



The Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services (PDBHS) Advisory Board held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 1811 King Street, at 4:30pm in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Members Present

Dr. Marie Shepherd, Chair
Denise Key, Vice Chair
Pastor Milton Blount
Dorescia Paige, Secretary

Council Liaison

The Honorable Paul J. Battle

Staff Present

M. Elaine Breathwaite, Director
Latonya Williams, Assistant Director
Cherie Lassiter, Administrative Coordinator II

Absent Members

Margaret Mills

Called to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:41pm.

Review Minutes

The board reviewed the March 6, 2019 minutes. Pastor Blount motioned for the minutes to be approved. Ms. Key motioned for the second and the board majority voted in agreement.

Updates

- Dr. Shepherd started the meeting by applauding the *Bridging the Gap: A Collaborative Approach to Navigating through Recovery Summit* on March 21, 2019 at the Edmonds Center. Having the panel and keynote speaker answer questions on how they continue to assist consumers on their journey to recovery helped the community have a better understanding about substance use disorder, mental health and peer services.
 - ✓ Pastor Blount also praised the event for providing the community with a platform to discuss recovery.
 - ✓ There was an overwhelming presence from the community and a very successful event providing by PDBHS.
- Director's updates were presented and all handouts discussed by the Director, Ms. M. Elaine Breathwaite:
 - ✓ Advisory Board members were updated on the Commissioner's vision for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and his redesign. Most of the Executive Director's spoke of the potential impact of a redesign of CSBs during their Executive Leadership Team meeting and Portsmouth's concerns includes:
 - Dynamic of the Portsmouth population.
 - Impact on staffing and services for consumers.
 - With Medicaid Expansion, the State has cut CSB funding based on "new" expected funding they expect CSBs to be able to collect due to Medicaid Expansion.
 - Concerns of how funding and approvals will be managed.
 - Potential legal ramification of the proposed changes to the CSBs, some CSBs that are attached to a city have consulted their City Attorney.

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- We need to consider the culture of Portsmouth and that we are a department under the City. There are CSBs that are not a City departments.
 - The State are applying new mandates on CSBs. Funding has not been allocated.
 - Barriers of hiring proper staff to provided STEP-VA services to the community.
 - PDBHS is hoping to receive additional money in July to assist with the cost of the new State mandates.
 - ✓ The agency is trying to hiring more nurses and staff needed for STEP-VA.
 - We have several hardworking and very dedicated nurses.
 - ✓ On April 10, 2019 the State will be conducting a four day Fiscal Audit.
 - ✓ The Youth Summit has been rescheduled for May 11, 2019 at will be located in the parking lot of Behavioral Healthcare Services.
- Ms. Williams, BHS Assistant Director spoke about the Lock N Talk Initiative, upcoming Prevention Events and Mental Health First Aid Training.
 - ✓ The Prevention Staff gave a presentation to Old Dominion University where 56 students attended most pursuing a Human Services degree.
 - ✓ The staff are hoping to bring prevention awareness to the community and Portsmouth Public Schools.
 - The staff will be attending the Annual Health Fair at Wilson High, the Portsmouth Sheriff's Career Fair at I.C. Norcom High School and the Historic Truxtun Centennial Celebration.
 - ✓ Ms. Williams provided information about the Prevention staff reaching out to Community Civil Leagues.
 - Will be informing the Prevention Staff about reaching out to the Faith-Based Community about Mental Health First Aid Training and other resource information available to the citizens of Portsmouth.
 - ✓ Shatter the Silence event in August will be host by Portsmouth.

Old Business

- No old business discussed.

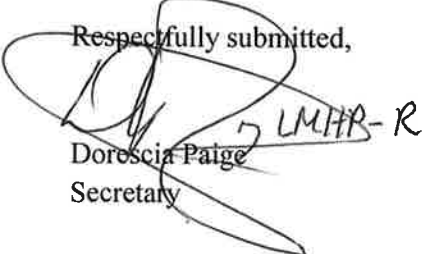
New Business

- The VACSB 2019 Training and Development Conference will be held on May 1-3, 2018 in Williamsburg, Virginia and will allow attendees to achieve a better understanding of critical issues and concerns related to transforming Virginia's Behavioral Health & Developmental Services system in STEP-VA.
 - ✓ Ms. Paige will be attending the conference. Board members were offered an opportunity to attend the VACSB 2019 Training and Development Conference.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The meeting ended at 5:38pm. Refreshments were made available before and following the meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2019 at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Doroscia Paige
Secretary