

**PATH Minutes**  
**October 6, 2015, 11:30-2:00 PM**  
**Fireside B Conference Room**  
**New River Valley Medical Center**

**Present:**

Beth Bailey, Pulaski Co. DSS  
Harvey Barker, Cooper House  
Michelle Brauns, CHCNRV  
Kim Collins, VT  
Vicky Collins, Radford City DSS  
Shenika Dillard, Carilion Clinic  
Mary Beth Dunkenberger, VT IPG  
Deena Flinchum, NRV Agency on Aging  
Laura Guilliams, NRV Cares  
Tina King, NRV Agency on Aging  
Holly Lesko  
David Moore, Smart Beginnings  
Laura Nelson, VT  
Patrick O'Brien, NRVRC  
Beth O'Connor, VRHA  
Kelsey O'Hara, NRCA FOC  
Wanda Osburn, Carilion EAP  
Carol Peters, NRCA CHIP  
Trina Porterfield, NRCA  
Carlin Rafie, VCE/VT  
Pam Ray, NRHD/VTCPPHR  
Rhonda Seltz, DMAS  
Terry Smusz, NRCA  
Bob Suddarth, LGHP  
Rosemary Sullivan, NRVCS  
Mary Beth Wisniewski, Smart Beginnings

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Vicky Collins called the meeting to order at 12 PM, welcomed the group, and facilitated introductions of the PATH members and other guests. Thanks were extended to Bill Flattery, CEO, and New River Valley Medical Center for hosting the meeting and providing lunch.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Giles County Community Health Needs Assessment Report**

Shenika Dillard shared information on the outcome of this report, highlighting the use of 87% use of tobacco, 29 % overweight/obese, concern about access to services primarily specialty care like cancer, universal access to dental care was a problem and there was a recognized stigma to mental health care. Another big problem is transportation. And email will be sent out with a strategic plan in November. If you would like to participate in the planning you can email Shanika or Wanda. You may view the full needs assessment report at [www.carilionclinic.org/about/CHNA](http://www.carilionclinic.org/about/CHNA).

**Legislative Forum**

Laurie Buckwald, Nurse Practitioner, Delegate candidate, and long time citizen of this area expressed her concerns about the lack of access to healthcare, especially for woman and affordable healthcare for all. Campaign issues include Medicaid expansion in Virginia and Women's Choice.

## **Workgroup Reports -**

*Childhood Obesity Prevention* – Pam Ray discussed some of the ways they are using the VDH Block grant money. Specific interventions in Christiansburg were:

1. Promoting more activity and eating healthier foods for all ages through community outreach and health education.
2. Infrastructure improvements to increase and improve “bike and walk ability” by adding bike paths, bike lanes, bike racks, bike-fix-it stations, thermal detection warning system for a critical intersection and crosswalk, walking trails, and new crosswalks ( including ADA curbing and signage).
3. Safety education for bicyclists, pedestrians and automobile drivers so all learn about sharing the road.
4. Increase access to locally grown healthy produce/food products through supporting the new Christiansburg Farmers’ Market with signage, health promotion events, free recyclable grocery bags with the “Building a Healthier Christiansburg” motto, financial support of the SNAP/EBT matching program for WIC clients, and outreach to the lower socio-economic populations to encourage them to attend the Farmers Market.

Healthy Citizens New River Valley (HCNRV) is completing its strategic plan framework that will be available to be used throughout communities in the NRV. Sustainability funding has been extended to support the work of the coalition to fully evaluate the impact of the interventions in Christiansburg, and to focus on a comprehensive NRV prevention plan that will allow us to address different communities’ needs as they are ready to participate. The goal is not only to replicate some of the successes from Christiansburg into the NRV, but also to develop other locality-specific interventions and implementations to prevent and/or reduce obesity. Each community will develop its own Healthy Citizens coalition under the larger umbrella of the HCNRV. For example, Pam is working with partners in Pulaski to develop their coalition (Healthy Citizens Pulaski County) and apply for obesity prevention grants. The coalition hopes to expand in each locality in the NRHD with similar initiatives.

*Prenatal Substance Abuse* – Rosemary Sullivan discussed her and Dr. O’Dell’s attendance at the round table hosted by Senator Kaine about substance use in this area. Dr. O’Dell shared our collective data neonatal abstinence syndrome and related issues. She was encouraged to share her presentation with Nancy Agee, CEO of Carilion who passed this info to Dr. Bill Rea, a psychiatrist at Carilion who is also interested in this issue. He wants to help us, in anyway, live out our vision for a dedicated Substance Abuse treatment facility for pregnant women and will keep in touch so as to advocate. Also, Dr. Cooke, with NRVCS, is working with local pediatricians to establish protocols for treating babies with NAS similar to her facilitation of physicians performing deliveries so that all community physicians are aware of the options for management of their patients. All this is to say that relevant providers are working hard and together to maximize existing resources and identify those in need and get them to services.

*Advocacy* – Rhonda Seltz an advocate for healthcare encouraged all to share stories of their own or other individuals about the Medicaid gap in Virginia, or when healthcare was needed and patients didn’t meet criteria. She is compiling the stories to us as advocacy.

PATHways sharing concluded the meeting.

**Next Meeting: Steering committee to meet in December 1 at 12:30 to plan next year’s meeting dates/times.**

**Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.**