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**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**MARCH 9, 2017**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL  
CONFERENCE ROOM A**

**6:00 P.M.**

Present: Chair Lynne Langley, Vice-Chair Dani Rooney, Alison Hamilton, Judy Bunnell, Hannah Dahlgren, Jamie Baker

Absent: Jonathan Sandberg

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 2016-2017 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.

6:00 – 6:15	<b>AIDS Response Seacoast</b> Richard Wagner, Executive Director
6:15 – 6:30	<b>Chase Home for Children</b> Meme Wheeler, Executive Director
6:30 – 6:45	<b>Cross Roads House, Inc.</b> Martha Stone, Executive Director
6:45 – 7:00	<b>Families First of the Greater Seacoast</b> Terri Burdick, Dental Operations Director
7:00 – 7:15	<b>HAVEN Violence Prevention and Support Services</b> Kathy Beebe, Executive Director

Mr. Wagner discussed AIDS Response Seacoast's plan to grow its board and expressed satisfaction with the agency's current office space, noting that confidentiality is critical for HIV/AIDS support service as well as for substance misuse and alcohol treatment facilities. He noted that the agency's current lease will be up in FY 19. He 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 stated that transportation in particular is an issue with insufficient COAST stops to City Hall and taxis unwilling to travel in/out of the City.

Ms. Wheeler described Chase Home's new program initiative, diversion, for which the agency is seeking funding. She stated that opioids and substance misuse, human trafficking 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. Wheeler

The Committee waived a presentation at this meeting having heard extensively from Ms. Stone in person at the February 21 public hearing.

Ms. Burdick described the Families First Dental Program application and request for funds to support the Dental Center. The dental program primarily serves adults and

children who earn low to moderate income. She described challenges facing the community and the agency's clients as: lack of affordable housing; not enough access/ease of ridership in public transportation - particularly to the community campus from public housing; opioid addiction and substance misuse.

Ms. Beebe described the operations of HAVEN, which provides 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. HAVEN has identified building space as a challenge and is doing a facilities review. Last year HAVEN had to turn away approximately 60 women and 40 children seeking shelter.

Ms. Annunziata proposed that Rockingham County CAP presentation by Keith Bates be rescheduled to the committee's next meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.