first responders throughout Roanoke County.
- A mentorship program is beginning to walk PRS candidates through training and certification.

Previously, CAC members suggested for SAMHSA grantees to meet with C2C grantees and Bailey reported they will be meeting within the next week.

Questions from CAC about hiring PRSs and helping them receive their 500 hours and Bailey reported that the feedback he receives is that candidates need to be paid to complete their 500 hours. Members of CAC shared work opportunities to put in PEERS newsletter.

Bailey asked about any challenges with the signing of consent forms and Janine Underwood and Jeremy Hartman both reported no. Jeremy Hartman added the great success that the new Peer Recovery Specialist in Salem.

## 9. Director's Update

Secretary Natt updated the group on his first three weeks with The Roanoke Valley Collective Response. He discussed his hopes of broadening the scope of the SAMHSA grant and broadening the communication plan. He would like to move towards an integrated approach and include a comprehensive branding strategy.

With the upcoming OAA process he is modifying the job description for the program administrator role. Before hiring a full-time administrator, Robert hopes to contract previous employee Emma Howard-Woods to provide fractional assistance in the interim.

Megan Blackwood from Sam Rasoul's office would like to research the Collective Response in her studies at UNC. Robert will confirm that there are no conflicts between Megan's and Mary Beth's projects.

Questions posed from Chair Clark on The White Paper. Robert reports he is gathering names of communication officers through RVCR and will schedule a meeting to understand everyone's processes. He would like to release the White Paper

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collaboratively with stakeholders to maximize publicity. Robert would love to include the unique voice of each organization when releasing the paper. Then, moving forward, these channels will move beyond the release of the White Paper.

Chair Clark asked what can The CAC do to help with hiring committee? Robert would like a hiring committee. Janine asked for clarification on Emma's contract work.

Robert asked for thoughts on April 5<sup>th</sup>'s in person stakeholder meeting. Janine Underwood shared how engaging asset mapping was the first time RVCR ever met. Nancy Hans suggested breaking out in work groups, but some CAC members were concerned about the purpose of meeting in workgroups and the size of work groups.

**CAC ACTION:** Janine Underwood and Bailey Helgeson will be included on hiring committee for Collective Response program administrator. Other CAC members are welcome.

10. **Other Business**

Bailey Helgeson has several COVID tests to share. Nancy Hans has 500 drug testing kits to share.

Jeremy Holmes reminded the group about the remote participation clause rules, processes, and limitations.

Nancy Hans will be out of town for the next meeting and will be participating remotely.

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:08.

*Robert Natt*

Robert Natt, Secretary  
Roanoke Valley Collective Response Collective's Advisory Committee