

MOUNT ROGERS COMMUNITY SERVICES

March 23, 2026

Minutes

The Mount Rogers Community Services Board of Directors met on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the E. W. Cline, Jr., Building in Wytheville, Virginia, including available attendance via Zoom meeting, a teleconferencing program.

PRESENT:

Ms. Susie Dixon Garner  
Ms. Tammy Terry  
Ms. Betsy Shearin  
Ms. Michelle DeBord  
Ms. Joanne Groseclose  
Ms. Kristyna Lathem  
Ms. Sandy Worrell  
Ms. Rebecca Taylor  
Ms. Sandra Venzie  
Mr. Patton Graham

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Christin Long  
Ms. Kathy Havens  
Mr. Kris Ratliff  
Ms. Susan Clark

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Sandy Bryant  
Ms. Patty Belcher  
Ms. Kathy Cressel  
Ms. Samantha Crockett  
Ms. Laura Davis  
Ms. Kayla Fisher  
Ms. Wendy Gullion  
Ms. KJ Holbrook  
Ms. Lakesha Mayes  
Mr. Richie Pack  
Ms. Dedra Helbert  
Ms. Laura Beth Morgan  
Dr. Bobby Miglani - Teams  
Mr. Mark Morin  
Ms. Sara Vaught  
Ms. Christy Hawks - Teams

OTHERS:

Ms. Barbara Bartnik

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Susie Dixon Garner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Dixon Garner offered a moment of silence in recognition of the decisions made during the meeting and the people whose lives are affected by the decisions.

III. CITIZEN'S TIME

None.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF February 23, 2026, MINUTES

The minutes of February 23, 2026, were approved by Mr. Patton Graham and seconded by Ms. Kristyna Lathem. The motion passed unanimously.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

Ms. Kayla Fisher, Director of Executive Office Operations, announced the agency had received various donations for February 2026 for a total of \$2,472.27:

Just Fish'n - \$71.50 – Fishing for Vets Tournament  
Walmart - \$25 – Fishing for Vets Tournament  
Walmart - \$200 – Fishing for Vets Tournament  
Ebenezer Lutheran Church - \$50 – One Day at a Time Resource Box  
Ammi's Barber Shop - \$150 – One Day at a Time Resource Box  
First United Methodist Church - \$250 – One Day at a Time Resource Box  
Shirley Lockhart - \$50 – Creating Connections  
Sally Moorner - \$50 – Creating Connections  
Southwest Virginia Settler's Museum - \$826.22 – Appalachian Arts Recovery  
The Henderson - \$800 – Creating Connections – C3

MOTION: Ms. Joanne Groseclose moved that the Board accept the donations for February, as presented.

The motion, seconded by Ms. Susie Dixon Garner, passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chief Executive Officer's Report

1. Ms. Samantha Crockett, Senior Director of Wellness and Community Engagement, went into detail about Problem Gambling Prevention. March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month, and Sam highlighted rising gaming access from the new Bristol casino and mobile gambling apps. Their efforts focus on prevention, early intervention, treatment, and partnerships, including early education for parents and children to build coping and decision-making skills. Through the Beyond the Bet campaign, geofencing outreach, and partnerships with WDBJ7 and Hard Rock, MRCS targets young adults and high-risk groups. Virginia is in its sixth year of legalized gambling, and hotline calls automatically route to the state line. Community readiness scores show Virginia at 2.7 and the MRCS region at 3.4, with a 2026 survey planned. MRCS aims to reach Level 6 by increasing awareness, expanding treatment access, and strengthening community partnerships.

B. Budget and Finance Committee Report

1. Ms. Patty Belcher presented the financial statement for February 2026 for Board review and approval.

MOTION: On behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, Ms. Kristyna Lathem, Chairperson, moved that the Board accept the financial statement for February 2026, as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

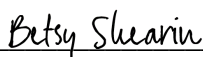
VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Program and Administrative Monthly Reports

Ms. Lakesha Mayes, Director of Grant Writing and Agency Advancement, discusses the formation and goals of the Connect group at Mount Rogers, led by Sarah Vault and Christie Hawks. The group aims to foster professional development, mentorship, and community building within the agency. They plan to organize events like spirit week, fundraise through merchandise sales, and support new staff through a buddy system. The group received positive feedback for their hybrid model but prefers in-person interactions. They have secured \$15,000 in funding for the next three years to develop their initiatives and emphasize inclusivity, transparency, and continuous learning.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on the motion of Ms. Michelle DeBord and seconded by Mr. Patton Graham, which passed unanimously.

Signed by:  
  
Ms. Betsy Shearin, Secretary