

Pulaski Community Partners Coalition

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Pulaski Train Station

Present:	Anthony Akers, Chair	Megan Jennings	Kat Saunders
Sally Warburton	Lisa Webb	Kenneth Meadows	Brett Downey
Lena Rutzinski	Doug Perry	Deb Suddarth	Rhonda Dean
Abigail Meier	Becky Hubble, Coordinator		

Welcome: Anthony Akers, chair, opened the meeting with introductions.

Agenda: The agenda was approved by a unanimous vote, without modifications, upon a motion by Sally Warburton, which was seconded by Deb Suddarth.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 6, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Kat Saunders, which was seconded by Lena Rutzinski.

Financial Report: Sally Warburton, Treasurer, reported an account balance of \$11, 763.65. Sally reminded the coalition that we have had no income in donations, fundraisers, or county contributions, other than the PFS grant, since 2014.

PFS Grant Update:

Regional Coalition: Rhonda Dean reported on the status of the regional coalition, which came as a result of the Partnerships for Success work plan. The Regional Coalition met January 3rd to discuss the need for a vision statement, mission statement, and foundational documents; however, Chris Taylor, NRVCS Program Services Manager, was unable to attend the meeting. Chris serves as the coalition facilitator and the coalition leads did not want to have decision-making conversations without his presence. Rhonda reported that each of the coalitions in the NRV is in a different place regarding structure. All coalition leads decided that, in order to promote strength and sustainability in the regional coalition, the foundations of individual coalitions must be strengthened first.

Media Campaign: Rhonda also reported on the media campaign, “The Face of Addiction is Mine” as another work plan strategy developed through the PFS grant. The domains for websites have been purchased and Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube accounts are being created for promotion. The media campaign team, which consists of Becky Hubble, Mike Wade, Rhonda Dean, and Abbie Meier are also in the process of creating a biannual publication, which will be a magazine format that is set to launch around March/April. Right now, an ad structure detailing the cost of publication sponsorship is in the approval process. Becky Hubble reported that, once the ad structure is approved, coalition members will be encouraged

to brainstorm ideas for potential sponsors. Sally Warburton asked about the potential to have individuals participate in interviews for the publication anonymously, however, the campaign is striving to normalize and remove the stigma of addiction and recovery, so by allowing anonymous participation we neglect owning that “face” of addiction. Becky encouraged the coalition to remember that the more we talk about this issue, the more people will step up. The community must recognize that addiction and recovery is not an “us vs. them” problem, but is a community problem.

REVIVE Trainings: Rhonda Dean reported on the final strategy developed out of the PFS work plan: the REVIVE! trainings. As a reminder, REVIVE! is the naloxone administration and opioid overdose emergency response training for the Commonwealth of Virginia. This training teaches community members how to appropriately respond in the event of an opioid overdose and equips trainees to properly administer naloxone, the only known opioid overdose reversal medication. So far, over 125 individuals have been trained in the New River Valley. Nycole deLeeuw and Kirsten Smith, NRVCS Prevention Specialists have been REVIVE trainer certified and will now be assisting the PFS team in the facilitation of those trainings.

PFS Staffing Update: Becky Hubble announced that Abbie Meier will be leaving PCPC and NRVCS on January 26th. She has taken on a position as the campus health educator at Radford University. Anthony Akers, chair, thanked Abbie for her work on the coalition and wished her luck on her new journey.

Nominations of Officers for 2018, Election at January Annual Meeting: At the December meeting, Anthony Akers was nominated by Lynne Clark to serve as Chair, Lisa Webb was nominated for Vice-Chair by Abbie Meier, Sally Warburton volunteered for the position of Treasurer, and Kat Saunders also volunteered for the position of Secretary. Nominations continued to be accepted electronically throughout the month, but none were received. Becky Hubble asked for any additional nominations, but there were none. The slate of nominees was approved unanimously after a motion by Abbie Meier, which was seconded by Rhonda Dean. The 2018 officers are as follows:

Anthony Akers, Chair
Lisa Webb, Vice-Chair
Sally Warburton, Treasurer
Kat Saunders, Secretary

PCPC Coordinator: Becky Hubble, who has served as the PCPC coordinator since March 2016, has been asked to serve as the interim Client Advocate for NRVCS, retaining supervision of PFS and PC Commission on Children & Families. In order to perform all of these duties, she will be giving up the PCPC Coordinator role. Rhonda Dean will now be stepping into the role of PCPC Coordinator, effective immediately. Her first meeting as coordinator will be 2/07/18. Anthony Akers and PCPC thanked Becky for her hard work and dedication.

2018 Event Brainstorm: Becky Hubble asked coalition members to help make a chronological list of standing PCPC events so that we can begin to plan for upcoming happenings throughout the year. She also charged the coalition with brainstorming ideas for future endeavors. Standing events that were mentioned are as follows: After Prom in April, Drug Take Backs in April, Transitional Pool Parties in August, and Red Ribbon Week in October. Becky then asked the coalition to consider their commitment level to continuing these standing events. The coalition feels confident in their commitment and desire to continue with After Prom and Red Ribbon Week. The coalition also expressed interest in maintaining involvement in the Drug Take Backs and Brett Downey of the Pulaski County Sherriff’s Office, made the coalition aware of the 24-hour drug drop box

located at the sheriff's office. The drop box is available with a "no questions asked" policy. He said that the sheriff's office needs assistance in publicizing this community resource. It was suggested that the PCPC Facebook page be utilized as well as media coverage, such as a newspaper article. The coalition then transitioned into discussion about the transitional pool parties. Kat Saunders asked what the mission of the pool parties was and Becky Hubble explained that the pool parties are a chance for rising 6th and 9th graders to come to Randolph Park and meet their new classmates, since the 5 elementary schools funnel into 2 middle schools and the 2 middle schools funnel into 1 high school. While the students are getting to know each other and enjoy the pool, the parents receive education regarding prescription drugs and heroin abuse and the dangers that these substances present to their teens. There is always a big turn-out for the event and the community has begun to expect it, however, there is a misconception that this event is hosted by the schools and not by PCPC. There have also been several miscommunications between the schools and PCPC regarding the rules of the event. Historically, we have always firmly stated that the student must be going into 6th or 9th grade, that no siblings or friends would be permitted, and at least one parent must stay throughout the entire event. The miscommunication of rules has led to management difficulties and last year PFS staff clashed with parents for attempting to enforce the rules, which were never explicitly stated in the robocall made by the schools. Many coalition members see the value of this event; the pool parties are what helped PCPC to establish itself in the community, however, some parents and children are leaving the pool parties with a negative experience and no one is sure how that is affecting the reputation of PCPC. Sally Warburton, longtime PCPC member, said that the purpose of a coalition is to start events and then hand them off to other stakeholders in the community for sustainability. Sally suggested that PCPC take a back seat in the pool parties by offering volunteers and some food, but to let the schools take the lead. Many coalition members voiced a concern that the schools would not step up for this, and out of that concern Deb Suddarth suggested forming a pool party subcommittee that will work with the schools to better execute the event this summer. PCPC agreed to this idea. Rhonda Dean will be forming this committee in the months to come. Becky then asked the coalition for ideas of events they would like to see happen in 2018. Ideas are as follows: volunteering at National Night Out, Survive and Thrive, Pulaski Fest, and the Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil in August. Anthony Akers suggested tabling the rest of the brainstorm until February in the interest of time.

Other:

National Legislative Day: Doug Perry reported on the CCOVA National Legislation Day, which will be looking at state bills regarding marijuana legalization. The legislative event will take place on January 24 .

Urgent Love: On January 16th at the Roanoke County Police Department there will be a meeting for 26 rural Southwestern Virginia counties to talk about collaborating on prevention strategies to address the opioid crisis.

Underage Buyer Program: Lena Rutzinski reported that the ABC underage buyer program is in desperate need for more 15-17 year olds to participate in the tobacco portion of the program. Participants must be youthful with no facial hair, make up, or visible jewelry. They will make \$10.50/hr. on a very flexible schedule. If anyone knows of a teen who may be interested, please contact Lena.

The meeting was adjourned by Anthony Akers, Chair

Next Meeting: February 7, 2018 at the Pulaski Train Station from 11:00 am-12:00 pm.