

Pulaski Community Partners Coalition

Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Pulaski Train Station

Members Present:	Anthony Akers, chair	Megan Jennings	Kat Saunders	Sally Warburton
Deb Suddarth	Lynne Clark	Pam Ray	Gary Roche	Dianne Wise
Heather Wright	Kenneth Meadows	Carol Smith	Rebecca Marshall	Jason Deese
Joel Lowery	Rhonda Dean	Abigail Meier	Becky Hubble, Coordinator	

Welcome: Becky Hubble, Coordinator, opened the meeting with a welcome and a brief overview of how this meeting would run. Special guest speaker, Erima Fobbs, would present after conducting coalition business. Introductions were postponed until Erima's presentation.

Agenda: The agenda was approved by a unanimous vote after a motion from Carol Smith, which was seconded by Dr. Pam Ray.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 2, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Carol Smith, which was seconded by Rhonda Dean.

Financial Report: Sally Warburton, Treasurer, distributed a copy of coalition expenses from the last 2.5 years. Since the August financial report, PCPC has paid \$200 for Community Coalitions of Virginia (CCOVA) dues and \$115 to the State Corporation Commission. PCPC has now been reinstated as a corporation. There has not been any income since March of 2015.

PFS Grant Update:

Regional Coalition Update: Rhonda Dean reminded the coalition that one of the strategies that came out of the Strategic Planning Retreat was community capacity building in the form of a New River Valley-wide coalition. There are 5 substance abuse coalitions in the New River Valley and the leads representing the coalitions are now meeting together on a monthly basis. The regional coalition has decided that, in order to achieve unity in terms of substance abuse prevention across the valley, all coalitions would actively engage the schools in their district in Red Ribbon Week activities through the use of a social media tag (#drugfreeNRV). The regional coalition will meet again on 10/10 and on 11/30 Abbie Meier will train coalition leads on capacity building and marketing with the information she brought back from the CADCA conference this past July.

Red Ribbon Week (RRW): Rhonda Dean asked the coalition how they would like to participate as a coalition in the upcoming Red Ribbon Week festivities. RRW runs from 10/23-10/31. In years past, PCPC has offered \$100 mini grants to all of the schools, made large red ribbons for their doors, and made small red lapel ribbons for teachers. Becky Hubble reported that PCPC is the only coalition in the New River Valley with the opportunity to financially back their schools, and by offering the schools mini grants without specifying how

the money must be spent, it allows the schools to get creative. It was suggested that, when Rhonda sends an email to the schools to gauge interest in receiving the grant, a requirement of a post- RRW summary and pictures of how the money was spent be included with the award. Sally Warburton reviewed the financial report and stated that last year the coalition spent \$800 on mini grants and \$33 on red ribbons. Dr. Pam Ray made a motion to approve approximately \$850 to fund RRW activities, which was seconded by Lynne Clarke. Before unanimous approval, Sally Warburton asked about increasing the high school's award money to \$200 because they have so many students. Sally Warburton's suggestion was followed up by Carol Smith, who agreed that the high school should receive more money, contingent of the YADAPP Club's (The Plug) participation in the activities. Becky Hubble and Abbie Meier provided information after Carol Smith's suggestion that this could be a possibility next year when the club is not in its infancy, but cannot happen this year. Members took a vote on Dr. Pam Ray's original motion to move forward with \$850 for RRW week activities. The vote was approved by a majority, with one opposing vote. Rhonda Dean will send an email to the schools with the reporting requirements and award offer next week. Sally Warburton then asked if PCPC would be hosting the annual RRW Service of Remembrance and there was discussion that the vigil held in August had the same message of hope and healing that is emphasized in the Service of Remembrance, which is not typically well attended, so it is not a good investment of time. Lynne Clark made a motion to not host the service, which Sally Warburton seconded and the vote was unanimously approved.

Candlelight Vigil: August 31 was National Opioid Overdose Awareness Day, so in order to honor those lost to overdose, a candlelight vigil was held at 7:00 pm at Bisset Park Gazebo. This was the first such vigil held by the PFS grant and PCPC and it was very successful Over 100 individuals attended the event, including the out-of-town family of a former Radford University student who overdosed on heroin this past summer. Kenneth Meadows, PCPC member, did an excellent job sharing his story, and his honesty inspired a gentleman in recovery who was attending the vigil to come forward to share a poem and speak on his experience. There was great media coverage and it is planned that the vigil will be a standing event. Dr. Pam Ray spoke to the powerful message the event sent to the community and commented on how nice it was to see a community church, The Bridge, come out in support. Sally Warburton spoke to how well-planned the vigil was and her only constructive feedback was to fix the microphones to avoid static feedback in years to come.

Media Campaign: Abbie Meier reported that she, Rhonda Dean, and Becky Hubble would be meeting with Mike Wade, the Public Relations Specialist at NRVCS, on 10/5 to discuss forward movement regarding the Face of Addiction is Mine media campaign. Abbie Meier also reported that the PFS grant has purchased a web domain for a campaign website and that an Instagram account, Facebook account, Twitter account, YouTube channel, and Snapchat account will be created.

REVIVE Trainings: Abbie Meier and Rhonda Dean have held 2 REVIVE! trainings so far; one for the middle and high school nurses in Montgomery County, and another at Pearisburg First United Methodist Church. There have been 4 other REVIVE trainings planned for the next two months: at the Radford Public Library on 10/14, for the Christiansburg Public Library on 11/3, for the Long Term Care Council in Montgomery County on 11/14, and for the Blacksburg Public Library on 11/17. The next target for training is the Pulaski County School nurses.

Pulaski County Board of Supervisors: Anthony Akers presented the annual report for the Pulaski County Commission on Children & Families at the September 25th Board of Supervisors Meeting. The board was very pleased with the work the Commission and all of its work groups, like PCPC, are achieving. The YADAPP youth were also presented and recognized for winning their mini grant this summer. Both groups received excellent media coverage and represented their localities well.

Drug Takeback: The Town of Pulaski Police Department will be hosting a prescription drug takeback event on Saturday, October 28th from 10am-2pm at Food City. PCPC and other agencies represented were invited to be present and set up informational tables.

Treat Trail: The Pulaski and Dublin treat trails have increased in popularity over recent years as well as trunk-or-treat at Randolph Park. Becky Hubble suggested we get involved with the Dublin Treat Trail in order to be more visible in all sectors of Pulaski County.

Addressing Behavioral Health Disparities- Erima Fobbs: Erima Fobbs, on behalf of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, attended this meeting and presented on health disparities, health inequity and how zip code can affect an individual's health as a whole. She then had the coalition identify disparate groups in Pulaski County. Upon identification, the coalition broke off into teams and developed strategies to address these disparate groups. Some of those strategies include: Engage with Policy Makers, Continue Community Training and Education, Implement Media Strategies Specific to Targeted Demographic, Create or Participate in Interest Events for Millennials and 18-25 year olds, Provide Parenting Education for Grandparents Raising Youth, Address Pregnant Women, and Babies with Neonatal Abstinence System and their Parents, Support At-Risk Youth, and Additionally Engage New Partners to Reach Specific Substance Abuse Disparity Populations

The meeting was adjourned by Becky Hubble, Coordinator.

Next Meeting: November 1, 2017 at the Train Station from 11:00 am-12:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Abigail Meier, Becky Hubble