

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

MARCH 10, 2015

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM A**

6:00 P.M.

Present: Acting Chair, Lynne Langely, Vice-Chairwoman Dani Rooney, Constance Carmody, Alison Hamilton, Judy Bunnell

Absent: Chairwoman Nancy Emerson;

Staff: David Moore, Community Development Director; Ben Greenslade, Intern

Acting Chair Langely called the meeting to order and recognized the following individuals to discuss their application for the FY 2015-2016 Public Service Agency Grant Program. In turn, each agency also described needs facing their clients, their agency operations and the overall community in the next five-year period.

AIDS Response Seacoast Richard Wagner, Executive Director
New Heights: Adventures for Teens Tracey Tucker, Executive Director and Janice Hastings
Rockingham Community Action Keith Bates, Community Services Director
NH Legal Assistance-Housing Justice Project Christine Wellington, Development Director
Seacoast Community School Catherine Edison, Development Director
Discussion

In addressing the concerns of the five-year plan, Mr. Wagner emphasized the critical issue of housing affordability in Portsmouth and the region. He described the challenges facing persons living with Aids and how important stable housing is to ensuring they can manage their disease effectively.

Ms. Tucker and Ms. Hastings pointed to transportation and funding sustainability as critical items for the next five-years. Transportation for youth to access programs is an ongoing challenge that limits participation and activities. She also indicated the agency continues to see broad support for is STEM programming, particularly from the business community. She described the projected decline in three years of critical funding support from the Foundation for Seacoast Health which is expected to decrease to zero in three years.

Mr. Bates indicated that housing supply would continue to be a challenge in the coming years and that rental subsidies for families in temporary financial difficulty will be a critical support, which he advocated continuing.

Ms. Stone also speak to housing needs and preventing homelessness as critical for the next five years. She also referred to cooperation between homelessness and housing providers as critical to insuring progress on issues facing the population.

Ms. Wellington spoke at length about the Fair Housing Project and the need for it in the next five years to ensure that both tenants and landlords know their rights when difficult housing issues arise in the course of tenant-landlord relationships. She pointed towards the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing as a rationale for continuing investment in this ears. She also described recent trainings at Cross Roads House and another planned for May, funded in part with the CDBG Program funds.

Acting Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.