

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

PORTSMOUTH

Health Department



*Charting a Course for Good Health*

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## Portsmouth Community Health Advisory Council

Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
11:00am – 12:00pm

### Minutes

#### Call to Order and Introductions:

Dr. Imrit-Thomas, DO called the meeting to order and introductions were made of all members present in the room and online.

#### Members Present:

Member	Organization
Edward Bland	Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Dr. Cynthia Burwell (Remote)	Norfolk State University
Deannie Eldridge (Remote)	American Diabetes Association
Dr. Donice Libby	Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center
James Overton	Portsmouth Civic League
Amy Paulson	Eastern Virginia Medical School
DeAnna Valentine	Portsmouth Department of Social Services
Avanti Allen-Benson	Portsmouth Health Department
Dr. Kavita Imrit-Thomas, DO	Director, Portsmouth Health Department
Sandra Johnson	Portsmouth Health Department
Dwight Richards	Portsmouth Health Department
Michelle Winz	Portsmouth Health Department

#### Overview and Purpose:

Avanti Allen-Benson provided and brief overview of the purpose of the Community Health Advisory Council.

#### Health of the City:

Michelle Winz provided a brief statistical overview of the health of the city. Members were engaged and asked many pertinent questions to gain a full understanding of the many health concerns.



The Portsmouth Health Department received accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board by meeting national standards for high quality public health services, leadership, and accountability.

**Council Organization:**

Dwight Richards provided a synopsis of the organization of the council and asked for at least a one-year time commitment to serve on the council. Yearly terms may be renewed each year.

**Council Orientation:**

Avanti Allen-Benson provided a synopsis on the health department's mission and vision and health priorities that we are currently working on. Much focus has been on community partnership through the lens of social determinants of health and socio-ecological modeling.

**Advisory Council Charter:**

Dwight Richards introduced the idea of a formal charter, complete with bylaws to be discussed at a future meeting. Members present agree that this is needed and should be discussed at a future meeting.

**Meeting Frequency:**

Council members present voted unanimously to hold meetings at least quarterly but felt that more meetings will be needed while the council is in the organizing phase, as well as when dealing with various issues that may arise.

**Next Meeting:**

Council Members suggested to conduct a poll to determine availability of all members, including those not present. PHD organizer will take the lead on sending a poll to all members and will post a next meeting date following the poll.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm