



The Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services (PDBHS) Advisory Board held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 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

PDBHS Staff Present

M. Elaine Breathwaite, Director
Cherie Lassiter, Administrative Coordinator II
Dwight Williams, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Case Manager

Council Liaison

The Honorable Paul J. Battle

Called to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:55pm.

Review Minutes

The board reviewed the November 6, 2019 minutes. Pastor Blount motioned for the minutes to be approved with a second by Ms. Chavis. The board approved unanimously.

Updates

- Director's updates were presented by the Director, Ms. M. Elaine Breathwaite: Ms. Breathwaite introduced and commended Dwight Williams, the new Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Case Manager. Mr. Williams discussed future collaborative efforts in the City of Portsmouth:
 - The PDBHS PATH program and resources help prevent and end homelessness among people with mental health and/or substance use disorders.
 - The PATH case manager has been meeting with homeless individuals throughout the city in public libraries, in parks, at bus stops, shelters and anywhere else that the homeless population congregate. He has also arranged a meeting with Annie White-Guertin, executive director of Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition Inc., to discuss resources and mutual challenges they encounter to assist the citizens without duplicating services.
 - Mr. Williams sponsored a coat drive along with other PDBHS staff and has distributed over (30) coats, (20) blankets, and (50) care and hygiene packets to

- homeless individuals throughout the city in November. He distributed snack bags for the homeless that were sponsored and put together by the PDBHS Mental Health Case Managers on Friday, November 22, 2019.
- The board members were able to provide additional resources and areas to reach the homeless population.
 - Funding was granted to provide alternative medication to the substance use inmates at the city jail.
 - Ms. Breathwaite provide the board with end of the year agency preparations:
 - Holiday activities for the consumers and staff:
 - Golden Corral lunch for the consumers at the Opportunity House.
 - All-Staff meeting cultural competency presentation on staff traditions during the holiday season.
 - The day support staff in the Developmental Disabilities program has a Thanksgiving feast for the consumers.
 - Complete end of the year reports
 - Finalizing the latest newsletter

Old Business

- No old business discussed.

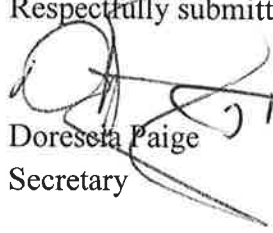
New Business

- PDBHS PATH Case Manager urgently in need of men's coats. Dr. Shepherd and Pastor Blount showed interest in wanting to donate some items.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The meeting ended at 5:44pm. Refreshments were made available before and following the meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020 at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Doreeta Paige
Secretary

M.S. Ed., LMHP-R