



The mission of Giles Youth Adult Partnership (GYAP) is to prevent substance misuse through collaborative partnerships and actions to create safe, healthy, drug-free communities.

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ Carilion Giles Community Hospital

ATTENDING: Caryl Allen, Chair, Giles County; Stephanie Spencer, Vice-Chair, Carilion Clinic; Katie Poff, Treasurer, Giles County Department of Social Services; Phillip Norman, Child Care Aware of Virginia; Tina Saunders, NRVCS & community member; Deanna Williams, community member; April Richard, Carilion; Erika Slagel-Perry, New River Valley Regional Commission; & Mike Wade, Secretary, NRVCS

I. Welcome & Introductions: Caryl welcomed those in attendance and led introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Katie Poff, seconded by Tina Saunders. Approved unanimously.

III. Approval of November 2025 and December 2025 minutes: Motion by Stephanie Spencer, seconded by Deanna Williams. Approved unanimously.

IV. Brief Coalition Member Updates:

Mike shared information about growing concerns in Pulaski County with seniors playing bingo, spending too much of their income to play, and then resorting to selling medications to cover the cost of essentials like groceries. This led to a robust conversation about other forms of gambling, including online sports betting. Mike added that Problem Gambling Prevention is an established priority for NRVCS' Community Wellness & Outreach team.

Another issue that led to a lengthy conversation was current school system policy regarding possession of prohibited substances and paraphernalia. School response to mental health and bullying concerns were also part of the conversation. Mike shared that while he wasn't aware of specifics, the School Board has introduced a plan to expand access to telehealth services.

Given the scope of the discussion, the group agreed it would be helpful to have a representative of Giles County Public Schools administration to attend next month's meeting. Mike suggested that someone from the NRVCS School-Based team also attend.

V. Student Engagement Update: Caryl and Mike revisited the feedback from students at GHS back in November. Caryl mentioned that we still need to connect with NHS. Katie will help make this happen – hopefully sometime in early February.

VIII. Adjournment: With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM. The group agreed to continue meetings at the hospital, as long as the room is available. The next meeting will be February 17, 2026.

Respectfully submitted
Mike Wade, Secretary