



MINUTES

The April 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, April 12th, 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
Jeremy Hartman	City of Salem Fire EMS
Letitia Hawkins-Beatty	Blue Ridge Behavioral Health
Linda Hentschel	Family Services
Christine Wright	The HOPE Initiative

VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY

Nancy Hans	Partnership for Community Wellness
Cheri Hartman	Carilion Clinic

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Janine Underwood	Bradley Free Clinic
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OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Natt	Director, RVCR, as acting Secretary
Jeremy Holmes	Executive Director, RVARC
Marybeth Dunkenberg (remote)	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. March 8, 2023 RVCR CAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: by Jeremy Hartman to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Leticia Hawkins-Beatty.

CAC ACTION: Motion carried unanimously.

4. Remarks from the Chair

No Remarks from the Chair.

5. RVCR Organization Study Update

Mary Beth Dunkenberger has revised interview questions and is working through the internal review process at Virginia Tech. The study has been delayed slightly, but she hopes to have approval in two weeks. Interview questions will be sent to CAC for review. She is currently reviewing and categorizing historical administrative data.

6. Conflict of Interest Policy

The Roanoke Valley Collective Response CAC will be implementing a conflict-of-interest policy, and all members will be asked to sign. The timing of implementation aligns with request by the City of Roanoke to make recommendations regarding OAA applications. Robert Natt circulated documents to be signed by those in attendance.

CAC ACTION: Review policy and sign before next meeting.

7. City of Roanoke Opioid Abatement Authority Grant Priorities

Several members of the committee provided updates and opportunities for OAA applications.



Lee Clark on Recovery Housing; Dennis Parnell has been leading charge on a concept for developing Recovery housing in the region. There is often a gap in funding to make these projects financially viable for developers. This subgroup is requesting seed money to establish a fund, and then begin identifying specific projects for affordable housing to create recovery community concept. The group estimated a \$32.5 million investment is needed to adequately fund projects in the region. Lee reported that the subgroup recognized they would not be requesting or receiving all funding in one cycle, but rather begin with some seed money and grow the funding time.

Several committee members asked questions raised about logistics of the fund. Lee suggested the fund could be housed at RVARC for oversight and accounting. Members also discussed whether a local or cooperative approach would be most beneficial. Robert Natt explained that the scope was not yet clearly identified. Many localities will be interested in housing, and while initial consideration is for the City of Roanoke, all projects are presented for open-ended discussion.

Cheri Hartman asked about historical precedent, and Jeremy Holmes provided details about an affordable housing fund at the New River Valley Regional Commission. Jeremy also clarified that these recommendations were requested by the City of Roanoke and their direct funding therefore he assumes the construction of this housing would initially be in the city. However, not all recovery housing would need to be within the city limits.

Linda Hentschel asked about project deliverables on this project and Lee was unsure and said more discussion would be needed. Lee again indicated the long-term nature of this project. A “planning grant” approach was suggested by Robert Natt. Jeremy Hartman made suggestions on reportable ROIs.

CAC ACTION: Approved to be shared with the City of Roanoke for consideration.

Cheri Hartman presented a Peers for Successful Transitions proposal, based on the importance of embedding Peers Recovery Specialists (PRS) to strengthen services in the area and target the highest risk populations. Data shows that embedding PRS is a strong evidence-based approach to benefit most vulnerable populations. Letitia Hawkins-Beatty spoke with the Rita Glinieki Center and they expressed a need for at least one full-time PRS. The plan would identify sites where the most vulnerable SUD patients are visiting and ensure adequate PRS staffing. Representatives from Bradley Free Clinic agreed. Dr. Hartman asked about placing additional peers at the Fralin Free Clinic to support the homeless population. Lee mentioned that some peers are already staffed, but more could be embedded.



The committee discussed how we could improve existing services and leverage data to identify the needs and the gaps. Right now, the need far exceeds the capacity. Letitia also identified Roanoke City jail as a potential site. Letitia highlighted the importance of not just peers, but a whole support staff. So not just peers, but best practices would be to look at hiring supervisors, training in trauma informed care, motivational interviewing, etc. Cheri added that these hiring would strengthen the whole system of care available to the at-risk population. Another suggestion of location need was hospital settings. This would be sustainable beyond a grant because of new billing capacities for these services. To address the remote community, a virtual peer was suggested.

Two additional items were included in the proposal. Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare requested funding for a marketing campaign to increase use of an existing warm line. The Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition also requested funding for lab equipment and xylazine test strips.

Jeremy Holmes suggested prioritizing the asks by the greatest needs. The incarcerated and the homeless were decidedly the highest priority. The group then discussed sustainability and billing infrastructure. Some organizations present reported that they have no plans of billing peer services. Several organizations reported dueling training their peers as community health workers.

Robert Natt recommended unbundling the proposal into 3 different proposals.

CAC ACTION: Approved to be shared with the City of Roanoke for consideration.

Linda Henschel shared a Prevention & Education recommendation to provide training for teachers on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and opportunities to improve classroom outcomes. Nancy Hans provided additional support for ACEs training and its effectiveness. This project would begin as a pilot program, and could scale over time. Linda mentioned the West End Center afterschool program as a potential location. Would be staffed out of Family Services, who already has partnership with West End Center.

Lee Clark offered suggestions on embedding staff and sustainability.
Linda Henschel and Nancy Hans continuing to meet and discuss and more formalization to come with the support of Robert Natt.

CAC ACTION: Approved to be shared with the City of Roanoke for consideration.



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

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8. **Other Business**

None

Meeting adjourned at 10:24am.

Robert Natt

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