**Robertson County Interfaith Recovery Coalition**

**Notes from March 20, 2018**

**Meeting held at Covenant Confirmers Church, Springfield**

The meeting was opened by Robertson County Health Council Chair, Rebecca Macfarlane. The agenda was discussed for the meeting and discussions focused on setting up some structure for the Coalition and future meetings.

Attendees included:

* Rebecca Macfarlane (Health Council)
* Joseph Hale (Hope Apolstolic Church)
* Will Hendricks (BHC-Clarksville)
* Pam Dile (Covenant Confirmers Church)
* Pastor Ron Baptiste (Covenant Confirmers Church)
* Cricket Baptiste (Covenant Confirmers Church)
* Cleverley Easter (TMC)
* Sherry Washington (Covenant Confirmers Church)
* Steve Shates (Lifeline)
* Phillip Cothern (CR)
* Deshnell Cobbin (TN Dept of Health)
* Robbie “Buzzard” Elliott (VFW Recovery Court)
* Rev Darnell (TDOC)
* Maria Smith (TAADAS)
* Lisa Osborne (Secure Haven)
* Liz Johnson (Sumner County Anti-Drug Coalition)

**Our Mission**

***We agreed that the RCIRC has a mission to bring unity to churches, to families, and to the community.*** We want to help churches reach those who others think are unreachable. We will work together knowing that we are all serving the same God.

**Structure/Meeting Rotation**

We will work together on a Committee basis, with all members expected to contribute to the work we do in some way.

It was agreed **monthly meetings** were best, and that these should be held in churches on a rotating basis. Given most pastors’ schedules with services, we agreed that meetings should be held on a **Thursday evening, from 6pm – 8pm**.

The Chair of the Coalition should rotate every year and not be associated with any one church, i.e., should be someone from the community. We agree the leadership of this group might not yet be in the room with us. We need to invite more people and continue to discuss who is best placed to lead the group this year.

**Agendas**

Education will be a main objective of the Coalition. There are many in our community that are touched or will be touched by addiction, but there is a lot of misunderstanding and stigma about recovery in Robertson County, and within our faith-based communities.

We must focus first on educating ourselves so that we can educate others in the community about addiction. We must be unified!

**Training Ideas**

Our upcoming meetings over the next several months will focus on engaging our pastors and church members in education about addiction and recovery.

We discussed options that included:

* Presentation on Narcan by James Gupton in Cheatham County
* “The Addictive Brain” (Dr. Stephen Lloyd)
* Understanding Addiction and the Recovery Process so that we can serve people better
* Adverse Childhood Experiences training
* Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
* QPR training
* Various TAADAS trainings provided by Maria Smith

**Membership**

The work we do must involve whole families. Recovery is a family process and is long term. We must ensure our work reflects this. There were members present who have connections with higher faith-based leaders such as Bishops, etc., that can help encourage local leaders to attend. We especially want to ensure that all those leading recovery ministries are active and engaged in the work we do together.

**Communications**

The group will continue to operate as a sub-group of the Robertson County Health Council (which meets the second Wednesday of each month, noon – 1:30 at Highland Crest Campus in Springfield). All notes, meeting information and membership for the RCIRC will be communicated via the Health Council website and Facebook page found at [www.robertsoncountyhealthcouncil.com](http://www.robertsoncountyhealthcouncil.com) under the *What We Do* page.

**Actions for all who attended**

1. Come back! We need members who will come to meetings consistently.
2. Organize a training for April and May meetings (**Maria Smith, TAADAS** to lead on this)
3. Organize speaking events with Robertson County Coalition meeting, Robertson County Partnership Meeting, Kiwanis Club, Rotary, Health Council, etc. (**Rebecca Macfarlane** to lead on this)
4. Reach out to those leading Recovery Groups in Robertson County and invite them to the April meeting (**Alicia Sharpton** to lead on this)
5. Develop a Community Guide for recovery meetings that are already being held (**Sherry Washington** to lead on this.)

**Next Meeting –**

**April 12, from 6pm – 8pm at Covenant Confirmers Church. Everyone to bring a dish to share as potluck.**

Chris Locke from Northcrest Medical Center will be presenting “The Addictive Brain” and will lead a discussion on this topic. We will also review the actions we agreed to achieve at our March meeting. **All are welcome!**

To register to attend our next meeting and sign up to bring a dish, please click here: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/DYPA6361>