



## ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thursday, August 15, 2024

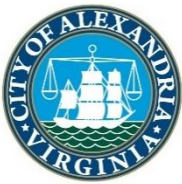
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom

- I. Welcome!
- II. Roll Call – Establish Quorum
- III. Review/Approve Minutes – July 2024
- IV. Review Agenda
- V. Update from the Chair
- VI. PHAC Priority Setting – 1<sup>st</sup> Exercise (45min)
- VII. Topical Issues and Discussion
  - Community Health Assessment (Anita, David)
  - 2025 Legislative Package (Priorities, Principles – 9/20)
  - Local Administration of Health Department
  - Outreach and Other Issues (Time Permitting)
    - Northern Virginia Health Foundation
    - Economic Opportunities Commission
    - HIV/AIDS Commission
    - Commission on Aging
    - Firearm Violence – Surgeon General’s Report
- VIII. Liaison and Community Partner Updates (Time Permitting)
  - a. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, CHIP
  - b. Inova Alexandria Hospital
  - c. Community Services Board
  - d. Alexandria City School Board
  - e. Practicing Physician
  - f. Neighborhood Health, Inc.
  - g. Fire Department
  - h. Practicing Dentist
- IX. Public Comments
- X. Adjourn

Commission Members	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Chair, Jerome Cordts</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vice Chair, Lisa Chimento</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Andrew Romero</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dr. Michael Trahos</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Richard Merritt</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JeanAnn Mayhan</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Anita McClendon</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sylvia Jones</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Patricia Rodgers</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Melissa Riddy</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Michele Walz</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Alex Long</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>David Bowen</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fire Department (Andrew Duke)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>School Board (Dr. Victor Martin)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dental Society (Dr. Gibberman)</b>
Alexandria Health Dept. Staff	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dr. David Rose</b> Health Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Natalie Talis,</b> Population Health Mgr.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Casey Colzani</b> Executive Secretary, Staff Liaison

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 19, 2024



**Minutes of the Thursday, July 18, 2024**

**PHAC Meeting**

**5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

**In-person**

**Alexandria Health Department**

<b>In-Person</b>	Chair- Jerome Cordts (JC), Lisa Chimento (LC), Anita McClendon (AM) Sylvia Jones (SJ), David Bowen (DB), JeanAnn Mayhan (JM) Michele Walz (MW), Alex Long (AL)
<b>Virtual</b>	Dr. Michael Trahos (MT), Richard Merritt (RM),
<b>Absent</b>	Melissa Riddy (MR), Andrew Romero (AR), Patricia Rodgers (PR),
<b>AHD Representatives</b>	Casey Colzani (CC), Natalie Talis (NT)
<b>Guests</b>	Assistant Chief Andrew Duke (AD)

**I. Establishment of a Quorum**

- Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm by Chair Jerome Cordts (JC); role taken.

**II. Approval of the Previous Meeting’s Minutes**

- Michele Walz (MW) motioned to approve June 2024 minutes, David Bowen (DB), Second. All in favor, minutes approved with edits.

**III. Review Agenda**

- Jerome Cordts (JC) reviewed the meeting agenda with the commissioners.

**IV. Update From the Chair**

- Vacancies
  - Dr. Gibberman is the dentist nominated by NOVA Dentist Society. Will begin her term after approval by council.
  - School Board- JC will reach out to Dr. Martin again about this appointment.
  - HB 947- Locations of retail tobacco. No additional feedback from council members. JC will ensure letter is forwarded to Representative Alfonzo Lopez.
  - Flora K. Casey Award- will take place during public health week moving forward.
  - August 21<sup>st</sup>- Invitational event with Inova to learn about the new hospital complex will be attended by JC or alternate PHAC representative.
  - Commission on HIV/AIDS, may be sunseting this commission and are reviewing if PHAC will take on any of their mission.
  - NOVA Health Foundation- Richard Merritt (RM) and DB drafted letter sent by JC requesting an audience with new CEO Courtney Rice.

- JC working with Assistant Chief Duke (AD) on Avive community AED devices presentation options. Representatives are ready to hold an in-person training but in the meantime will be producing a video based on a study from Alexandria for commission review. AD will share with group when available.

## **V. Health Department Update**

- Increasing levels of COVID in the community and small uptick in hospitalizations. Any numbers that AHD sees is highly undercounted due to use of home test kits.
- Epidemiologists review testing, rates, hospitalization, and wastewater surveillance (through Alex Renew).
- Home test kits are still free in Alexandria at Mark Center Building, and City Libraries. Test dates are still extended on some tests- updated expiration dates can be reviewed on FDA website.
- Dr. Trahos (MT) has been seeing this same increase in cases in his practice. Has noticed that patients are taking a home test as soon as symptoms develop but it can take several days after symptom onset before tests show as positive.
- **Healthy Homes Update**
  - 1 year anniversary of Healthy Homes Network and ALX Breathes home based asthma program.
  - Have used community engagement (community conversation series with 140 residents), 311 and Code Admin data to support program planning.
  - Will be working to update Healthy Homes Action plan as previous plans are nearing completion. New action plan should be including specific policy actions.

## **VI. Topical Issues for Discussion**

- **Community Health Assessment Update**
  - CHA steering committee meeting - Conversation centered around priorities and leveraging prior work. AHD still working with new members to educate about CHA process and steering committee roles. Additional follow-up meeting being held on Monday.
  - PHAC has one representative and one alternate. AM and DB had expressed interest in being the repetitive and alternate for PHAC. JC and LC will work with those who expressed interest to transition these roles.
- **PHAC Priority Setting**
  - Two offers to help facilitate commission priority setting. One outside person and one internal (Anita).
  - Considerations for commission- What is the desired outcome and next steps? How will changes in local elected government influence these priorities? Time frame of priorities and how updated CHA will influence priorities.
  - Commission previously did priority setting by having members submit ideas. These were reviewed by a smaller group for referral to the full commission. This led to the development of several sub-committees including the Racial Disparities and Health Equity group who developed the Reducing Tobacco Use and Secondhand Smoke, and Maternal Health Reports.

- JM motioned to proceed with a subcommittee (JC and AM) to set scope and guidelines for priority setting. LC Second. All in favor. AM and JC will review scope and plans for priority setting.
- Local Administration of Health Department
  - Impression is that the decision will be made sooner rather than later.
  - JC shared some ideas for a memo to council regarding this process:
    - Deliberate and transparent process
    - Consult with those who have gone through local administration previously (FFX and Arlington)
    - Impact on Employees, engagement with employees throughout the process
    - Impact on community outcomes/ disruption of services
    - CHA and community input
    - Allocation of resources/any changes in resources, financial factors
    - Potential downsides

## **I. Liaison and Community Partner Updates**

- Partnership for Healthier Alexandria-
  - Concentrating on the three priorities assigned to PHAC- Housing, Mental Health, Poverty.
  - Mental Health Strategy F- Mental Health Literacy. Representative of DCHS has been leading this. George Mason graduate students have been assisting with survey and demographic development. AM and JM are both PHAC representatives. Will be meeting with cohort in August.
  - Housing – Instead of sitting on a specific tactic, PR represents PHAC on Health Homes Network.
  - Poverty- Greater Investment in Childcare- no current representative. JC will work on this with JM.
- Community Services Board- Does not meet in summer. Board sent letters to city council regarding funding and positions. Council believes that there is a large connection between Mental Health and Public safety that supported these funding and position decisions.
- Physician working in Alexandria- CMS Physician fee schedule. Medicare cutting physician payments by 2% by 2025. Not including inflation operation costs for physician offices will go up 3%- with inflation this will result in a 9.4% decrease in value of Medicare dollar. 77% of physicians reported that these cuts moderately to largely impact their ability to accept Medicare beneficiaries. This will continue to effect adequate access to care. Very little can be done at local level on this topic as this is based on federal budgets.
- **Alexandria Fire/EMS-** New Chief Alfonzo Hernandez has begun his position. EMS Deputy Chief position has been filled and year and a half vacancy- Ramiro Galvez.

## **II. Public Comment**

- No public in attendance

### **III. Adjournment**

- MT motioned to adjourn the meeting. SJ second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

DRAFT