



Woodford County ASAP Board Meeting Minutes Versailles Police Department, Tuesday, July 21st, 2026

Permanent Voting Members	Non-Permanent Voting Members	Non-voting Members/Guests
• New Vista, Director of Prevention, Tara Starwalt • Woodford County Health Department Director, Cassie Prather Absent: • Family Service Office, Woodford Co. Protection & Permanency Social Worker, Brittany Ellison • Woodford Judge Executive, James Kay • WCPS, Superintendent designate, Jill Hargis	• EMS Director and Mental Health Commissioner, Freeman Bailey • Woodford ASAP Recorder, Ariel Smith • Versailles Police Department Chief, Rob Young • WC Casa Coordinator, Heather Porter • M & M Director & Versailles City Council, Lisa Johnson • WC Sheriff's Department, Jimmy Fugate • Woodford County Citizen Angie Stewart Absent: • Strengthen Trans., Brittany Campbell • County Attorney, Cassie Barnes • Woodford County Drug Task Force, Kelly Carl • Versailles Police Victims Advocate, Ellie Castle • Woodford Co. Attorney, Alan George	• Woodford Health Dept., Yesenia Reyes • The Ridge, Brittany Riggins • Life Adventure Center, Executive, Megan Bentley • The Life Adventure Center, Virginia Savage • The Life Adventure Center, Julie Breitigan • The Life Adventure Center, Garet Well • Frisc WCPS, Zoe Zamora • Woodford County Citizen Zach Stewart • Magistrate & Pal, Larry Blackford • Woodford ASAP Coordinator, Nancy Blackford

Woodford County ASAP Board Meeting Summary Report

Date: August 5, 2026 **Location:** Versailles Police Department Conference Room **Chair:** Freeman Bailey **Coordinator:** Nancy Blackford

1. Call to Order & Administrative Business

- **Opening Remarks:** Board Chair Freeman Bailey called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and advised everyone to be mindful of incoming severe weather (straight-line winds).
- **Sign-In:** Attendees were requested to complete the attendance sheet.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Previous meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Lisa, seconded by Rob, and unanimously passed.

2. Presentation: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Overview

Speaker: Paul (Member of Alcoholics Anonymous)

- **Anonymity & Stigma:** Emphasized that anonymity protects both individual members from social stigma and guards the organization as a whole, as AA maintains a non-professional, non-policy-making structure.
- **Scope of Alcoholism:**
 - Globally, approximately 376 deaths occur per hour due to alcohol-related issues, with roughly two-thirds going unreported directly as alcohol-attributed.
 - 1 in 8 Americans suffer from alcoholism, but only 25% receive treatment. Up to 60% of alcoholics never learn about AA as a potential resource.
 - The fastest-growing demographic entering AA currently consists of professional women over the age of 50.
- **12-Step Program & Structure:**
 - **Steps 1–3:** Foundational steps focused on spiritual connection/higher power.
 - **Steps 4–6:** Internal inventory and self-acknowledgment ("cleaning house").
 - **Steps 7–9:** Reconciliation and making amends.
 - **Steps 10–12:** Ongoing personal growth and sharing the message with others.
- **Funding & Cooperation:** AA is self-supporting (does not accept outside grants or donations) and does not formally partner with external organizations, but actively cooperates with healthcare, law enforcement, and recovery groups.
- **Modern Tools & Local Resources:**
 - **Meeting Guide App:** A mobile application (blue icon with a folding chair) displaying nearby in-person and international virtual meetings, daily reflections, and news.
 - **Local Meetings:** Active groups meet locally at St. John's, Versailles United Methodist, and Glenss Creek Baptist Church, supported by the Bluegrass Intergroup central office in Lexington.

3. Opioid Abatement Position & Health Department Updates

Speaker: Cassie (Director, Woodford County Health Department)

- **Position Recruitment:** The job posting for the Opioid Abatement Specialist position closed after receiving over 60 applications. Screening and interviews will begin shortly to identify a candidate with lived experience, peer support expertise, and local familiarity.
- **Resource Integration (Hub Model):**
 - The new specialist will work alongside the Waypoint/United Way representative (Michelle Meneese) to coordinate housing, transportation, and food security resources.
 - **Mental Health Services:** Beginning in August, a mental health counselor from Rise

Up Counseling Services will operate out of the Health Department on a sliding-scale fee, Medicaid, and private insurance basis.

- **Harm Reduction Connection:** Harm reduction program participants are four times more likely to engage in treatment, providing a direct pipeline for client support.

4. Board Business & Financial Approvals

- **Abatement Funding Approvals:**
 - Funding applications for **Mentors & Meals** and **Life Adventure Center** successfully completed committee review and positive preliminary state feedback.
 - The Board confirmed approval to submit both proposals to the Fiscal Court and Versailles City Council for final funding release.
- **FY Budget & Mini-Grants:**
 - Program Coordinator Nancy Blackford distributed the simplified mini-grant award tracker sheet.
 - **Grant Spending Requirement:** Awardees were reminded that mini-grant funds must be spent strictly according to their submitted application scope. Progress reports and receipts are required upon expenditure. Carryover of funds is not permitted for harm reduction line items.
 - **Harm Reduction Emergency Kits:** Overdose prevention and emergency harm reduction kits stocked at the Dollar Tree distribution boxes continue to see high community utilization.

5. Agency Updates & Community Announcements

- **Mentors & Meals / Versailles Police Department:**
 - **Mentoring Program:** Mentors & Meals is collaborating with Woodford County Middle and High Schools to expand evidence-based prevention programs into local schools.
 - **Community Impact Story:** Officer Rob Young was recognized for providing life-saving intervention and ongoing encouragement to a local resident struggling with severe medical and substance-use complications.
- **NuVista / Lockbox Distribution:**
 - Tara (NuVista) provided free lockbags, lockboxes, and gun locks for public prescription and weapon safety.
- **The Ridge Behavioral Health:**
 - Now offering adult outpatient substance use and mental health programs via a virtual/hybrid model (3-day or 5-day options) following tele-intake assessments.
- **Remembering Rachel Overdose Awareness Event:**
 - Scheduled for **August 15 at 6:00 PM** at Big Spring Park. Open to anyone in recovery or grieving a loss to addiction.
- **Peer Support Certification:**
 - Zack Stewart announced he is completing his certification for Peer Support Specialist to assist community recovery efforts.
- **Life Adventure Center (LAC):**
 - **Rise Together 5K & Recovery Rally:** Scheduled for **May 16, 2026**, featuring a labyrinth remembrance ceremony. Planning committee tour/meeting scheduled for **September 18 at 2:00 PM**.
 - **Equine Program:** Funding secured from the Kentucky Equine Education Project for a 10-week riding lesson program for youth.
 - **Open House:** Hosted on **Thursday, August 20, from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM**.
- **Versailles & Woodford County Library Partnership:**

- PhotoVoice qualitative data collection workshops for middle and high school students scheduled for **August 20, August 27, and September 3.**
- **CASA of Lexington:**
 - **Bourbon & Chips 5K & Festival:** Scheduled for **August 22** at WinStar Farm (1-Mile Children's Run at 8:30 AM; 5K at 9:00 AM).
- **Friendship Festival:**
 - Community outreach, face painting, and giveaways hosted over the upcoming weekend.
- **Parent/Family Support Group:**
 - Larry Blackford highlighted confidential support groups for parents and loved ones navigating addiction dynamics, meeting the 1st Monday of each month at First Christian Church (ages 18+).

6. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with a final reminder to stay safe during the afternoon weather event.

Meeting Adjourned by Freeman Bailey 9:41am

Next meeting – Sept.15,2026

Minutes Recorder- Al/nb/as