

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS
MINUTES
June 26, 2023
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Del Pepper Community Center – AHD Executive Conference Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mohammad Fayaz Naqshbandi, Nicole Hutchinson, Margaret Nabors, Christian Rodriguez, Carl Welliver

ABSENT: Charlotte Raley, Shelbert Williams

AHD STAFF: Nechelle Terrell, Debby Dimon

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Nicole Hutchinson, at 6:36 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners and Staff provided introductions. Mohammad Fayaz Naqshbandi was introduced as a new member of the commission filling the seat for City of Alexandria high school student.

III. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF MAY MINUTES

The minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Commissioner Nicole Hutchinson moved to accept the minutes and a 2nd motion was made by Commissioner Carl Welliver. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

IV. MEMBERSHIP UPDATES AND RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

Nechelle introduced Mohammad Fayaz Naqshbandi as filling the seat for Alexandria City school student. She also announced she made a presentation at the Alexandria City Academy Summer Social event on June 20, to talk about the commission and to recruit new members. Several people expressed an interest in the commission and stated that they would look into applying.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Commission Revamp Recommendations

The commission continued discussions about the status of seats that are currently vacant on the commission and the length of time they have been vacant. Nechelle prepared a document with the information. The commission has recommended removal of the seat designated for Hospice of Northern Virginia and to reduce the Citizens seats from 12 to seven as interest in HIV/AIDS has declined over the last several years. The commission has asked that the seat designated for a Practicing Physician be changed to a Medical Professional to include Nurse Practitioner, Nurses

and MDs. Recruitment will continue for other seats that have been vacant in the last 1-2 years.

National HIV Testing Day Update

Hoops in Virginia was held on Saturday, June 24 at Charles Houston Recreation Center in recognition of National HIV Testing Day. The event included 3 on 3 games with members of the community as well as an Exhibition Game that featured the Alexandria City Mayor Justin Wilson, Dr. David Rose – Alexandria Health Director, members of Alexandria City School Board, Alexandria Fire Chief and member of Alexandria City Council. Teams were coached by members of the Alexandria City High School Varsity Basketball team. Half time presentation also included an interview hosted by Nechelle Terrell with “Jay” from Richmond, VA. Those in attendance felt Jay’s testimony was very relevant to those in attendance and helped to encourage testing at the event. It has been recommended that a recording of an interview with him be used for future events. Those in attendance stated the event was well organized and a fun day for all ages.

Alexandria Pride/MOM’s Demand Action “Wear Orange” Rally Update

Alexandria Pride was held on Saturday, June 3 at Alexandria Market Square. Debby Dimon reported that they did not do very many HIV test for the event.

The annual “Wear Orange Rally” was held on Friday, June 4 at Alexandria Market Square. ACOHA served as co-sponsors of the event and a few commissioners were in attendance for support.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ruby Tucker Day

Ruby Tucker Day, an ARHA celebration of the life of Alexandria advocate Ms. Ruby Tucker will be held on Saturday, July 8. (Postponed from June 24). Nicole and Carl spoke with Gaynelle Diaz about hosting a table for the event for the commission. (Nechelle spoke with Gaynelle after the meeting and she acknowledged this was an error as she was thinking Nicole was with Inova Juniper and the offer was for HIV testing).

Commission Promotional Materials

The commission discussed purchasing promotional materials with ACOHA on them such as table cloth, pens and other “swag” items. Funding was also discussed as the commission has no budget and is not allowed to host fundraisers. Sponsorship opportunities were discussed and Nechelle stated she would see if there is any money in the Health Department budget to purchase items on behalf of the commission. She will check with Dr. Rose.

VI. OFFICER ELECTIONS

Officer Elections for 2023-2024 (July 1 – June 30) were conducted. Each seat received one nomination and the commission accepted to roster as presented to include: Chairperson – Carl Welliver; Vice Chairperson – Christian Rodriguez; and Nicole Hutchinson – Community Partnership Liaison. Nechelle will present the names of the current officers to the City Clerk.

V. COMMISSIONER/AGENCY UPDATES

Nicole announced that a member from the Northern Virginia Family Practice presented on HIV for the Commission on Women.

Debby Dimon stated that AHD is conducting provider outreach for sexual health topics and that Mpox/Monkeypox is still a concern in the community. She is attending meetings of the NOVA HIV/STD Task Force and will prepare to provide a summary at a future meeting.

VII. ADJOURMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.