



**Minutes of the Thursday, August 15, 2024  
PHAC Meeting  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual  
Alexandria Health Department**

<b>In-Person</b>	
<b>Virtual</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) Dr. Michael Trahos (MT), Andrew Romero (AR), Patricia Rodgers (PR),
<b>Absent</b>	Melissa Riddy (MR), Richard Merritt (RM),
<b>AHD Representatives</b>	Casey Colzani (CC), Natalie Talis (NT) Dr. David Rose (DR)
<b>Guests</b>	Dr. Lauren Gibberman (NOVA Dental Society)

**I. Establishment of a Quorum**

- Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair Jerome Cordts (JC); role taken.

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

- Anita McClendon (MW) motioned to approve July 2024 minutes, Dr. Michael Trahos (MT), Second. All in favor, minutes approved with edits.

**III. Review Agenda**

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

**IV. Updates From the Chair**

- Welcome Dr. Lauren Gibberman. The nominee from the Northern Virginia Dental Society. Dr. Gibberman will be officially on the commission after council returns from summer recess.
- ACPS still has not identified a representative. JC will continue to work with Dr. Martin on this.
- Fire Department – Assist Chief Duke has been standing in as representative.
- Flora K. Casey award will be presented in April 2025. Commission will discuss process at later meeting.
- JC will be attending the Inova Landmark Open House.
- JC and CC will prepare Annual Report- commissioners should send their inputs and activities to CC.

**V. PHAC Priority Setting – 1<sup>st</sup> Exercise**

- Exercise will be held at next in-person meeting.

- AM will facilitate a consensus facilitation exercise for the commission. Deliberate but light-weight planning exercise over two meetings.

## **VI. Health Department Update**

- City Breastfeeding and Lactation rooms. AHD Nursing and WIC teams developed guidance for City, this will go into official City guidance. AHD will continue to work with City on staff and public lactation spaces.
- AHD will be working with City Emergency Planners on possible heat response plans. This will be additional layers of response beyond the current Cooling Shelters.
- Commissioners also raised concerns about build environment effect on heat, children's safety on outdoor playground equipment, and community thoughts on current cooling center options.
- PHAC should review legislation regarding workers and heat - recommended this topic as a for the legislative package if there are not current worker protections in VA. OSHA recently put out new regulations about worker protections from heat.
- Heat has been a topic on the Metrics Subcommittee of the Health Homes initiative.

## **VII. Topical Issues for Discussion**

### **• Community Health Assessment Update**

- DR thanked commission members who are participating in the CHA steering committee.
- Representatives are Anita- main and David- back up.
- AM provided update, thanked health department staff on their handling of a large group with differing opinions.
- Community Kick Off will be pushed back. Date TBD.

### **• 2025 Legislative Package**

- Boards and Commission have been invited to submit Priorities or Statement of Principal for the State legislative agenda.
- Last year PHAC submitted: Reproductive Rights, LGBTQ+ health information, Community Health Worker Reimbursement, Health Equity.
- PR proposed submitting Reproductive Rights, and LGBTQ+ Health Information and Services again this year. LC suggested reviewing the status of the Community Health Worker legislation and either updating or resubmitting.
- Other ideas: Access to primary, specialty, and lactation services for Medicaid population.
- PHAC will review previous and new submission topics at next meeting.

### **• Local Administration of Health Department**

- JC reviewed ideas for a draft letter regarding local admin input as requested by the Mayor.
- Topic for Mayor/Council to consider during the determination process:
  - Health Outcomes
  - Employee Impact
  - Cost/Administrative impact

- Community Engagement
  - Transparency and inclusiveness
- Commissioners asked if PHAC should have a more decisive opinion or should just provide neutral guidance. Other option would be to offer a more decisive opinion after City staff have completed more of their internal work (cost benefits, ect.)
- PR motioned to send a letter with discussed wording changes to council. DB second. All in favor, motion passed.
- Other considerations: several elected positions will have new incumbents in the coming year.
- **Outreach and Other Issues**
  - **Northern Virginia Health Foundation**
    - Submitted letter requesting a meeting with new Executive Director Courtney Rice. She has accepted. Meeting date TBD.
  - **Economic Opportunities Commission**
    - Health Care Assess is a topic this commission is discussing. JC will discuss common goals with their commission chair (specifically for legislative package submissions).
  - **HIV/AIDS Commission**
    - Possibility of sunseting this commission. JC has reached out to Chair to determine if there is ongoing topics that PHAC could pick up.
    - Commission was developed at a time when HIV/AIDS policies, systems, and funding needs were very high. The community currently has a strong network of services in place. Population should still have a voice, but AHD and City are looking at other options.
    - Commission has suffered low interest and participation for many years.
    - JM interested in attending meeting with JC and HIV/AIDS Commission Chair.
  - **Commission on Aging**
    - RM will report at a later meeting
  - **Firearm Violence- Surgeon General's Report**
    - Commission passed a Gun Safety resolution in 2022.
    - Report highlights increases in gun related injuries in children.
    - Will be a topic of discussion at later meeting.

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

- **Partnership for Healthier Alexandria-**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> year of soliciting proposals from non-profits that will be supporting work on CHIP projects. Every year have seen an increase in applications.
  - Will report our more information in September
  - JC and JM drafting a letter to Partnership regarding the tactics that PHAC is on.

- **Neighborhood Health-**
  - Hosted the Administrator and key staff of the Health Resources and Services Administration for Community Health Center month.
- **Physician working in Alexandria-**
  - 4 new active COVID-19 Variants that are significantly more infections and possibly evade vaccination immunity.
  - Has seen an increase in cases and patients being hospitalized in serious condition despite vaccination.
  - DT and staff are still wearing well fitting KN-95 masks when seeing patients.

## **II. Public Comment**

- No public in attendance

## **III. Adjournment**

- JM motioned to adjourn the meeting. AM second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.