

NRVCS 4x

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A quarterly report from New River Valley Community Services | nrvc.org

Fall 2018



Dedication ceremony: Prior to the start of their September 27 meeting, the NRVCS Board of Directors conducted a brief ceremony to dedicate the recently completed children's waiting area of the agency's Radford Center in honor of long-time employee and former interim Executive Director Rosemary Sullivan (pictured above holding flowers). Board members present for the ceremony were (from left) Jason Buckland, Kristie Williams, Melissa Shaw, Mary Biggs, Vicky Collins, Susan Richardson, Rob Gropman, Joe Young, Sally McCarthy, Anthony Akers, Joe Turman and Bob Sisk. (Photo - M. Wade/NRVCS)

Children's waiting area dedicated in Sullivan's honor

By Mike Wade / NRVCS
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The brightest and most colorful space at NRVCS' newest facility will forever be linked to a long-time member of the agency's staff.

Prior to the start of their September 27 meeting, the NRVCS Board of Directors and several members of staff gathered to officially dedicate the children's waiting area of the agency's Radford Center to Rosemary Sullivan, who spent 31 years at NRVCS – including three years as interim executive director – before retiring in 2017.

The dedication was actually a surprise to Sullivan, who also played a vital role in early development of NRVCS' new location in Radford, which was once a super-



market. The evening marked Sullivan's first visit to the facility since it first opened in February.

The room is surrounded by a stunning mural, created and hand-painted by Roanoke-based artist Jaimie Phillips.

"I have to applaud our board and the board's executive committee – as this was really their idea," noted current NRVCS

Executive Director James Pritchett, "but I could not think of a more fitting tribute for Rosemary."

"During her time with our agency, Rosemary worked tirelessly to expand the availability of psychiatric services for children and adolescents," continued Pritchett, who worked with Sullivan for a number of years. "As a result of her efforts, we today have a wonderful team of doctors and nurses to provide what has really become the cornerstone of our continuum of care for young people."

Drs. Circe Cooke and Michelle Frieben, two of NRVCS' psychiatrists that Sullivan helped recruit to the agency, were on hand for last night's dedication and presented the guest of honor with a bouquet of flowers.

Cox joins NRVCS as Director of Finance

By Mike Wade / NRVCS
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Patricia “Trish” Cox has recently been hired by NRVCS as the agency’s Director of Finance.

Cox, who comes to NRVCS after 11 years as Director of Finance and Human Resources for the City of Radford, is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and holds an accounting degree from Clemson University.

“We are very excited to have Trish join our leadership team,” said NRVCS Executive Director James Pritchett. “With the growth of our organization, we needed a position to focus solely on our finances and the rigorous accounting requirements that come with that.”

Cox’s other prior work experience includes over six years as Finance Director for New River Community Action, and a previous stint at NRVCS, when she served as the agency’s accounting manager for five years (1996 – 2001).

“I have such wonderful memories of this place [NRVCS],” explained Cox. “This was my first supervisory position, I had both of my children while working here, and I got my CPA while I was previously employed at NRVCS.”

“What better place to end my career than where I started?” Cox added.

“Obviously, the fact that Trish is already



Cox

familiar with our agency is a definite plus,” Pritchett noted, “but her extensive years of experience with government accounting will be a huge benefit to our organization.”

A native of Rural Retreat, Cox and her husband, Kenneth, have lived in Radford for 23 years. The couple has two adult children: Jacob, who attends New River Community College; and Bailee, who is a student at Virginia Tech.



Retirement: Beverly Grubb, pictured here with her son, Randy, and her grandchildren, recently retired from NRVCS after 39 years of dedicated service. Beverly, who had most recently served as a supervisor with Community Support Services, was honored with a reception on September 14 in Radford. (Photo - Christine Hatchett/NRVCS)

NEWS & NOTES

Nelson named HR Director

Valanda “Val” Nelson has been named Human Resources Director at NRVCS after having served on an interim basis in the same position since December 2017.

Nelson first joined NRVCS as the agency’s Client Advocate in July 2016. Originally from the New River Valley, Nelson had previously worked in various capacities within the behavioral healthcare industry in North Carolina. She has provided direct clinical services, advocacy services, and executive level leadership and management throughout her career.

NRVCS offering REVIVE! trainings

Several NRVCS staff members are certified to provide REVIVE! trainings, which teach community members how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency by administering naloxone. These Lay Rescuer trainings typically take about an hour. If your business or organization would be interested in a training, contact Mike Wade at 961-8420 or via email at mwade@nrvcs.org.

No board meeting in November

The NRVCS Board of Directors, which typically meets the fourth Thursday of each month, will not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Instead, the November and December meetings will be combined and held on Thursday, December 6 at the agency’s Blacksburg office.

Holiday closings

NRVCS offices and clinics will be closed for the following holidays:

Veterans Day - Monday, November 12;

Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23;

Christmas - Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25;

New Year’s Day - Tuesday, January 1, 2019; and

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, January 21, 2019.



Mapping exercise: Members of the Pulaski Community Partners Coalition (PCPC) collaborate on a mapping exercise to identify community resources, major gathering locations and known areas of concern. PCPC and the other community coalitions in the New River Valley bring stakeholders together on a monthly basis to work on strategies that address the overall well-being of their respective communities (Photo - M. Wade/NRVCS)

Coalitions helping to address community needs in the NRV

By Mike Wade / NRVCS
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The impact of behavioral health issues on our society has been well-documented. In fact, a 2016 study released by the World Health Organization estimated that the global impact of depression and anxiety alone was \$1 trillion (U.S. dollars).

There is also a human cost associated with these issues. The U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy says that more than 72,000 Americans died from drug overdoses - primarily due to opioids.

While these numbers underscore an obvious need for additional resources related to treatment, approaching behavioral health wellness at a community level could ultimately prove to be the key in reversing these disturbing trends.

Locally, the New River Valley is fortunate to have a network of community coalitions whose primary focus is to prevent or reduce the risk of problems associated with substance use and mental health dis-

orders, as well as physical illness and violence. In addition, each coalition works to raise public awareness of these issues.

The local coalitions are primarily coordinated through the efforts of NRVCS staff, but each group relies heavily on the involvement and support of stakeholders from various agencies, as well as members of the community.

Coalition work in the New River Valley actually dates back to the mid-1990's, when NRVCS gathered a small group of concerned citizens to form what would become the Giles Youth-Adult Partnership. Coalitions in Pulaski County, Montgomery County and the City of Radford would eventually follow. (Floyd County is currently represented by a multi-disciplinary team of professionals that focuses on child abuse and neglect.)

"Our mission is to create a community environment conducive to individuals reaching their full potential through prevention efforts focused on substance abuse and mental health," explains Kathy Kenley,

Learn more about the various community coalitions in the New River Valley - including meeting times and locations - at nrvc.org/prevention-coalitions

a supervisor and long-time member of the NRVCS Prevention Services team. "Ultimately, our vision is that all New River Valley residents live in a community where mental, emotional, and physical health and wellness are valued and accepted as the norm."

Kenley points out that each of the New River Valley's coalitions utilize collected data to help develop evidence-based strategies that address community issues. While those areas of concern are often similar (e.g. underage drinking and tobacco use), she says the campaigns and strategies of the respective coalitions are as unique as the communities they serve. ■



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NRVCS Quarterly Service Report: FY 2018 (4th Quarter)

Officials with NRVCS have released fourth quarter service data for Fiscal Year 2018. The figures included in the top portion of the table on the right are cumulative totals of all services provided by the agency during the year that ended June 30, 2018.

The total number of individuals served in FY 18 (12,129) is a 7.85% increase over the previous fiscal year (11,246).

This increase keeps in line with the steady growth in numbers that NRVCS has seen over the last several years. In fact, the number of individuals served in Fiscal Year 2018 is 49.6% higher than that same number was in Fiscal Year 2013.

The only number that decreased in the past year was the number of individuals served who live outside of the five jurisdictions covered by NRVCS.

Executive Director James Pritchett notes that Medicaid expansion - which takes effect January 1, 2019 - will enable even more residents to receive care.

Total Unduplicated Consumers by Locality (All Services)			
	2018	2017	% Change
Floyd County	747	704	6.11%
Giles County	1212	1118	8.41%
Montgomery County	4288	4007	7.01%
Pulaski County	3642	3200	13.81%
City of Radford	1028	905	13.59%
Other	1212	1312	- 7.62%
Grand Total	12129	11246	7.85%

Total Minor (Under Age 21) Consumers Served (All Services)			
	2018	2017	% Change
Grand Total	4852	4662	4.08%

Total Adult (Over Age 21) Consumers Served (All Services)			
	2018	2017	% Change
Grand Total	7277	6584	10.53%