



Community Meeting Minutes May 18, 2023 VIA Go-To Meeting

Members Present:

Pat Chambers (PCOM)
Gina Harris (DSS)
Vantoria Clay (Endeppendence Center)
Annie White-Guertin (PARC)
Holly Toll (Probation & Parole)
Olisha Sawyer (VBCDC)
Jean Jones (PARC)
Tamara Howe (Portsmouth City
Public Schools)

Sherry Johnson (DBHS)
Heather Barker (ForKids)
Shirley Brackett (ForKids)
Melissa Peele (Firm Foundation)
Joy Shaffer (HER, PHAC Secretary)
Donna Hufnagle (VSH)
Sharonita Cousin (VSH)
Darlene Washington (PVH, Co-Chair)
Ursula Murphy (PSO)
Jay Hendricks (Hendricks Living)
Sherry Johnson (PDBHS)

Other attendee's:

Karen Joyner (TPC)
Fatima Tomlin (SSSEVA)
Lynn Carruth (Project Hope)

Meeting Called to Order: 10:05AM.

Review of May 18, 2023, Minutes

Jean Jones (PARC) noted that she was in attendance for the PHAC Community Meeting on March 16, 2023. Annie White - Guertin (PARC) motioned to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Sharonita Cousin (VSH) 2nd the motion. There were no abstentions or objections. The meeting minutes for March 16th were adopted with the noted corrections.

Agency Spotlight: Lynne Carruth (Project Hope) & Tamara Howe (Portsmouth City Public Schools)

Lynne Carruth (Project Hope) and Tamara Howe (Portsmouth City Public Schools) gave an overview of Project Hope.

- Every Virginia K-12 school division has a homeless liaison who will ensure the enrollment, attendance, and school success of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Project HOPE provides regular subgrants of state/federal funding to local school divisions as well as training, oversight, and technical assistance.
- School divisions use funds to develop customized programs to meet the student's needs. Services can include emergency assistance, referrals for health services, transportation, school supplies and obtaining school records.

Contact Information:

Lynne Carruth
ARP Homeless Children and Youth Analyst
Project Hope
William & Mary
[Project HOPE - Virginia | W&M School of Education \(wm.edu\)](https://www.wm.edu/education/project-hope)
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(757) 221 – 6220

Portsmouth City Public Schools

Tamara Howe
Tamara.Howe@portsk12.com
(757) 393-8411

Agency Spotlight: Jay Hendricks (Hendricks Living)

Jay Hendricks (Hendricks Living) provided an overview of the services that his agency offers to the community. Since establishing Hendricks Living 3 years ago Mr. Hendricks has grown to 10 residential facilities helping to house those who have suffered from temporary and/or chronic homelessness by working with many community organizations like the Salvation Army, LGBTQ Life Center, ForKids, Veteran Affairs, Samaritan House, Bridging the Gap (RE-Entry Program), HUD-VASH, etc. Mr. Hendricks also became a Licensed Realtor in August of 2020 to aid the effort of growing a portfolio of residential homes and is in the beginning talks with the local Housing Authority to assist with the voucher program for home purchases as a preferred realtor and conducting seminars with those individuals to discuss the home buying process.

Contact Information:

Jay Hendricks
hendricksliving@gmail.com
(757) 372-7330

Agency Operational and Service Delivery Updates

PARC

Annie White-Guertin (PARC) reported there are no updates at this time.

SSSEVA

Fatima Tomlin (SSSEVA) reported there are no updates at this time.

PVH

Darlene Sparks-Washington (PVH) reported the agency is exploring financial options so they can continue to operate at the current state in addition to providing night shelter for twelve months in lieu of six.

DSS

Gina Harris (DSS) reported they will host, along with their consultants Arcadis, The Portsmouth Flood Resilience Strategy Community Open House on May 18th, 5:30PM – 8:30PM at Bide -A-Wee Pavilion. The event is designed for residents to learn about flooding in Portsmouth and to share experiences.

VSH

Sharonita Cousin (VSH) reported there are no updates at this time.

Portsmouth Probation & Parole

Holly Toll (Portsmouth Probation & Parole) reported there are no updates at this time.

ForKids

Heather Barker (ForKids) reported the agency has a new relationship with the Portsmouth Housing Authority where they can receive referrals for their housing choice participants who are unable to pay their security deposit in order to access affordable housing. Shirley Brackett (ForKids) provided an update on the VERP program.

HER

Joy Shaffer (HER) reported there are no updates at this time.

Firm Foundation

Melissa Peele (Firm Foundation) reported the agency has two (2) vacancies and they are accepting applications.

VBCDC

Olisha Sawyer (VBCDC) reported there are no updates at this time.

PCOM

Pat Chambers (PCOM) reported there are no updates at this time.

PSO

Ursula Murphy (PSO) reported there are no updates at this time.

Endependence Center

Vantoria Clay (Endependence Center) reported there are no updates at this time.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Darlen Sparks – Washington (PVH, PHAC Executive Co-Chair) reported that DSS has a Community Day scheduled for July 15th. Vendors and exhibitors are now being accepted. Darlene (PVH, PHAC Executive Co-Chair) also reported about the upcoming Food Lion Feeds - food distribution for May 20th. The event is targeted at the homeless population.

Policy & Planning Committee

Jean Jones (PARC, Policy and Planning Co- Chair) reported on the Point in Time Count numbers that were uploaded to HUD and she encouraged members to be on the lookout for emails pertaining to HUD Funding announcements.

Coordinated Entry Committee

Ursula Murphy (PSO, CES Co-Chair) noted that Coordinated Entry Committee continues to strive for data accuracy as well as reaching out to agencies for better participation, engagement, and communication.

PCAN Update

Karen Joyner (PCAN Co-Chair) reported that the PCAN is a closed session. Anyone who is interested in attending case conferencing may reach out to Ursula Murphy (PSO, CES & HMIS Co - Chair). It was also noted that if an agency is not able to attend a PCAN meeting, prior notice and an update on a client's status is sent via email. Additionally, it was reported that Eggleston and Legal Aid are attending PCAN.

Veteran Update

Olisha Sawyer (VBCDC) reported the SSVF expiration for the ending of the national emergency and public health declaration related to Covid-19 will end on May 11th. On May 12th, the funding for the tolling period for rental assistance for SSVF participants has been reset.

HMIS Committee

Ursula Murphy (PSO, HMIS Co-Chair) reported that the committee has discussed the new data standards that were released by HUD. This will be effective as of October 1, 2023.

Items from the floor:

None

With no other business to discuss Sherry Johnson (DBHS) motioned to adjourn the meeting and Joy Shaffer (HER) 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

Prepared by: Karen Joyner (TPC)