

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 14, 2019

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM A**

6:00 P.M.

Present: Chair Hannah Dahlgren, Vice Chair Jonathan Sandberg, Lynne Langley, Alison Hamilton, Judy Bunnell, Marie Cowgill, Janet Phelps

Absent: None

Staff: Elise Annunziata, Community Development Coordinator

Chair Dahlgren called the meeting to order. Minutes from the February CAC meeting were approved, and a short introduction to the FY 20 budget process was given.

The Chair recognized the following individuals to discuss their agency's application for the FY 2020 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.

6:15pm – 6:30pm	Portsmouth Housing Authority Ashley Robinson, Program Coordinator
6:30pm – 6:45pm	Seacoast Community School Alicia Tonelli, Program Director; Jamie Schaaf, Program Director
6:45pm – 7:00pm	New Hampshire Legal Assistance Lauren Greenwald, Staff Attorney
7:00pm – 7:15pm	New Heights Tracy Tucker, Executive Director
7:15pm – 7:30pm	Rockingham Community Action (Southern NH Services) Keith Bates, Program Director

Ms. Robinson described the MC3 program to provide after school programming to youth at New Franklin School. The programming serves primarily residents earning low to moderate income. Summer programming was moved from Gosling Meadows to New Franklin this year, creating transportation costs increase and challenges. Significant funding for this program comes from 21st Century and is decreased each year.

Ms. Tonelli and Mr. Schaaf presented information about the Seacoast Community School's child care program for ages 8 weeks to 12 years on site at the Community Campus and on-site at two Portsmouth elementary schools. In addition, a new program, Gosling Meadows Preschool, started in January 2019 and is expected to grow in FY 20. The CDBG grant funds provide financial assistance/scholarships for income-eligible

Portsmouth children so that parents can work. CDBG funds may also be used to support the pre-school program.

Ms. Greenwald described the fair housing services that NHLA provides statewide. Funding would be used to provide tenant-landlord seminars at Cross Roads House shelter clients. She described the lack of affordable housing as a significant need and challenge in Portsmouth.

Ms. Tucker described the New Heights program and the scholarships provided to Portsmouth low-moderate income youth to participate in STEM activities. She pointed to transportation and funding sustainability as critical challenges for the program.

Mr. Bates discussed the Rockingham Community Action homeless prevention program that provides financial assistance to tenant families struggling to stay in their homes. The program offers financial counseling and wrap around services to provide stability for low-income families in need. He indicated that the current “workforce housing” supply and other affordable housing supply is not meeting demand.

No further presentations or comments regarding the applications.

Short discussion about logistics for the next meeting.

Chair Dahlgren adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.