

Clintwood, VA

Jettie Baker Center

Leads: Kristin, Rachel, Jessica, Emma

Community attendees: Rita Surrat (Dickenson Co., Chamber Dir.)

Jim Childress (Clintwood Town Council)

Sarah Phillips (CMMA and Jettie Baker Dir.)

Kimberly Salyers (Dickenson Co. Recovery - Women's Center)

Mary Kelley (AV Member and Community Member; OG member of SAMS and former board member of TCC)

- What do people love about their home?:
 - Natural Beauty; scenic
 - Community care; collectivism
 - Friendly people; hospitality
 - Organic care network that we are reared into
 - "People pull together for each other"
 - This is unique to the area
 - "Make-do" culture; making do without a pile of resources
 - Thriving arts and culture scene; generational
 - Wonderful writers; place-based, steeped in the voice
- What do people value the most in their community?:
 - Small businesses; "I value people who like to start small businesses, and the support they should receive"
 - Businesses invest a lot; how do we get community members to shop local?
 - This is a vicious circle; we need people, and we need housing. Then we'd have shoppers. We have lost so much population. We need young people with families that want to stay
 - People who leave can't come back here if they don't have housing, workforce support (childcare, transportation, etc.)
 - The population of people who are overlooked in the workforce because of past criminal history, past active addictions, etc.
 - Kim Salyers is contacted DARS
 - Doing something like Blacksheep Bakery would be wonderful in Clintwood
 - Peer support work
 - People buying homes away from here
 - **Town council getting contact for Blacksheep Bakery to network and build out something; finding funding**
 - Building women's home for addiction; providing guaranteed transportation
 - MEOC + other options
 - Unfortunately may have to seek jobs outside of Dickinson Co
- Where would I like to see in Dickinson Co for the next 10 years?
 - More robust hospital systems (NOT BALLAD) - University or research hospital

- Poor practices and administration
 - Political lobbying to stop shared services (HMG in Jonesville can't receive CT scan machine or it'd shut down the Lee Hospital; which is.....lacking, anyway
 - Ballard has monopolized
- Strategic planning for outdoor recreation
 - Partnering with Breaks park for eco-tourism
 - We want to see more visitors
 - See more people; and families
 - More businesses
- The population has declined for many years; Jim wants to see more people who live, work, play, go to school, and engage
- Gotta start investing in our people here; Kim would like to see the prevention of addiction as opposed to trying to fix it after it started
 - Classes in recovery in the carceral system; different types of counseling and mental health help as opposed to prison industrial interventions
 - Work that focuses on the individual and breaking generational traumas/cycles
 - We're isolated here; how do we start showing people there is an opportunity here and the opportunities need to be made accessible

What do we need?

● Grant assistance!!

- April 27th there will be a workshop with the IDA and Chamber to source info from businesses about what they need
- Desperately need restaurants
- Grant sourcing/writing
- Community support and erasure of stigma
- University Hospital/Research Hospital
 - Competent doctors and competent hospitals
 - Publicizing of the issues that have occurred
- Artisans and are an incredible arts and culture population;
 - Why do some parts of Appalachia get to benefit from the mythology of the place-based arts
 - Think about how Asheville turned its old industrial area into a thriving arts scene
 - Cultural diversity conversations
 - We have to start investing into ourselves before things get even worse
 - It's not a long way down
 - But our arts and culture is our capital
 - Artisanal sales - how to market it; a place to sell it
- Arts Center HERE
- Aging community; how do we keep money coming in while being mindful of the population
 - Draw people in

- Jettie Baker is the anchor
- Farm to Table Restaurant
 - How do we prop up our farmers;