

**Pulaski Community Partners Coalition**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 1, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Pulaski Train Station**

**Members Present:** Anthony Akers, Chair Megan Jennings Kat Saunders Sally Warburton  
Doug Perry Lena Rutzinski Dr. Pam Ray Jason Deese Tullia Johnston  
Joel Lowery Abigail Meier

**Welcome:** Anthony Akers, Chair, opened the meeting.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved by a unanimous vote, with the addition of a report from Doug Perry regarding marijuana legislation, after a motion from Dr. Pam Ray, which was seconded by Sally Warburton.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October 4, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Sally Warburton, which was seconded by Dr. Pam Ray.

**Financial Report:** Sally Warburton, Treasurer, distributed copies of coalition expenses. Since the October meeting, \$834 was spent on Red Ribbon Week mini grants and red ribbon supplies in Pulaski County Public Schools. The coalition now has \$11,863.65 in the account. Abbie Meier then asked the coalition for a \$50 donation to help fund a Red Ribbon Week social media contest in Pulaski County High School. Dr. Pam Ray made a motion to approve the expense, which was seconded by Kat Saunders, and unanimously approved by the coalition.

**PFS Grant Update:**

Red Ribbon Week (RRW): Abbie Meier reported on the activities reported by all Pulaski County Public Schools that were funded in part by the PCPC mini grants. All schools asked for lapel ribbons for staff and large ribbons for facility doors. Critzer Elementary used the money to buy high flier discs, water bottles, and glow-in-the-dark yo-yo's with anti-drug themes which were used as raffle prizes for students. Dublin Elementary school participated in a "wear red day" to show support for drug free lives and also bought "Good character, good choices, drug and bully free" promotional items for students. Pulaski Elementary School bought a drug free banner for the hallway outside of the cafeteria, as well as drug awareness prizes for students. Riverlawn Elementary had a poster contest to fit the national RRW theme: "The Future is Key so Stay Drug Free" as well as a red ribbon scavenger hunt for students, and an anti-drug spirit week. Spirit day themes are as follows: Monday- Your Future is Bright (College and Career Day), Tuesday- Give Drugs the Boot (Western Day), Wednesday- Follow Your Dreams (Pajama Day), Thursday- Wear red day, Monday- Be a Hero and Say NO to Drugs (hero day), and Tuesday- Drugs are Tacky (wacky tacky day). Snowville Elementary used the grant money to purchase a large sign for students to sign with the promise of being drug free, as well as bracelets and pencils for every student. Dublin Middle School used the money for prizes and an ice cream social at the end of the anti-drug campaign. Pulaski Middle School used the money to award prizes to students that participated in an essay/song/poster contest. Pulaski County High School used the money to buy "I choose to

be drug free” pencils and wrist bands. All NRV coalitions used the hashtag #drugfreeNRV to connect RRW efforts on social media. Sally Warburton suggested contacting the Southwest Times, the Patriot, and the Roanoke Times to have articles reporting activities to be circulated. Dr. Pam Ray asked for the total number of student and faculty participants and for any pictures taken in schools. Kat Saunders suggested that next year we focus our efforts on educating students on what a drug is by not making the distinction between drugs and alcohol because alcohol is a drug, despite many students not seeing it that way.

Media Campaign: Abbie Meier reported that she, Rhonda Dean, and Becky Hubble met with Mike Wade, Public Relations Specialist at NRVCS, on 10/31 to discuss further 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. The group has created an ad payment structure and table of contents for the Face of Addiction is Mine publication, which will be launched at a press conference at New River Community College on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Regional Coalition: The regional coalition met on 10/10 and discussed preparations for a unified RRW with the hashtag, #drugfreeNRV. Coalition leads also gave project updates and troubleshoot coalition-related issues. There will be a CADCA/Coalition Basics training on 11/30 for the regional coalition members. The next meeting is scheduled for 12/12.

REVIVE Trainings: Abbie Meier and Rhonda Dean have held 5 REVIVE! trainings so far; one for the middle and high school nurses in Montgomery County, one at Pearisburg First United Methodist Church, one at the Pulaski County Public Library, one for the Radford Public Library, and one for the Agency on Aging staff. There have been 3 other REVIVE trainings planned for the next two months: at the Christiansburg Public Library on 11/3, for the Long Term Care Coordinating 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. Dr. Pam Ray reported on a story about a puppy being revived by Naloxone after accidentally ingesting an opioid that had been stashed in a trashed cigarette box. This puppy’s survival story emphasizes that importance of getting this training out to the community, even to veterinarians. Anthony Akers, who attended the training at the Pulaski County Public Library, suggested that everyone in the coalition watch the “Nuggets” video, which helps to better explain addiction through the eyes of a loveable bird-like character. He and Sally Warburton both agreed that if we could change people’s mindsets about addiction, there would be increased support for the REVIVE! trainings.

Review of Health Disparities Workshop: Abbie Meier distributed copies of the “Results of Fall 2017 Behavioral Health Disparities Workshops for PFS Coalitions” chart that was created by Erima Fobbs. Erima was the guest speaker at the extended October meeting, and she helped the coalition to identify disparate populations regarding substance abuse in the New River Valley as well as strategies to improve targeting those groups.

**YADAPP Key Reimbursement:** Abbie Meier reported that one of the Pulaski County High School students lost their room key while at the YADAPP conference, and that there is now a \$50 fee due to Longwood University for the replacement of that key. Anthony Akers expressed the concern that asking the parents to pay for the misplaced key would reflect poorly on the coalition, considering PCPC sent these students for free and they

gave up a week of their summer to do prevention work and are continuing to do said work in their school. Dr. Pam Ray made a motion to pay the key replacement cost to satisfy the outstanding bill, but to table further discussion regarding this issue until December. Doug Perry seconded the motion and the coalition unanimously agreed.

**Marijuana Legislation:** Doug Perry presented on upcoming marijuana legislation options the Commonwealth is facing. In February 2017 there was a CCoVa legislation day in Richmond regarding the legalization of marijuana. Many Virginia substance abuse coalitions have taken the stance that there is no legitimate medicinal purpose for marijuana, other than some small success with MS and epilepsy, and there is no recreational purpose that would justify legalization. States that have legalized marijuana are having law related problems as well. As of right now, the Commonwealth is sitting in a position to not have decriminalization laws passed, however, we will elect a new governor on 11/7, so policy is due to change. Doug and Kat Saunders both encouraged coalition members to do their research and understand what is on the table as well as to advocate for maintenance regarding not decriminalizing marijuana.

**Prescription Drug Takeback:** Megan Jennings reported that the Pulaski Police Department collected 121.5 lbs. of prescription and over-the-counter medications at the drug takeback that was held on 10/28. Sally Warburton suggested contacting the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office and the Dublin Police Department to determine how much they collected and have a newspaper article written about it. Doug Perry agreed, reporting that positive outcomes displayed in the newspaper could justify a permanent lockbox in Pulaski County.

**The meeting was adjourned by Anthony Akers, chair.**

**Next Meeting:** December 6, 2017 at the Train Station from 11:00 am-12:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Abigail Meier, Becky Hubble