

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

PORTSMOUTH

Health Department



Charting a Course for Good Health

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Portsmouth Community Health Advisory Council

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
10:00am – 12:00pm

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions:

Dr. Michelle Pyka, called the meeting to order and introductions were made of all members present in the room or online.

Members Present:

Member	Organization
Dr. Michelle Pyka, MD	Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center
Melody Armstrong	Norfolk State University
Delores Adams	Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Brianna Ricks	American Heart Association
Johnita Coston	Portsmouth District Attorney's Office
James Overton	Portsmouth Civic League
Rev. Suzanne Stierwalt	St. Andrew Lutheran Church
Deanna Valentine	Portsmouth Department of Social Services
Gina Harris	City of Portsmouth Resilience Officer
Dr. Cynthia Burwell, Ed.D	Norfolk State University
Amy Paulson	Healthy Portsmouth Coalition
Deannie Eldridge	American Diabetes Association
Avanti Allen-Benson	Portsmouth Health Department
Dr. Kavita Imrit-Thomas, DO	Director, Portsmouth Health Department
Dwight Richards	Portsmouth Health Department
Jacqueline Williams	Portsmouth Health Department

Review and Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 19th, 2023, meeting was reviewed. Gina Harris motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Rev. Stierwalt. The motion passed unanimously.



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.

CHA/CHIP Presentation:

Jacqueline Williams presented the most recent data on the Community Health Assessment. There were some significant changes from the previous assessment, including an increase in the city's population, increase in the Hispanic population, increase in the poverty rate, and decrease in unemployment. This assessment covered social and economic factors, clinical care, community and safety, environmental health, and health behaviors. Other areas covered included maternal and child health, mortality rates, cancer injuries, infectious diseases, chronic diseases and mental health.

During and immediately after the presentation there were robust discussions about the contents and its meaning. There was a consensus that work groups were needed to address the many opportunities that this assessment provides to mitigate the potential for poor health outcomes in the city.

In the interest of time, Gina Harris motioned that the rest of the agenda be tabled for the next scheduled meeting. Deanna Valentine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Follow-Up/Reports:

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Walk:** Tabled
- **Opioid Work – Update (PHD/BSMH):** Tabled
- **Issues facing PHD:** Tabled
- **Youth Offender Educational Opportunities:** Tabled:

New Business: Set up work groups to address potential priority areas for the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Round Table:

Next Meeting:

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th, 2024.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at: 12:10pm.