

Better Together meeting notes

August 24, 2022

In attendance: Lanetta Adams, Sharon Fredderking, Sandy Prange, Rhonda Wilson, John Reith, Marissa Henderson, Julie Pohlman, Thomas Garret, Mary Jo Renzaglia-Weir, Michael Bohnert

1. Housing

Old - Sandy will follow up on availability of cooling centers per John's question. We determined that our local hospitals would all serve as cooling centers in the event of a widespread and lengthy power outage. We did not discuss transportation or accessibility in this situation. That is Emergency Planning work through the Health Dept.

New – Marissa Henderson (new ROSC Region 5 Mentor) has information to share concerning funding for transitional housing.

2. Resource guides

Old -About 600 remaining. Distribution plan went well. Staying conservative with each drop allowed us to spread these around nicely. Many fantastic compliments and accounts of regular usage.

New – Sharon and Julie B. are making continued progress on the heavy portion of the Washington County resource guide. John and Sharon are brainstorming further as to who to ask to join the work group for additional proofing and editing.

3. Recovery Capital

Old - We are in the process of working through a Trauma Informed workshop that is geared for our ROSC work. More to come once we work through this project. The care center vote is coming up June 18 on our Randolph County primary ballot. We have been working very hard to carry this message and encourage strong voter turnout in support of going forward with reorganization and development.

New – Marissa Henderson spoke of HUD grant funding for transitional housing.

4. Recovery home planning

Old - As we consider the possibility of utilizing the Care Center, we are now certain that it will not contain a Recovery component. This re-illustrates the need to continue research and development on a property and development of an operating program for the house to abide by. John will be reaching back to the Fletcher Group and others from the Building Rural Recovery Ecosystems summit that he is at this week.

New – Meeting with the Fletcher Group revealed an opportunity to work together through research and planning and so we have joined up to meet regularly as we plan forward. We have identified 2-3 possible locations within Randolph County so far. This has become a (top) priority concern and is picking up real momentum.

5. People with lived experience

Old - Our work continues to identify and recruit individuals who are in Recovery and interested in banding up with the work that we are doing. We have special considerations when engaging with someone new so that they are comfortable fitting into the group and feel welcomed to engage and participate at a level that they are comfortable with. We look for potential rising leaders within this group who may be apt for further professional development and go on to serve in more gainful and meaningful ways.

New – Michael Bohnert, PLE, joined us and had some insightful thoughts to share. We discussed that addiction does not have one face and does not discriminate. Michael has agreed to do some work for us concerning our Recovery Friendly work initiative. John and Michael will meet to discuss initial steps and directions with a couple of forward introductions (Tom Welge, President Gilster Mary-Lee and Christopher Martin, Randolph County Economic Director) to get him started and pointed in the right direction.

6. Work rehabilitation and training

Old - While other projects have taken precedence with our time and focus recently, we are mindful about helping to develop a coalition of willing local employers to discuss ways that we can continue to build and foster recovery friendly/recovery ready work environments in creative and productive ways that are of mutual cross-benefit.

New – See #5, People who have been in trouble, hard to find work, Melissa will share a “felony-friendly” job list. Consider making a Facebook post to announce this initiative and search for willing companies to come forward and identify with us.

7. Drug Court program

Old - Randolph County does not have a Drug Court to date. Washington and Perry Counties have been served for some time by a Drug Court program that they had ushered in which has proven to be successful. We are in ongoing research at this time, as needed and supportive of County Clerk Julie Carnahan who has been leading the charge within the Randolph County Court staff. We are hopeful that we can be ready to apply by April of 23 but there is much work yet to do. In the meantime, we can continue to build in element that help to mimic such a program. One example is to come to court on Monday mornings and help defendants seek resources there on site.

New -

8. Cultural Awareness

8. Individuals in need – No report this month. New category.

9. SORN

Old - No update

New – John Reith is to participate in a first edition Recovery Lab podcast with Michael Tyson and Chrystal Cantrell of Take Action Today (fellow SIRN colleagues and co-founders. The group will also participate as a discussion panel at the coming ICB conference this October in Normal, IL

10. Drug Court

Old – No update

New – Marc Keihna suggest at our recent SISAA meeting that it would be appropriate to ask Jeremy Walker and Judge Brown to start coming to the courthouse on Monday mornings to address the people who are incarcerated from the previous weekend. John will reach out to ask about this. Susan has approved discussions to move forward although Comwell does not have current staffing in place for this yet.

10. Meth Prevention

Old - We are in a holding pattern and waiting to get back with the Randolph County Sherriff Department on a three-part Meth prevention strategy that we previously pitched.

New – John and Dennis are to meet with Deputy Rinehart on 9/10 to lay the groundwork for moving forward. A larger meeting will be some time after that.

11. Community outreach

Old - Rhonda working through Red Bud high school with Ending the Silence program. ROE has a Mental Health Money program (?)

New – No update

12. Volunteer revitalization initiative

New – John met with Bob Koenigstein to share the ideological framework that has been established so far. Bob was impressed with the idea and is eager to learn more as it develops. A preliminary planning meeting including Sandy, Mary Jo, Rhonda and John will meet 8/31 to further develop initial plans and direction. A larger meeting of interested persons will meet to discuss this on 9/14.

Other news, reports, comments:

None captured