

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**MARCH 15, 2016**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL  
CONFERENCE ROOM A**

**6:00 P.M.**

Present: Chair Lynne Langley, Vice-Chair Dani Rooney, Alison Hamilton, Judy Bunnell, Hannah Dahlgren, Jonathan Sandberg

Absent: Jamie Baker

Staff: Elise Annunziata, Community Development Coordinator

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Chair Langley called the meeting to order and recognized the following individuals to discuss their application for the FY 2016-2017 Public Service Agency Grant Program each agency also described the needs facing their clients, their agency operations and the overall community development challenges over the next five years.

6:00 – 6:15	<b>Area HomeCare</b> Judy Taylor, Executive Director
6:15 – 6:30	<b>Chase Home for Children</b> Meme Wheeler, Executive Director
6:30 – 6:45	<b>Families First of the Greater Seacoast, Dental Program</b> Helen Taft, Executive Director
6:45 – 7:00	<b>HAVEN (formerly known as A Safe Place and Sexual Assault Services)</b> Betsy Healy, Program Director
7:00 – 7:15	<b>Seacoast Community School</b> Kelly Lee, Co-Executive Director and Catherine Edison, Development Director
7:15 – 7:30	<b>Seacoast Mental Health Center, Psychiatry Program</b> Dr. Jim Kates, Psychiatrist

Ms. Taylor discussed staff health insurance costs as being a challenge to Area HomeCare’s operations. In addressing the community development challenges and challenges to the agency’s clientele, she stated that transportation for the elderly in Portsmouth is very limited; mental health disabilities are on the rise, opioids and substance misuse.

Ms. Wheeler stated that Chase Home for Children plans to increase in-home work and programming. She stated that opioids and substance misuse, human trafficking and lack of affordable housing for families and for young adults aged 19-22 are among the top challenges for community development and facing her agency’s clientele.

Ms. Taft described the Families First Dental Program application and request for funds to support the Dental Center. She noted that the number of dental clients seen in the Center that are from Portsmouth has declined over the last few years; she believes this is perhaps

due to housing costs in the City. She described challenges facing the community and the agency's clients as: lack of affordable housing; not enough access/ease of ridership in public transportation - particularly to the community campus from public housing; opioid addiction and substance misuse.

Ms. Healy described the operations of HAVEN and the merger of two agencies, A Safe Place and Sexual Assault Services into HAVEN. She stated that affordable housing, lack of transitional housing for persons fleeing domestic violence and lack of permanent supportive housing for families needing additional assistance is a significant challenge for Portsmouth and HAVEN's clients.

Ms. Lee and Ms. Edison presented information about the Seacoast Community School's child care for children. The program will provide financial assistance for income eligible Portsmouth children.

Dr. Kates discussed the Psychiatry Program at Seacoast Mental Health Center. He noted that the opioid and substance misuse issues were among the highest challenges for the community and the Center's clients. Beginning July 1, 2016 the Center would like to begin offering medical services for drug and opioid treatment.

Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.