



The Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services (PDBHS) Advisory Board held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 1811 King Street, at 4:30pm in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Members Present

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

Council Liaison

The Honorable Paul J. Battle

PDBHS Staff Present

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

Absent Member(s)

Charlene Chavis

Called to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:36pm.

Review Minutes

The board reviewed the December 4, 2019 minutes. Ms. Key motioned for the minutes to be approved with a second by Ms. Paige. The board approved unanimously.

Updates

- Director's updates were presented by the Director, Ms. M. Elaine Breathwaite:
 - PDBHS staff distributed satisfaction survey to consumers in December of 2019. The survey is a part of CARF accreditation requirements and we received a 90% satisfaction rate.
 - The 3rd Annual PDBHS Holiday Extravaganza kicked off and we made numerous means to ensure that our consumers have plans for the holidays. They were aware that there were 24 hours Narcotic Anonymous meetings on Thanksgiving and Christmas. We discussed plans, triggers and options and passed out our Warmline information.
 - This year the agency had an internal Turkey and Holiday Basket Giveaways, Coat Drive and Angel Tree for consumers and the homeless. Staff put together 30 turkey baskets with fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner.
 - Our Project Assistance for Transition from Homelessness PATH Case Manager along with other agency staff sponsored a coat drive and has distributed over (80) coats to men, women and children, (20) blankets, and (75) rescue care and hygiene bags to agency consumers and homeless individuals throughout the city. Shelter Plus residents received 16 holiday baskets.

- PetSmart donated more than 200 beautiful squeezable stuffed animals for our community. We shared with our consumers and families, Parks and Recreation, Social Services and local daycare centers. The consumers were very happy, grateful and thanked the staff for the different festivities and gift donations.
- Consumers registered for services at PDBHS who had a qualifying child were able to sign up with their case manager or clinical therapist to receive a gift. The staff purchased and donated more than 40 gifts for consumer's children. The gifts for the children were given to our consumers on Thursday, December 12, 2019.
- Several PDBHS staff will be attending Trauma-Informed on January 29th and 30th to become Certified Clinical Trauma Counselors.
- The agency is on track in hiring additional nurse to reach the goal of having 5 full-time nurses ((1) Nurse Supervisor, (2) Registered Nurse and (2) Licensed Practical Nurse)
- Director discussed agency challenges
 - Hiring full-time and part-time staff swiftly to meet state and federal grant and STEP-VA requirements.
 - In dire need in hiring a Veterans Peer Recovery Specialist in order to fulfill state requirements.

Old Business

- No old business discussed.

New Business

- A PDBHS Peer Recovery Specialist will be co-facilitating a Peer Recovery Specialist training. Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS) are people with personal experience of recovery from mental health and/or substance use concerns. They use their lived experience to assist others on their journey to live better with life challenges. This class utilizes the Peer Recovery Specialist training curriculum approved by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and the Virginia Certification Board. This 72 hour training includes 60 hours of class time and 12 hours of homework. This class meets the training requirement for Peer Recovery Specialist Certification and is only one of several requirements stipulated by the Virginia Certification Board for Peer Recovery Specialist certification. The first class will start on Friday, January 10, 2020 with 24 participants.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The meeting ended at 5:33pm. Refreshments were made available before and following the meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2020 at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,


 Dorescia Paige
 Secretary