

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2010

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**Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services
Responds to HIPAA Security Breach by a Contract Physician**

Details of Breach: On July 16, 2010, Dr. Curtis Bryan, a contract physician for the Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services (DBHS), notified DBHS that he had a theft in his private practice medical office of a laptop computer and computer disc (CD) over the weekend of July 10-11, 2010, that potentially contained some unsecured protected health information of some of his clients. **No social security numbers, addresses, or phone numbers were included in the stolen/misplaced information.** Dr. Bryan did not have this type of information in his files.

Types of Unsecured Protected Health Information stolen from Dr. Bryan:

- The laptop contained some DBHS psychiatric evaluations from 2/26/07 – 5/28/09.
- The CD cannot be located and it is unknown whether it was stolen or misplaced, and may have contained some DBHS psychiatric evaluations from January 2005 – February 2007

Mitigation of Risk: DBHS has conducted a computerized query of all psychiatric evaluations done by Dr. Bryan from January of 2005 through May of 2009 and identified potential client names. It was determined that the health information may have included individual names, dates of service, and clinical information, possibly including diagnoses, medications, treatment plan and, if relevant, substance abuse information.

Since no social security numbers, addresses, or phone numbers were included in the stolen information, there may be a low risk for misuse of the type of health information that was stolen or misplaced. However, there is no guarantee that misuse is not possible. All individuals whose information may have been accessed have been notified by first class mail. Dr. Bryan has also posted this notice on his website. Both Dr. Bryan and DBHS will notify the Department of Health and Human Services of this breach as well. In addition to this posting on the City of Portsmouth's website, DBHS has posted this notice in a prominent location at all program sites. DBHS is also conducting a risk assessment of all our medical contractors and continues working to minimize the potential of a future security breach.

Steps Individuals Can Take to Further Protect Themselves: Individuals may also take steps to prevent and/or reduce the potential for identity theft. One such measure could include notifying any of the following companies to place a fraud alert on your or your child's name and social security number to alert you should anyone try to open an account in your name:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 Experian: 1-888-397-3742 TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Contact Procedures: If you have any questions or concerns or if we may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact:

Dr. Bryan, MD (757) 486-0178, Toll Free (866) 574-7201, email: crryan2010@hotmail.com

DBHS Contacts:

393-8618 William Park, DBHS Director
393-8628 Cathy Starling, City of Portsmouth HIPAA Privacy Officer
393-5357 Gracie Taylor, DBHS Human Rights Advocate