

Russell County Listening Session 6/22/2023

- What are the strengths you see in Russell County?
 - A growing and thriving farmers market
 - 100-200 kids involved with Healthy Bucks program administered by the Health Coalition
 - Great town administration for Lebanon
 - Since 2019, they've hosted a lot of public events, annual music festival, new parks and rec department
 - Honaker and Cleveland also having strong public events
- What difficulties have emerged in your community?
 - Curklins just closed
 - Looking for restaurant to fill gap
 - Closed because rent was too high and other expenses priced them out
 - Owner received public assistance to help fund this
 - At&T has been here for 20 years and are closing the physical location, offering employees remote work
 - But some employees can't work from home because of spotty internet access and cell service
 - Received \$1 million for downtown work from DHCD
 - Dustin on management team for the money but the team hasn't met since August 2019
 - CPPD is fiscal agent
 - No idea what the status of remaining money is
- Where are there gaps that could use grassroots capacity?
 - Gathering community input on determining how opioid abatement \$\$\$ is spent
 - Supervisor had wanted to make a motion to donate the money to new recovery facility in Abingdon
 - How can we effectively work with the opioid issue?
 - There's not a lot of groups working directly with advocating for policy changes that would help, like laws dealing with barrier crimes (SAMS/VO/NEN) or prescription monitoring system (suboxone not reported in system)
 - Transportation is an overarching issue (Medicaid can help with this- look up Medicaid transports)
 - More drivers needed for system (advertise)
 - Jay asks if any outdoor maintenance needed?
 - Most folks go to Clinch, St. Paul
 - Parks are well maintained
 - How to get people outdoors?
 - Dustin mentions this is an area of concern for the health coalition and they've partnered with local communities to create disc golf course that's been used

- They also just put down a new piece of playground equipment but need promotion (Cleveland)