



ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thursday, March 19, 2026

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid via Zoom and In-person

- I. Welcome All
- II. Roll Call, Verify Quorum
- III. Review/Approve Minutes – December 2025
- IV. Review Agenda
- V. Updates from the Chair
 - A. Commission Vacancies
 - B. Meeting with Mayor Gaskins
- VI. Health Department Highlights
- VII. Action and Discussion Items
 - C. Healthcare Access Subcommittee
 - D. Flora K Casey Award
 - E. Dental Services
- VIII. Discussion from Active List of Topics
- IX. Liaison and Community Partner Updates
 - a. Inova Alexandria Hospital
 - b. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, CHIP
 - c. School Board (ACPS)
 - d. Neighborhood Health, Inc.
 - e. Community Services Board (CSB)
 - f. Alexandria Fire Department
 - g. Practicing Dentist
 - h. Practicing Physician (appt. pending)
- X. Agenda Topics for January
- XI. Public Comments
- XII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2026

Commission Members	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cassandra Walter , Chair– Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. David Bowen , Vice-Chair – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Jerome Cordts - Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Chimento – NHVA Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anita McClendon – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Holly Jackson – ACPS Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	JeanAnn Mayhan – Partnership Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Bretsch – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Lauren Gibberman – Dentist Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lori Cooper – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Riddy – Inova Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Walz – Community Services Bd
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nia Smart – Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ramiro Galvez – Fire Department Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sylvia Jones – Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant – Physician Practicing in City
Alexandria Health Dept. Staff	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. David Rose Health Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natalie Talis, MPH Population Health Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casey Colzani Executive Secretary, Staff Liaison
Active List of Topics	
<input type="checkbox"/>	HIV/AIDS Commission Alignment
<input type="checkbox"/>	CommHlthAssess. CHA/CHIP–Coalitions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Health & Quality of Life Standing Committee (City Council)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Administration of Health Department
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Policy Commission
<input type="checkbox"/>	PHAC membership, Annual Report
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

**Minutes of the Thursday, February 19, 2026
PHAC Meeting
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

In-person	
Virtual	Chair- Cassandra Walter (CW), Jerome Cordts (JC), Michele Walz (MW), Dr. Lauren Gibberman (LG), JeanAnn Mayhan (JM), David Bowen (DB), Anita McClendon (AM), (AM) Nia Smart (NS) Jennifer Bretsch (JB), Lori Cooper (LCO) Lisa Chimento (LC), Ramiro Galvez (RG)
Absent	Holly Jackson (HJ), Sylvia Jones (SJ), Melissa Riddy (MR),
AHD Representatives	Casey Colzani (CC), Natalie Tallis (NT)
Guests	Perrin Krisko (EPC)

- I. Establishment of a Quorum**
 - Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair, Cassandra Walter (CW), roll taken.

- II. Approval of the previous meeting minutes**
 - David Bowen (DB) moved to approve January 2026 minutes with edits; Lisa Chimento (LC) seconded. All in favor; motion carried, minutes approved with edits.

- III. Review Agenda**
 - CW reviewed agenda.

- IV. Updates From the Chair**
 - CW and DB meeting with Mayor Gaskins scheduled for March 5th.
 - Physician vacancy on commission, CW has contacted Medical Society of Northern VA (the nominating body).

- V. Health Department Highlights**
 - VDH reaffirmed alignment with American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations, even where they differ from recent federal guidelines. Continued emphasis on childhood immunization adherence.

- Multiple Measles exposures continue across Northern Virginia. Vaccination rate in Alexandria remains high. AHD urging public to know their immunity status and remain aware of exposure sites.
- Healthy Homes: Mold website is nearly complete. Website will host resources, educational videos, and tenant letter templates. Updates to 311 system with new mold categories. Next focus will be citywide pest control resources.
- CHA/CHIP Update
 - Landmark/Van Dorn open house is Saturday at Patrick Henry, collocated with vision screening event.
 - Mental Wellness Coalition finalized five focus areas: Safer Space for vulnerable communities; Strengthen community connections and belonging; Reduce access barriers; Expand early intervention for youth; Improve crisis services
 - Alexandria meeting will be in Spanish. English interpreters are available upon request.

VI. Action and Discussion Items

- **Potomac River Sewage Spill Update**
 - Perrin Krisko from the Environmental Policy Commission discussed updates regarding the sewage spill in the Potomac River.
 - DC sewer main rupture on Jan 19 released large quantities of sewage into the Potomac. Repair estimated 4–6 weeks; ongoing DC Water daily E. coli sampling.
 - Advisory to avoid direct contact with Potomac water is still in place.
 - No impacts to Alexandria drinking water.
 - EPC meeting next Monday will focus on this topic, commissioners are welcome to join as members of the public.
 - AHD is following guidance set at the State level and amplifying messaging around the current advisory. AHD routinely monitors GI illness rates and has not seen increase in GI related illness at this time.
- **Healthcare Access Subcommittee**
 - Held for March meeting
- **Flora K. Casey Award**
 - Subcommittee has not met yet. AM developing work plan and will share with group.
 - Discussed funding considerations.

VII. Active Topics Discussion

VIII. Liaison Updates

- **Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria**
 - Strong PHAC engagement across CHIP coalitions.

- Mental Wellness focus areas aligned with community priorities.
- Landmark event will finalize focus areas at upcoming meeting.
- **Neighborhood Health**
 - 340B pharmacy reimbursement changes have been paused.
 - New pharmacy is opening at the Mark Center soon.
 - \$1.2M federal earmark to support upcoming Arlandria clinic build-out.
 - Continued reductions in visits due to ICE activity concerns; telehealth upgrades underway.
- **EMS/Fire Department**
 - Hiring new Operations Medical Director (final candidate stage).
 - Transition from six medical units to a tiered model: four medic units + two ambulances.
 - Early indications show improved resource allocation; data still being gathered.
- **Northern Virginia Dental Society**
 - Northern VA Dental Clinic seeking letter of support from PHAC for grant application for continuation of dental services for low-income/uninsured residents. Clinic receives funding through a grant, but current referral numbers have been low despite access concerns and could see a possible reduction in funds in coming grant cycle.
 - Commissioners had discussion and raised questions about grant process and referrals and a study on dental access that was completed by the City.
 - Tabled for March meeting pending additional information
- **CSB**
 - Still recruiting for Executive Director and several leadership positions.
 - Demand for services remains high, working to align with citywide mental health priority areas.

IX. Public Comment

- No public comment.

X. Adjournment

- JeanAnn Mayhan (JM) moved to adjourn meeting, Michele Walz (MW) seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.