



The Advisory Board held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 1811 King Street, at 4:30pm in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Members Present

Paul Bell, Chair
Dr. Marie Shepherd, Vice-Chair
Beverly Thomas
Dr. Denise Key
Katrina Drew

Staff Present

M. Elaine Breathwaite, Director
Dr. Ronald Beverly, Assistant Director
Cherie Lassiter, Administrative Coordinator
Carl Edmonds, Substance Use Program
Administrator, Methadone Clinic
George Ennels, Program Administrator
Karen Nicely, Clinical Manager

Absent Members

Dorescia Paige, Secretary
Beverly Franklin
Antoinette Franklin

Called to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Review Minutes

The board reviewed the January 4, 2017 minutes. Ms. Drew motioned for the minutes to be approved with one correction noted. Dr. Key motioned for the second and the board majority voted in agreement.

Director Updates

- The Director of BHS introduced three new staff members. Dr. Ronald Beverly is the new Assistant Director; he is a licensed Professional Counselor, Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner, and Certified Sex Offender Provider. He has published over 6 articles and/or books. He has worked with several CSBs and in the past 13 years he had his own private Counseling Services. Karen Nicely, as the new Clinical Manager, she has 29 years of experience in treatment, supervision, advanced management, and leadership. George Ennels is a LCSW that will be a temporary Program Administrator. He has more than 35 years of diverse experiences in clinical social work.
- Working with HRRJ to get the grant started (progressing)
- Productivity has gone up with the increase of new staff
- BHS continues to hire for several vacant positions. We will continue to interview throughout the month.

Department Of Behavioral Healthcare Services

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Program PowerPoint Presentation to Board Members

Carl Edmonds – Substance Use Program Administrator – Medication Assisted Treatment (Methadone)

- Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that the number of deaths from opioid overdoses has continued to rise, reaching more than 33,000 in 2015, this is the highest number ever recorded.
- Opioids are drugs that slow down the actions of the body which impacts breathing and heartbeat. Opioids also impact the pleasure center of the brain, often used for treatment of pain and prescribed often after surgery and sports injuries.
- Methadone is an opioid medication. An opioid is sometimes called a narcotic. Methadone reduces withdrawal symptoms in people addicted to heroin or other narcotic drugs without causing the "high" associated with the drug addiction.
- Medication Assisted Treatment is recommended for those individuals who wish to abstain from all illicit drug use but have failed to maintain abstinence from opiates for an extended period of time.

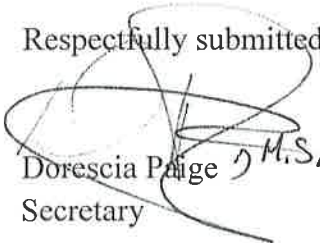
New business/Old Business

- The board members were pleased with the detailed BHS presentations given by Carl Edmonds, Substance Use Program Administrator for Medication Assisted Treatment (Methadone) Program.
- Chairman Bell discussed that the Advisory Board will be presenting at a City Council meeting.
- The board members were given the Strategic Planning Overview and accomplishments in 2016 for BHS.
- Advertising and interviews for vacant position are ongoing throughout February.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

Our next schedule meeting will be on March 1, 2017. The Chair motioned for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:08pm. Refreshments were made available before and following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Dorrescia Paige
Secretary

M.S., Ed., QMHP-C