

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 14, 2018

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM A**

6:00 P.M.

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

Absent: None

Staff: Elise Annunziata, Community Development Coordinator

Chair Langley called the meeting to order and recognized the following individuals to discuss their application for the FY 2019 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.

6:00pm – 6:15pm	Chase Home for Children Cory Towne-Kerr, Diversion Coordinator
6:15pm – 6:30pm	HAVEN Kathy Beebe, Executive Director
6:30pm – 6:45pm	New Hampshire Legal Assistance Victoria Horrock, Co-Director of Fair Housing
6:45pm – 7:00pm	New Heights Tracy Tucker, Executive Director
7:00pm – 7:15pm	Rockingham Community Action (Southern NH Services) Keith Bates, Program Director
7:15pm – 7:30pm	Seacoast Community School Peter Gilmore, Executive Director

Ms. Towne-Kerr discussed Chase Home’s new program initiative, diversion, for which the agency is seeking funding. The diversion program seeks to prevent children from entering the penal system and keep children together with their parents. She stated that opioids and substance misuse, 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. Beebe described HAVEN’s services, which include sexual assault services and shelter to women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. 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. Horrock described the fair housing services that NHLA provides statewide. Funding would be used to provide tenant-landlord seminars at Cross Roads House shelter clients.

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 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.

Mr. Gilmore presented information about the Seacoast Community School's child care program on site at the Community Campus and on-site at two Portsmouth elementary schools. The grant funds provide financial assistance/scholarships for income-eligible Portsmouth children so that parents can work. He identified the need for more space and rooms, particularly for infant care.

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