



ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thursday, April 17, 2025

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Alexandria Health Department and Virtual Meeting

- I. Welcome All, and New Members
- II. Roll Call – Establish Quorum
- III. Review/Approve Minutes – March 2025
- IV. Review Agenda
- V. Update from the Chair and Vice Chair
 - ☐ Mayor Gaskins meeting
 - ☐ HIV/AIDS Commission
- VI. Health Department Highlights
- VII. Subcommittee Updates
 - ☐ Healthcare Access – David, Team
 - ☐ Casey Award – Jean, Team
- VIII. Additional Topical Discussions (as needed)
 - ☐ Casey Award
 - ☐ Addition of 17th member to PHAC
 - ☐ Community Health Assessment – Anita, Team
 - ☐ Alexandria Budget and Legislative Communications
- IX. Liaison and Community Partner Updates
 - a. Practicing Physician
 - b. Practicing Dentist
 - c. Inova Alexandria Hospital
 - d. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, CHIP
 - e. School Board (ACPS)
 - f. Community Services Board (CSB)
 - g. Neighborhood Health, Inc.
 - h. Fire Department
- X. Agenda Topics for May
- XI. Public Comments
- XII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Commission Members

- ☐ **Dr. Jerome Cordts**, Chair – Citizen
- ☐ **Lisa Chimento**, Vice-chair – NHVA Rep
- ☐ **Alex Long** – Citizen
- ☐ **Anita McClendon** – Citizen
- ☐ **Dr. David Bowen** – Citizen
- ☐ **Richard Merritt** – Citizen
- ☐ **Cassandra Walter** – Health Pro Citizen
- ☐ **Nia Smart** – Health Pro Citizen
- ☐ **Sylvia Jones** – Health Pro Citizen
- ☐ **Dr. Michael Trahos** – Physician Rep
- ☐ **JeanAnn Mayhan** – Partnership Rep
- ☐ **Melissa Riddy** – Inova Rep
- ☐ **Michele Walz** – CSB Rep
- ☐ **Dr. Lauren Gibberman** – NVDS Rep
- ☐ **Holly Jackson** – ACPS Rep
- ☐ **Ramiro Galvez** – AFD Rep

Alexandria Health Dept. Staff

- ☐ **Dr. David Rose**
Health Director
- ☐ **Natalie Talis, MPH**
Population Health Manager
- ☐ **Casey Colzani**
Executive Secretary, Staff Liaison



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

Minutes of the Thursday, March 20, 2025

PHAC Meeting

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid in-person and Zoom

Alexandria Health Department

In-person	Chair- Jerome Cordts (JC), Lisa Chimento (LC), Sylvia Jones (SJ), Michele Walz (MW), Cassandra Walter (CW), Dr. Lauren Gibberman (LG) JeanAnn Mayhan (JM) Richard Merritt (RM) Alex Long (AL),
Virtual	David Bowen (DB), Holly Jackson (HJ) Ramiro Galvez (RG)
Absent	Dr. Michael Trahos (MT), Melissa Riddy (MR) Nia Smart (NS)
AHD Representatives	Casey Colzani (CC), Natalie Talis (NT) Dr. David Rose (DR)
Guests	Dr. Tokarz, Linda Manton, Sam Schwartz

I. Establishment of a Quorum

- Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm by Chair Jerome Cordts (JC); role taken.

II. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

- Lisa Chimento (LC) motioned to approve February 2025 minutes, Cassandra Walter (CW), Second. All in favor, minutes approved.

III. Review Agenda

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

IV. Updates From the Chair

- All commission vacancies have been filled
- Visited with Environmental Policy committee, they are eager to work with other commissions and should be attending a future meeting.
- Draft proposal to Council regarding gas-powered leaf blowers. PHAC has signed in support of the proposal. Commissioners reviewed the draft proposal, and no major objections were identified.
- Chair/Vice-Chair meeting scheduled for March 31.

V. Health Department Highlights

- Health Homes Network- first strategies are being identified. Action Plan will be released in April. There are five strategies in the action plan, including partnering with Alex311, increasing resources for mold, and more coordinated data driven approach to pests; codesigning and implementing better non-smoking policies for residential apartment buildings; mental health, and hoarding or extreme clutter.

- First strategies will be working with 311 and increasing resources around mold. These partnerships will help residents connect to the correct resources for home based issues.
- Budget season- Health Department participated in budget meetings with the City. Discussed CHW's, Health Homes, and other health access issues in the city. Healthy Homes does not have additional budget for any department involved in the work.
- State Title V funding- state is reworking how Title V funds are distributed, will be needs based pending needs assessments and metrics.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

● Healthcare Access-

- Held meeting prior to February meeting. Discussed local focus and regional major development focus.
- Local focus had interest in dental care. Dr Gibberman provided some information to DB for the group.
- Regionally- potential major changes to Medicaid and other public health access programs. Reviewing that the effects on the region. Due to regional interest, JC and DB met with Northern Virginia Health Foundation, discussed regional meeting with what might be happening with Medicaid- including experts like Kaiser foundation. NVHF is interested in participating. Invited back to meet again after additional co-conveners have been identified.

● Flora K. Casey Award

- Nomination form will release 3/28 ahead of Health Homes Action Plan and will be re advertised during Public Health week.
- Ceremony tentatively in May.

● CHA Steering Committee

- Walk and Talk scheduled for April in Landmark/Van Dorn with dry run on March 31st. Volunteers are still needed. Please share the RSVP Link with your networks.
- Pre-recorded webinar link was shared with commissioners.
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VII. Topical Discussion

● HIV/AIDS Commission

- Sam Schwartz, Commission was started in the late 80's to assist the city in developing policies and programs for those at risk and living with the disease. Advises City Council in the formulation and implementation of public policy on the treatment of aids and prevention of spread of HIV promotes citizen participation in the formulation of such policy, provides council and the public with city council and the public with current information regarding Aids and HIV and promotes educational programs on HIV Aids awareness, treatment and prevention.
- Over time, with improvements with drugs to prevent transmission and interest in the commission has fallen,

- Commission suffering from extremely low quorum making it difficult to have meetings. The commission has 23 roles, half of which are restricted to certain organizations.
- There is still a need to support these programs, especially with reductions of funding at the federal level. STI rates are increasing in Alexandria and are above other regional districts.
- Looking to sunset the HIV/AIDS commission and have another commission take up the work. Since PHAC advises council on all matters related to health in the city- this commission seems the most adept to take on the related work.
- City is reviewing all boards and commissions.
- LC motioned to support HIV/AIDS commission in their proposal to request closure of the HIV/AIDS Commission and increase PHAC roster by one with an individual with knowledge of or work experience in sexual health, HIV and STI. Anita McClendon second. All in favor.

VIII. Liaison and Community Partner Updates

- ACPS
 - Current school year clinic visits are triple than total visits from the previous school year. Have seen an increase in more students with chronic disease that require medical support during school day. Some schools, like the high school need additional nursing staff and support.
 - Budget season is closing, no additional FTEs have been allocated to school health.
 - Still seeing high level of resignations from school nurses. Potential could have multiple schools without proper nursing support next year.
- Northern Virginia Dental Society Repetitive
 - Dental Society works with Neighborhood Health to match children to dental homes for two years. This has been more effective in the long term than the two-day clinics. Children are less traumatized when they have a longer-term dental home and often needed more work than could be completed during a day clinic.
 - Possibly PHAC could focus on more education over providing/organizing services. Including information sharing on fluoride, including to families who come from areas where tap water isn't safe to drink.
 - CSB
 - Federal cuts are affecting nonprofits more than state entities. Feel that there could be issues in the 0-3 early childhood intervention but are monitoring the situation.

I. Public Comment

Linda Manton, no public comments. Dr. Tokarz, no public comments.

II. Adjournment

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