



The Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services (PDBHS) Advisory Board held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 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
Charlene Chavis

Absent Members

Sean Prince

Council Liaison

The Honorable Paul J. Battle

PDBHS Staff Present

LaTonya Williams, Assistant Director
Cherie Lassiter, Administrative Coordinator II

Called to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:42pm.

Review Minutes

The board reviewed the August 7, 2019 minutes. Ms. Key motioned for the minutes to be approved with a second by Pastor Blount. The board approved unanimously.

Updates

- Director's updates were presented by the Assistant Director, Ms. LaTonya Williams:
 - Ms. Williams went over the agency's upcoming events from September – December:
 - Shatter the Silence on September 13, 2019 at Venue 757 from 5p.m. – 8p.m. PDBHS Prevention program will host the 4th Annual Shatter the Silence for Suicide Awareness Month. This collaborative regional prevention event will bring the youth and community partners together to celebrate wellness and raise awareness of suicide in our community.
 - Chosen Vessels Rites of Passage Ministry "Made for More Retreat" on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. at Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus. PDBHS will providing a Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness session. This event will offer mentoring services to teen girl's 6th - 12th grade and will allow monthly meetings, field trips, college visits, community service and relative support needed to ensure they develop into responsible young women.
 - Recovery Rocks on September 28, 2019 at Neighborhood Rec Center from 11a.m. – 2p.m. Paint a ROCK that tells your (or someone you know) personal recovery story, sign our Recovery Banner and enjoy some music and ice cream with us!
 - Red Ribbon Week is from October 23–31, 2019. The Prevention team will go to an adopted school to give out information about Red Ribbon Week. This is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States.

- Consumer Talent Show (TBA in November) - PDBHS is hopeful to put together a talent show featuring the consumers. We are assessing the consumer's interest in this event.
- World AIDS Day Walk Event (TBA in December) - World AIDS Day is important because it reminded the public and the government that HIV has not gone away. There is still a vital need to increase awareness, rid social prejudice and improve HIV education.
- Consumer Appreciation Holiday Extravaganza on December 12, 2019. The 3rd Annual PDBHS Consumer Holiday Extravaganza will kicked off on Tuesday, November 12, 2019. This year the agency will have a Toy Angel Tree on display. All consumers registered for services at PDBHS who have a qualifying child will be able to sign up with their case manager or clinical therapist to receive a gift.
- On August 1, 2019, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) notified PDBHS of an award in state funds for VA State Opioid Response (SOR) Treatment and Recovery.
 - This funding will help PDBHS staff continue to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and expand on recovery services:
 - ✓ The VA SOR Treatment funds will assure that, in addition to MAT, individuals receive other clinical and support services that will assist them in a sound recovery, including appropriate counseling and therapy, case management, and assistance with other supports. This funding will also assist consumers in purchasing medication, expand psychiatric services for substance use disorders to include MAT, manage GPRA database and data expectations and address pragmatic barriers to care, i.e. transportation.
 - ✓ The VA SOR Recovery funds will address pragmatic barriers to treatment engagement, assist in the development of strengths-based individual goals, develop community support, increase number of Certified Peer Recovery Specialists, establish first responder and peer partnerships and establish or expand hospital emergency department peer engagement programs – ride along with EMTs and 24 hour peer services on the Emergency Department.
- On May 23, 2019, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) notified PDBHS of an award in state funds for STEP VA Outpatient Services. This funding will help PDBHS staff to provide outpatient services that would identify and provide care coordination to ensure access for needed services for adults with serious mental illnesses (SMI), substance use disorder (SUD) and children diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance (SED). Any child diagnosed with an SED or any adult diagnosed with an SMI/SUD and receiving ongoing behavioral health service from PDBHS will be provided holistic approach to treatment such as individual therapy, group and family session, case management, psychiatric services, peer support and referral for medical primary care.
- PDBHS is diligently hiring new staff. In the last month the agency has hired 5 new staff, two of those filled were supervisor positions.

Old Business

- No old business discussed.

New Business

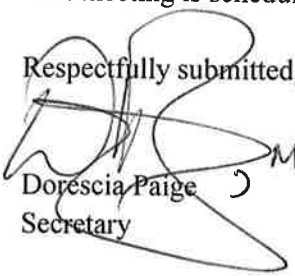
- Ms. Key has some questions about Part C - Infant and Toddler Connection of Portsmouth.
 - How does the program receive referrals?
 - Hospitals, Department of Social Services and Doctors

- The program which provides individuals and their families with connection to services for children who are at risk for developmental delays birth to three years old and their families. Services include developmental assessments, speech, physical and occupational therapies, counseling, parental education, and case management in the natural environment.
- Dr. Shepherd asked about the agency's Youth and Family Services. The Children's Mobile Crisis Therapist will be reaching out to the Portsmouth Public School to introduce the new Children's Case Manager who will starting at the end of September.
 - Youth and Family Services focuses on underage drinking, smoking, self-harming and attempting suicide.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The meeting ended at 5:14pm. Refreshments were made available before and following the meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019 at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Doréscia Paige
Secretary

M.S. Ed., LMHP-R