



Better Together Support Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: October 22, 2025

PRESENT: NAME & ROLE		SECTOR
Rhonda Wilson, HCA Support Chair, NAMI-SW		Community Organization
Mariah Bargman, Memorial Hospital of Chester, Marketing & Comm. Relations		Health
Krista Mulholland, Randolph Co. Health Dept., Administrator		Health
Edda Berti, Bridges of Hope		Community Organization
Amy Craig, ComWell, Prevention Coordinator		Staff
Sandy Prange, ComWell Value-Based Care Coordinator		Staff
ITEM	DISCUSSION	TIMELINE & RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
Welcome		
Old Business	Rhonda has sent email to ROE Superintendent Ryan McClellan to schedule meeting and possibly include DEC conversation.	If no reply, Rhonda will follow up.
Upcoming Events	Amy shared information on upcoming Drug Take Back Day on Oct. 25 th from 9-1 at Doehring's Pharmacy and MHC Pharmacy. Hoyleton Youth & Family and Sharon will cover Doehring's Rhonda will cover MHC from 9-11	
Food Pantries	<p>Tilden-Rhonda/Mary Jo (?): Rhonda has been attending monthly</p> <p>Steeleville: Sandy will attend in November. Edda hopes to have someone from her team back there asap.</p> <p>Westminster-Bernadette/Mary W: Bernadette has been attending monthly</p> <p>Chester-Rhonda/Mary Jo (?): Rhonda attends the monthly mobile market; they had 105 today</p> <p>Addieville-Sharon/Priscilla Self: Sharon did attend in October; will see if she plans to be there in November</p>	<p>Rhonda will contact Mary Jo to see if she wants to serve as back up at the Tilden & Chester food pantries</p> <p>Sandy will request update from Bernadette. DONE</p> <p>Free Turkey & sides food distribution at FBC Steeleville on 11/22 – open to all</p>
Randolph Co. Resource Guides	Mariah has agreed to take lead on the next 2026-27 RC resource guide & Sandy will assist with updates. Begin working on this Dec./Jan. with a targeted distribution of Spring 2026	Rhonda will reach out if she needs more 2024-25 RC resource guides

<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>Amy & Sandy have put together 9 complete homeless care kits that Amy will take to the WC Pastor Appreciation breakfast. We are down to 6 empty bags & need the following items: Small blankets, gloves, shampoo & conditioner, hand sanitizer, soap, body wash, small word search books and chap stick. Sandy has sent this list to Jeanne Stamm who will get donations from her church & sorority groups.</p> <p>We will consider use of Thrivent funds for purchasing more bags. 100 previous HCA branded bags were ~\$550. We could get that cost down if non-branded.</p>	<p>Sandy will send email with new list of needed items to Mariah including warm socks, small packs of body wipes, small packs of Kleenex, toilet paper, first-aid supplies (bandages, antibiotic ointment and/or hand warmers), and small flashlight w/batteries. DONE</p> <p>Rhonda will check into Thrivent grants to purchase bags. Talk to Greg.</p>
<p>Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Amy advised that Dennis has revised the DEC flowchart and they are working to schedule the next RC & WC meetings in early November. Rhonda thought the main point was to utilize the teacher letter she shared which more thoroughly explained the program.</p>	<p>Dennis/Amy will get revised flowchart to Rhonda for review.</p>
<p>Recovery</p>	<p>ComWell did receive the second round ROSC grant and are interviewing to hire a ROSC Coordinator now.</p> <p>There is \$2770 left from 708 board's \$5000 donation toward SORN Walk. All agree in putting \$1500 of that toward printing of 2026-27 RC resource guides which leaves \$1270. It was suggested to split that amount in two and use \$635 toward purchase of HCA swag (as we are out). Rhonda did not think 708 board would approve that purchase. She prefers the full \$1270 remain available for recovery work.</p>	<p>Sandy will share Rhonda's recommendations with the HCA staff. DONE</p>
<p>Seniors</p>	<p>Sandy shared the success of the newly formed Red Bud Senior Link programs & activities. Rhonda suggested that Steeleville & Sparta senior sites might appreciate us sharing ideas with them.</p>	<p>Sandy will reach out to Steeleville & Sparta senior sites to share information.</p>
<p>Washington County</p>	<p>Amy shared information about recent resource tables hosted at the Okawville Wheat Festival and Nashville Fall Fest</p> <p>WC Pastor Appreciation Breakfast will be: Nov. 10th 9-10:30 @ St. John's Evangelical & Reformed UCC Church in Nashville This is for WC only Amy has 7 vendor tables registered and at least 5 pastors</p>	<p>Sandy will try to locate the RC Pastor contact list to share with Mariah. 10/23 sent email to Brittany & Susan.</p>

Narcan	Following up on Matt Bierman’s recommendation that schools do not keep non-expired Narcan on hand, Susan will talk with Barbara to see if school counselors can speak with schools about this.	Susan will talk to Barbara about non-expired Narcan at schools
Wellness	Mariah & Sandy advised that the RCHD group has not met since June. We will look for other ways to include Wellness in this group. One suggestion was to make sure we are sharing partner agencies’ wellness events. It would be good to have one person be in charge of that task.	
Cultural	<p>Edda has been out of the country & was ill. Tamara has been on medical leave. Hoping to get back on track at pantry. Currently helping community with DCFS, lawyers, etc. Going to partner with Sparta Pregnancy Center for women.</p> <p>Mariah shared draft cover for new Spanish RC Resource guide; Edda will review and send any input to Mariah. Monroe Randolph Partnership for Children & Families has funds available for printing. This guide will be primarily distributed through Bridges of Hope and the MRPCF.</p>	When cover is approved & final doc received, Sandy will send to printer for a quote to send to MRPCF. Once approved by them, she will send to the printer.
Transportation	<p>We are waiting to learn results from recent transportation survey.</p> <p>Edda has a Hispanic client who will be utilizing MRTD to get to work at GML M-F. Will have to get ride home from friend due to work hours being beyond MRTD’s hours.</p>	
Randolph Co. Health Dept. EMT	Rhonda advised ERT received fire safety training on 10/21. Next meeting is 1/20 @ 4 @ Chester library.	RC Emergency Response Team is still seeking volunteers
Other Updates	<p>Rhonda stated that NAMI has a new director with focus on having more boots on the ground</p> <p>Mariah shared information about MHC’s upcoming Medicare class this Friday and also about their prenatal in person or virtual class. Stated virtual can be in Spanish. There will be a blood drive in Nov. and a future presentation by U of IL ext on “Don’t Go It Alone.” Opening of new convenient care is still set for Dec.</p>	

	Rhonda advised that the next MHFA class will be held at Home Church on Oct. 24 th	
HCA Executive Committee Meeting	Monday, Nov. 3 rd from 10:00-11:45 via Zoom	
Next Combined Support & Recovery Meeting	Wednesday, Nov. 26 th @ 3:00 via Zoom	

MISSION: Increase awareness and education to enhance physical and mental well-being through community partnerships. The principal mission is the reduction of substance use, with a primary focus on reducing youth substance use.

VISION: Create a healthy environment where our community can thrive and flourish.