

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

PORTSMOUTH

Health Department



*Charting a Course for Good Health*

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## Portsmouth Community Health Advisory Council

Wednesday, July 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.

#### Members Present:

Member	Organization
Dr. Michelle Pyka, MD	Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center
Edward Bland	Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Dr. Nathan Woodard, PhD	Portsmouth Behavioral Healthcare Services
James Overton	Portsmouth Civic League
Melody Armstrong	Norfolk State University
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

#### Old Business:

#### Health of the City:

Michelle Winz provided a brief statistical update about the ongoing Comprehensive Community Health Assessment. Some quantitative and qualitative data were provided to assist the council in understanding the current health challenges that the city is facing.

#### Council Organization:



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.

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The council nominated and voted on the officers of the council. Dr. Michelle Pyka, MD, Maryview Medical Center and Ms. Melody Armstrong, RN, Norfolk State University, were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

**By Laws:**

The proposed By-Laws were reviewed and modified to meet the needs of the council. The council voted unanimously to adopt the By-laws as modified.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting was reviewed and approved by a unanimous vote.

**New Business:**

- Mr. James Overton invited the Director of the Portsmouth Health Department to address civic leagues and attend focus group meeting to address concerns about health disparities in the city.
- Dr. Nathan Woodard, Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Healthcare Services (DBHCS) reported on ongoing efforts of the DBHCS. Current issues being addressed include substance use, including opiates, progress towards obtaining a mobile medication assisted treatment (MAT) unit.
- Mr. James Overton invited the health department to appear on the radio show that he hosts to promote the efforts of the health department towards a healthier city.
- Dr. Imrit-Thomas presented on the health department's partnership with DBHCS to test for Hepatitis C and HIV and provide MAT at Maryview Medical Center's emergency department.
- Mrs. Michelle Winz presented on the health department's efforts to participate in the regional Save-A-Life Day events on September 14, 2023. Events will include a Community Day with multiple services being held on health department's site.
- Mr. Edward Bland presented information on prostate cancer and concerns for lack of adequate healthcare access for community members. He also presented concerns about trauma that the community has experienced and promises that agencies have made without adequate follow through on those promises or a lack of continuity of services for those who are most at risk.
- Mrs. Avanti Allen-Benson presented information on the Million Hearts project that is being led by the Healthy Portsmouth Coalition. Other areas being address by Healthy Portsmouth include hypertension and breast cancer.

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**Next Meeting:**

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm