



Community Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024, 10:00 – 11:30 AM
Portsmouth DSS
1701 High St
Portsmouth, VA 23704
State Classroom, 4th Floor

Members Present:

DeAnna Valentine (PDSS, Co-Chair)
Darlene Washington (PVH, Co-Chair)
Rev. Harrison (PCOM)
Barbara Wagner (VSH)
Joy Shaffer (HER, Secretary)
Jacqueline Miles (HAMVAMC)
Lucretia Chapman (VSH)
Deitre Smith (PDBHS)
Gina Harris (PDSS)
Sherry Johnson
Jean Jones (PARC, P&P Co-Chair)

Annie White-Guertin (PARC)
Gladys Baker (STOP)
Consuela Knight (PRHA)
Valzenia Jenkins (PRHA)
Olisha Sawyer (VBCDC)
Ursula Murphy (PSO, HMIS, CES Co-Chair)
Vantoria Clay (ECI)
Marti Chick-Ebey (HAMVAMC)
Melissa Peele (Firm Foundation)

Other Attendee's:

Dr. Eric Samuels, DMD (Samuels Mobile Dental PLLC)
Shoshana Mostoller (Chesapeake Humane Society)
Karen Joyner (TPC)

Excused Absences:

Jay Hendricks (Hendricks Living)
Fatima Tomlin (SSSEVA)

Members Absent:

ForKids
Portsmouth Probation & Parole

Meeting Called to Order: 10:05AM.

Review of 09.18.2023 Minutes

Attendees reviewed the September 18, 2023, minutes. Joy Shaffer (HER) pointed out that the date of the minutes on page 1 was incorrect, as it should have read September 18, 2023, instead of November 16, 2023. Gina Harris (PDSS) pointed out on page 4 in the veterans update section that the word "discussion" needed to be made plural. Gina also noted on page 5 the spacing for ECI was incorrect. Joy made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections, which was seconded by Barbara Wagner (VSH). Annie White-Guertin (PARC) abstained from voting. The minutes were then approved with the noted corrections, and there were no objections. The meeting minutes were officially adopted as of January 18, 2024.

Agency Spotlights:

Dr. Eric Samuels, DMD (Samuels Mobile Dental PLLC) gave a summary of the services offered to the community. They are a full-service general dental practice that operates on wheels. They use a portable model and partner with facilities to provide dental care to Medicaid patients. Their services range from routine exams and cleanings to extractions, fillings, and dentures.

Shoshana Mostoller (Chesapeake Humane Society) also provided an overview of her agency's work within the community. Shoshana works as a Veterinary Social Worker and Community Engagement Manager at the Chesapeake Humane Society, which focuses on creating programs to support the bond between humans and animals and to help families stay together. The society offers services such as a crisis boarding program, pet pantry, and affordable clinic.

Agency Operational and Service Delivery Updates: (Members were requested to provide updates via email if applicable).

DSS

Gina Harris (PDSS) reported the Healthy Portsmouth Coalition has partnered with Sentara Healthcare to provide their Mobile Mammography unit in Portsmouth on a monthly basis in 2024. The unit is scheduled at different locations throughout the city. The first screening event was on Monday, January 15th, at the Portsmouth YMCA and 24 mammogram screenings were completed. Gina will share the schedule with Karen (TPC) for distribution to PHAC members.

Hendricks Living

Jay Hendricks (Hendricks Living) reported via email that his agency has a 2 bedroom, 1 bath unit available for \$1200.00 per month.

PVH

Darlene Sparks - Washington (PVH) reported there are no agency or operational updates at this time.

PDBHS

Sherry Johnson- (PDBHS) reported there are no updates at this time. However, PDBHS will be donating 40 HRT one day bus passes for the Point in Time Count.

VSH

Barbara Wagner (VSH) reported there are no updates at this time.

HER

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

VBCDC

Olisha Sawyer (VBCDC) reported their agency is currently experiencing a staffing shortage.

PCOM

Rev. Harrison (PCOM) reported there are no updates at this time.

PSO

Ursula Murphy (PSO) reported an update on Project Zero Returns.

PARC

Annie White – Guertin reported there are no updates at this time.

PRHA

Consuela Knight (PRHA) reported there are no updates at this time.

Endeppendence Center

Vantoria Clay (ECI) reported there are no agency or operational updates at this time.

HAMVAMC

Marti Chick-Ebey (HAMVAMC) reported their agency is currently not taking any HUD VASH referrals.

Firm Foundation

Melissa Peele (Firm Foundation) reported via email that the agency is resuming they are accepting applications for their transitional housing services. Services were suspended due to funding. Firm Foundation is also having a Women's Empowerment Brunch fundraiser on March 23 and wants to extend an invitation to PHAC members.

Committee Reports**Executive Committee**

DeAnna Valentine (PDSS, Co-Chair) reported that any CoC member that may be interested in applying for the HOME ARP funds are requested to submit a letter of intent by January 25, 2024 to Karen (TPC).

Policy & Planning Committee

DeAnna Valentine (PDSS, Co-Chair) noted The Policy & Planning Co- Chairs will provide an abbreviated application for the HOME ARP funds by January 31, 2024.

Coordinated Entry Committee

Ursula Murphy (PSO, CES Co-Chair) reported the CES committee continues to streamline processes with housing providers, assessment points and access points. Virtual meetings will be conducted to collect feedback and determine necessary modifications or changes.

PCAN

Karen Joyner (TPC, PCAN Co-Chair) mentioned that the committee is putting in a lot of effort to make sure that essential documents like the ROI and VI-SPDAT are uploaded into HMIS. This will allow for clients to be accurately presented and discussed during case conferencing.

Veteran Update

Marti Chick-Ebey (HAMVAMC) reported the agency is understaffed and do not have enough outreach workers. Olisha Sawyer (VBCDC) noted workers are experiencing burn out and lack of training.

HMIS Committee

Ursula Murphy (PSO, HMIS Co-Chair) reported that agencies have been asked to bring their APR's for their project to meetings to help review data and ensure accuracy.

Items from the floor:

Annie White-Guertin (PARC) proposed organizing a summit or forum to address the issue of homelessness in Portsmouth. Gina (DSS), Ursula (PSO), Olisha (VBCDC), Joy (HER) Annie (PARC), Melissa (Firm Foundation), and Karen (TPC) have all agreed to be a part of the conversation/ad hoc committee.

Vantoria Clay (ECI) asked for the minutes to reflect that clients residing in a nursing home would still be provided with case management services.

Karen Joyner (TPC) noted that donations and volunteers are still needed for the Point in Time Count.

With no other business to discuss Ursula Murphy (PSO, HMIS, CES Co-Chair)) motioned to adjourn the meeting and Gina Harris (PDSS) 2nd motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 A.M.

Prepared by: Karen Joyner (TPC)