



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

Minutes of the Thursday, January 16, 2024

PHAC Meeting

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid

Alexandria Health Department

In-Person	Chair- Jerome Cordts (JC), Lisa Chimento (LC), Sylvia Jones (SJ), Michele Walz (MW), Alex Long (AL), David Bowen (DB), Holly Jackson (HJ) Cassandra Walter (CW), Nia Smart (NS)
Virtual	Anita McClendon (AM) Richard Merritt (RM) JeanAnn Mayhan (JM)
Absent	Melissa Riddy (MR) Dr. Michael Trahos (MT),
AHD Representatives	Casey Colzani (CC), Natalie Talis (NT)
Guests	Dr. Lauren Gibberman

I. Establishment of a Quorum

- Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm by Chair Jerome Cordts (JC); role taken.

II. Approval of the December 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Sylvia Jones (SJ) motioned to approve December 2024 minutes, David Bowen (DB), Second. All in favor, minutes approved.

III. Review Agenda

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

IV. Updates From the Chair

- Submitted proposed Resolution on Affordable Care Act to Council on January 10th.
- Several members attended a meeting of the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria.
- Chair and Co-Chair have an introduction meeting scheduled with the new Mayor on February 26th. Will share some of PHACs priorities at this meeting.
- No updates on local administration of the health department
- Commission on HIV/AIDS- JC will have discussion in March with commission Chair to discuss possible sunseting of that commission.

V. Health Department Highlights

- Respiratory Illness season is still ongoing. Respiratory health hygiene practices, handwashing etc., being encouraged in the community. High levels of Flu and Noro Virus spreading in the community.

- Polk Elementary school participating in a Scrub-a-Dub hand washing initiative.
- Health Literacy Initiative-Pilot at the Alexandria Detention Center with several of the men inmates. Was very well received- center invited AHD back for a session with the female inmates. Additionally scheduled with Friends of Guest House. Working to offer 6- or 8-week program to cover various health literacy topics. Will share pilot program results with commission.
- Refining and finalizing Healthy Homes action plan. Sylvia Jones (SJ) is the commission Health Homes Action Plan representative.
- CHA- there are multiple other community surveys going around at this time, some entities will be utilizing the CHA data to assist with their assessments.
- CHA walk-and-talks will begin this weekend. Will have discussions with residents while walking around the neighborhood.

VI. Topical Issues for Discussion

- Healthcare Access Initiatives for 2025
 - Looking to assemble a sub-committee to assist in development of activities and initiatives for Healthcare Access priority area identified during commission priority setting.
- PHAC Sub-committee-
 - Created the following sub-committees:
 - Healthcare Access- David Bowen, Alex Long, Nia Smart, Richard Merritt, Sylvia Jones
 - Flora K. Casey Award- Cassandra Walter, Jeanann Mayhan, Holly Jackson
- Safety Net, Info Sources, Link to CHA, etc.
 - Broad discussion regarding MOU between Inova and the City- how that could be leveraged to include other safety net resources. Holding conversation about Inova specifics for a later meeting.
- Council Engagement
 - State legislative sessions in progress- commission submitted priority areas to the city.
 - Release of City budget in February- budget meetings are an opportunity for PHAC to provide comments.

VII. Liaison and Community Partner Updates

- Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, CHIP
 - CHIP- significant progress still being made. Mental Health literacy workgroup- JM and AM representing. SJ rep of Healthy Homes workgroup.
 - Poverty Section- Child Care Tactic- PHAC will not be an active tactic member on this tactic.
- Community Services Board (CSB)
 - Executive Director, chairman, and board members are in Richmond speaking during the State legislative meetings.
- Practicing Dentist
 - Virginia Dental Association will be at the State legislative meetings. Also holding their Board of Delegates governance meeting.

- Neighborhood Health, Inc.
 - Currently monitoring federal funding for FQHC's, status of Medicaid etc.
 - VA FQHCs spoke at State legislative meetings this week.

I. Public Comment

- No public in attendance

II. Adjournment

- JM motioned to adjourn the meeting. AM second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.