

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS
MINUTES
September 19, 2022
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristin Donley, Nicole Hutchinson, Pablo Moulden, Charlotte Raley, Andrew Torre, Shelbert Williams

AHD STAFF: Nechelle Terrell, Debby Dimon

ABSENT: Chennel Hill-Welbon

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Andrew Torre, Acting Chair, at 6:38 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners and Staff provided introductions. Charlotte Raley introduced herself to the commission as a new member filling a Citizen at Large seat.

III. GUEST PRESENTATION – National HIV & Aging Awareness Day

IV. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF MAY MINUTES

The minutes from the May meeting were distributed and reviewed. Commissioner Shelbert Williams moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Nicole Hutchinson second the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

V. ACOHA UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Upcoming HIV/AIDS Awareness Days & Events

Nechelle announced National Gay Men's HIV Awareness Day is on September 27. AHD staff will attend the AGLA Ice Cream social on Sunday, Sept. 25, providing information on this topic. Other upcoming awareness days include National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) on October 15 and World AIDS Day on December 1. Nechelle has requested a speaker for NLAAD to discuss HIV/AIDS among the Latino population.

ACOHHA History

Debby Dimon from Alexandria Health Department provided a brief history of ACOHA. Highlights included its start as a Task Force in May 1987 to becoming a Commission in May 2000. Nechelle also spoke about annual events sponsored by the commission, which included National HIV/AIDS Day Symposium, World AIDS Day Interfaith Services and National HIV Testing Day testing events. The commission was also active in the supporting changes to the Virginia HIV Criminalization Bill having Andrew Torre, then Chair, speaking to Virginia lawmakers on behalf of the commission.

Future of ACOHA

The commission discussed low membership over the last few years and ways to increase membership. Commissioners Pablo Moulden and Charlotte Raley offered to create a flyer to distribute at events and via email and social media. Nechelle reminded commissioners to view and "like" the commission Facebook page that she took over managing a few years ago. It was suggested that the commission review current vacancies and make changes or remove seats that have been vacant for some time. Commissioner Nicole Hutchinson recommended the commission reduce the meeting schedule to meet bi-monthly instead of monthly. Nechelle will confirm the number of meetings required per year to make sure that is possible. It was also suggested the commission consider re-naming to include other trending health issues such as Hepatitis.

VI. COMMISSION ELECTIONS

Commissioner Shelbert Williams requested nominations for Chair. Andrew Torre nominated himself noting that he is serving as Acting Chair and has served as Chair in previous years. With no other nominations, Andrew was accepted by default. There were no nominations for Vice Chair and Community Partnership Liaison. Both positions remain vacant.

VII. Commissioner/Agency Updates & Announcements

Commission on Women

Nicole announced that the commission will host a retreat. They are currently focusing on Domestic Violence and affordable housing. They are planning to host a "Sit and Chat" to discuss current issues among women in Alexandria.

ACPS

Kristen announced that Virginia Department of Education has not released the draft for updated to the Family Life Curriculum.

Alexandria Health Department

Nechelle announced that ECHO Virginia Coalition will serve as the Host Committee for the 5th HIV Is Not A Crime National Training Academy (HINAC) at Emory and Henry College in Emory, VA, June 4-7, 2023. If you are interested in volunteering to help with planning and/or the conference, contact former commissioner Cedric Pulliam.

Office of Sherriff

Shelbert announced that the Community Academy is back up and volunteers are been allowed back in the detention center.

NOVA Salud, Inc.

Pablo reminded commissioners of NOVA Salud's Pride Clinic on Thursday evenings from 5-7 p.m.

Neighborhood Health

Andrew stated that NHS is still operating in a “Hybrid” format with staff in the office and telecommuting. There have been 10 new intakes with the last couple of months.

The commission presented Kristin with a plant in remembrance of her father and former Alexandria City Mayor, Kerry Donley who passed in June.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.