

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 15, 2018**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL  
CONFERENCE ROOM A**

**6:00 P.M.**

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

Absent: Vice-Chair Dani Rooney, Hannah Dahlgren

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 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	<b>AIDS Response Seacoast</b> Richard Wagner, Executive Director
6:15pm – 6:30pm	<b>Crossroads House</b> Martha Stone, Executive Director
6:30pm – 6:45pm	<b>Goodwin Community Health (formerly Families First)</b> Helen Long, Grant Writer
6:45pm – 7:00pm	<b>Gather NH</b> Deborah Anthony, Executive Director
7:00pm – 7:15pm	<b>Portsmouth Housing Authority</b> Craig Welch, Executive Director and Shaneikiah Bickham, Program Coordinator

Mr. Wagner expressed that the challenges facing community development in Portsmouth and his clients in particular is housing, transportation, mental health services, substance misuse, food security and insurance coverage. He noted a decrease in the number of newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS clients, which is concerning given the dramatic increase in opioid and needle sharing that has been reported. Education and outreach is key, but AIDS Response Seacoast is limited by resources to be able to do that outreach. Mr. Wagner stated that the agency's current lease will be renewed in FY 19.

Ms. Stone stated that CDBG funding would be used to support the operations of Cross Roads House emergency shelter, noting that there has been an increase in the number of persons seeking shelter. Ms. Stone noted that the lack of affordable housing options in the City of Portsmouth have contributed to the longer stays at the shelter.

Ms. Long presented a detailed overview of the agency's work, including the dental center that would be supported by CDBG funds. The number of clients served specifically by a CDBG public services grant was clarified. She described challenges facing the community and the agency's clients as: lack of affordable housing; insufficient access/availability to public transportation and opioid addiction and substance misuse.

Ms. Anthony described the Meals for Kids as a summer and vacation week program (13 weeks total) food program to supplement 68 Hours of Hunger, which operates only during the school year. The program expects to provide food to approximately 125 income-eligible youth at public housing neighborhoods.

Ms. Bickham 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 is anticipated. The funding for this program comes from 21<sup>st</sup> Century and is decreased each year. This year, the grant is at its base, where it is expected to continue for at least 1-3 more years.

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