



Public Health Advisory Commission
Alexandria, VA

ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thursday, September 21, 2023

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

- I. Welcome!
- II. Roll Call – Establish Quorum
- III. Review/Approve Minutes – August 2023
- IV. Review Agenda
- V. Update from the Chair
- VI. “Dying Too Soon” overview and discussion, welcoming Patricia Mathews, CEO, Northern Virginia Health Foundation
- VII. Health Department Update
- VIII. Topical Issues for Discussion and Decisions
 - ☐ Flora Krause Casey Award nominee discussion
 - Discussion and decision
 - Award event venue and date options
 - ☐ 2024 Legislative Package Materials (Due Oct. 6)
 - Recap of meeting with Sarah Taylor (Leg. Dir)
 - Legislative package topics
 - a. Reproductive health services
 - b. Reimbursement for Comm Hlth Workers
 - c. Strategic view / rhetoric
 - ☐ Medicaid Unwinding
- IX. Liaison and Community Partner Updates (~3min each)
 - a. INOVA Alexandria Hospital
 - b. Community Services Board
 - c. Alexandria City School Board
 - d. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
 - e. Neighborhood Health, Inc.
 - f. Fire Department
 - g. Practicing Physician
- X. Announcements
- XI. Public Comments
- XII. Adjourn

Commission Members	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Chair, Jerome Cordts</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vice Chair, Lisa Chimento</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Romero
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Michael Trahos
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Merritt
<input type="checkbox"/>	JeanAnn Mayhan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anita McClendon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sylvia Jones
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Jessica Hill
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Rodgers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Riddy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robin Wallin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Walz
Alexandria Health Dept. Staff	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natalie Talis, Population Health Mgr.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. David Rose Health Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casey Colzani Executive Secretary, Staff Liaison

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 19, 2023



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

**Minutes of the Thursday, August, 17th, 2023
PHAC Meeting
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid 4850 Mark Center Drive and via Zoom
Alexandria Health Department**

Present- In Person	Chair- Jerome Cordts (JC) JeanAnn Mayhan (JM) Richard Merritt (RM), Patricia Rodgers (PR) Anita McClendon (AM) Dr. Jessica Hill (JH), Sylvia Jones (SJ)
Virtual	Andrew Romero (AR), Lisa Chimento (LC),
Absent (Excused)	Melissa Riddy (MR) Dr. Michael Trahos (MT)
Absent (Unexcused)	
AHD Representatives	Casey Colzani (CC), Natalie Talis, (NT)
Guests	Phill Caldwell, CSB; Robin Wallin, ACPS, Patrick Okoronkwo

I. Establishment of a Quorum

- Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm by Chair Jerome Cordts (JC); role taken.

II. Approval of the June 2023 Minutes

- JeanAnn Mayhan (JM) motioned to approve July 2023 minutes, Sylvia Jones (SJ) Second. Minutes approved with minor edits.

III. Review Agenda

- JC reviewed the meeting agenda format with the commissioners.

IV. Update from the Chair

- Met with Dr. Rose and Natalie. Discussed AHD turnovers and resource intensiveness of public health activities.

V. Topical Issues for Discussion

- **Medicaid Unwinding Update**
 - Patrick Okoronkwo provided an update on Medicaid Unwinding

- The department is processing renewal applications for approximately – have renewed 2,000 households. Approximately 1,100 individuals were terminated- there could be multiple reasons. Investigating these reasons. Will need to process 9,000 by February 2024.
- The state has been issuing rules/actions and then coming back with updates in a short amount of time causing confusion.
- High level of elderly and disabled residents level in Alexandria. These applications cannot be expedited and require full review.
- The biggest issues have been residents not returning their renewal packets. Some issues with addresses, initial automated mailing had significant issues causing many undeliverable packets. Have worked with post office and automated systems to reduce that number.
- When residents apply for other benefits, they are asking them to follow up with their Medicaid applications.
- Patrick asked that any of our departments ask our patients to go up to the 5th-floor DCSH Public Benefits office to pick up and get assistance on their Medicaid package. The customer relations staff is well-staffed, but no outreach staff.
- Working with the State for accurate local data.
- Commissioners asked about resources in the department for processing staff and outreach.
- AHD offered to share information in our clinics and provide flyers at outreach events through MRC. Natalie will connect Patrick with MRC coordinators for additional assistance with Neighborhood Health also offered to share information with their patients.
- Commissioners also asked how many residents might be at risk of losing their coverage. 34,000 individuals with coverage and between 6-8,000 residents are at risk of losing coverage.
- Managed Care Organizations have not been proactive about contacting patients about renewals.
- PR suggested writing a letter to Council. LC agreed that the issue is urgent and should be magnified to local leaders.
- Motion to raise awareness to Council on the urgency of Medicaid Unwinding. PR motioned, RM second. All in favor. Council resumes in September. Goal to submit by end of August.
- **Legislative Priorities Review**
 - Commissioners received the request for policy items. The process has changed from previous years.
 - Reproductive health services and smoking cessation were submitted last year.
 - Called for commissioners to draft any legislative items under the new process.

- INOVA Cares and AHD have community health workers who are funded through grants only. PR proposed this as a submission this year.
- Reproductive health and community health workers- PR will work on the draft for these two items.
- LC – Medicare proposed fee schedule, adding an opportunity for community health workers to have some reimbursement for specific provided services. This supports PR's proposed items. LC and PR to work together on this topic.
- AR- has a topic on Maternal Child Health for a priority item and will submit a draft for review. The Dying Too Soon Report shows support for MCH PHAC and will review this as well.
- JC will meet with Sarah Taylor to get clarifications for moving forward in the new process.
- **Update on New Data/Reports**
 - Hold for next month.
- **Follow-up from July Topics**
 - LGBTQ Web resources- will be raised in legislative priorities.
 - Gun Safety- will continue to work on this. Including Councilwoman Bagley to speak with the commission again.

VI. Monthly Standing Items

- Flora K. Casey Award- There are a few submissions, but please continue to share with networks.
- Submissions will be shared with commissioners for selection.

VII. Health Department Update

- No new updates on local administration. Continue to work with neighbors who have gone through the process in the past
- Fall coming up, AHD will be doing a fall vaccine campaign
- Typically AHD received vaccines for community events. AHD will not receive any this year. All residents will have to go through eligibility to receive fall vaccines from AHD. AHD will not hold large-scale flu vaccine events.
- COVID vaccines will be commercialized by fall and AHD will keep the commission updated as more information comes forward.
- Working with ACPS on routine childhood vaccines
- AHD continues with Chronic Disease work. ALXBreathes for asthma and COPD. Beginning work on diabetes, have begun having more informal conversations with the public in development. The community needs health literacy, AHD will be looking into that. Unfortunately, this work is being completed by CHWs who's grant expires in May.
- RM asked if AHD had data on Long Covid- don't have local data only the rates of it. Estimated that 3-5,000 could be impacted by long COVID. NT will share data sources with the commission.

VIII. Liaison and Community Partner Updates

- **INOVA Alexandria Hospital**
 - Not present
- **Community Services Board**
 - This week toured DCSH/AHD with staff liaison. Met several people from AHD during that tour and was able to make some timely connections this week on data sharing. Mark Center building has been excellent for connecting departments.
- **Alexandria City School Board**
 - Robin Wallin- school starts next week. Priorities of superintendent – attendance and academic achievement, culture, and climate (students and staff). Some issues with vaccine compliance they are working through.
- **Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria**
 - CHIP quarterly update-next month
 - 30 grant proposals being reviewed by the subcommittee.
 -
- **Neighborhood Health, Inc.**
 - Neighborhood Health reports will be shared at next meeting
- **Fire Department**
 - Vacant
- **Practicing Physician**
 - Not Present
- **Practicing Dentist**
 - No Updates

I. Public Comment

- No public in attendance

II. Adjournment

- JM motioned for meeting adjournment, SJ second. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

2023 Flora K. Casey Award Nomination Form

The City of Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission is seeking nominations for the 2023 Flora K. Casey Public Health Award.

Flora Krause Casey (1904-1991) was a longtime resident of Alexandria and a dedicated advocate for the health of disadvantaged persons. In the late 1930s, Mrs. Casey assumed responsibility for a clinic that the Kiwanis Club formed to provide pre-camp physical exams. After two years of providing those services, it was apparent that families of lesser means needed to access medical services and a comprehensive clinic to provide that kind of care. Mrs. Casey fostered this clinic's growth as the community needs expanded. She was especially gifted at generating volunteer support and raising funds.

It is in her honor that the Public Health Advisory Commission continues her legacy by seeking and recognizing other individuals of like purpose, devotion, community advocacy, and leadership.

Response was added on 08/23/2023 1:59pm.

We are looking for:

Individuals or organizations who exemplify the legacy of Flora Krause Casey and who themselves have made a significant impact on Alexandrians' public health and well-being (physical, behavioral, mental, and oral health) are eligible. Nominees will be eligible if they fit into one of the following four criteria:

1. An individual/organization whose efforts have improved the health and quality of life of Alexandrians;
2. An individual/organization whose dedication to public service has helped prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, improve access to health services, and/or ensure appropriate health care for vulnerable Alexandrians;
3. An individual/organization whose work has improved the health of vulnerable and underserved Alexandria residents;
4. An individual/organization whose efforts have helped to reduce health disparities.

1) Nominator Name:	Richard Merritt
2) Nominator Address:	2729 Franklin Court
3) Nominator Phone:	(703) 967-7806
4) Nominator Email:	merrittre43@icloud.com
5) Relationship to Nominee/Organization:	Member, Public Health Advisory Commission
6) Nominee Name:	Allen Lomax
7) Nominee Address:	5021 Seminary Road, Apt. 730 Alexandria, VA
8) Nominee Phone:	(703) 967-6280
9) Nominee Email:	aclomax@aol.com

-
- 10) Please check which Award Criteria your nominee meets: Nominees will be eligible if they fit into one of the following five criteria:
- ☒ An individual/organization whose efforts have improved the health and quality of life of Alexandrians;
 - ☒ An individual/organization whose dedication to public service has helped prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, improve access to health services, and/or ensure appropriate health care for vulnerable Alexandrians;
 - ☒ An individual/organization whose work has improved the health of vulnerable and underserved Alexandria residents;
 - ☒ An individual/organization whose efforts have helped to reduce health disparities.
-

Letter Of Support:

-
- 11) Please provide about 250 words describing the nominee's merits for the award. See attachment

Please indicate examples of how the nominee has made a significant impact on Alexandrians' public health and well-being, as well as fostered an improved quality of life for the community through their volunteer efforts.

Please include the nominee's accomplishments beyond areas of paid responsibility, as appropriate.

-
- 12) Please attach any additional letters of support or support documents you wish the commission to take into consideration.

Letter of Support
For the Nomination of Allen Lomax
for the
Flora Krause Casey Award

Both Richard Merritt and Tricia Rodgers, members of the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission, are of one voice in support of Allen Lomax, a former member of the Commission, for the Flora Krause Casey Award. We are in agreement that he has made a profound and unrivaled contribution to the health and well-being of Alexandrians through his longstanding community involvement. The Casey award criteria are broad and diverse and yet the breadth and depth of Allen's contributions touch on every one of the criteria. A summary of his involvement follows:

- Chair of Alexandria United Way Regional Council --helped author/direct several needs assessments including "Living from Paycheck to Paycheck: A Look at Alexandria's Working Poor."
- Chair of Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission for 12 years
- Founding member and current chair, Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria – leading the implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan; established a fund to support nonprofits addressing strategies in the plan
- Founding Member and Chair, Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA)
- Governing Board Member, partnership to Prevent Homelessness
- Former Member, Public Health Advisory Commission
- Member, Board of Directors, Volunteer Alexandria
- Member, Mayor's Special Advisory Panel on Healthcare for Alexandria's Uninsured
- Member, Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying
- Founding member and current chair, Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia
- Founding member, Hunger Free Alexandria – helped direct study of food insecurity in the city

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Living Legend of Alexandria, 2012
- Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Achievement Service Award (Volunteer Alexandria)
- Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria award
- American Society for Public Administration National Capital Area Chapter's Award for Outstanding Service, 2019

Richard E. Merritt

Tricia Rodgers

Letter of Support
For the Nomination of Allen Lomax
for the
Flora Krause Casey Award

Allen C. Lomax is making a significant impact on Alexandrians' public health and well-being, as well as fostering an improved quality of life for the community through his volunteer efforts. While Mr. Lomax is retired, he is a full-time volunteer and donates his money, time, and experiences to several causes. He has been an active volunteer and leader advocating for policies and community change to promote the well-being, growth, and development of youth in Alexandria for over 30 years. He believes strongly in community service, leading by example and encouraging others to join him in his efforts.

Mr. Lomax has chaired the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PHA) for years, creating the Community Health Improvement Plan for the City (CHIP) and ensuring the work gets done to improve the lives of Alexandrians. To further move along the implementation of the plan, he created a grant application for agencies addressing the plan's priorities and goals.

In addition, Mr. Lomax serves on the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO). This council brings together high-level City and nonprofit organizations and their leaders for the benefit of the larger Alexandria community. ACHSO provides a forum to network, share best practices, build relationships, and leverage resources. From assessing the community needs to present-day collaborative efforts to strengthen the human services network in the city, ACHSO has been a leading force in creating an innovative and integrated human services approach for our community. Working together, ACHSO seeks to expand existing resources and develop new services for those most in need in the city. Mr. Lomax is an active member of this council and shares information about the CHIP, grant opportunity, etc.

Mr. Lomax has, more importantly, inspired many other community members and groups to advocate for the CHIP and youth and to join together to preserve and promote a healthy Alexandria community. He certainly meets the criteria for the Flora Krause Casey Award and because of him, many Alexandrians are healthier.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached at 703-836-2176 or at mbrunken@volunteerallexandria.org.

Sincerely,



Marion Brunken
Executive Director
Volunteer Alexandria

From: Noraine Buttar <Noraine.Buttar@alexandriava.gov>

Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 5:18 PM

To: merrittre43@icloud.com <merrittre43@icloud.com>

Subject: RE: Reaching out for a favor

Hi Richard,

To start, here are some awards he's won while chairing SAPCA:

1. Lewis Hines Award for Service to Children and Youth (2013) – National award presented to five professionals and five volunteers, annually, for their unheralded and exceptional service to young people
2. Living Legends (2012)
3. Volunteer Alexandria (2013) Marian van Landingham Lifetime Achievement Award

Other high points:

- Allen Lomax has been an active volunteer and leader advocating for policies and community change to promote the well-being, growth, and development of youth in Alexandria for over 30 years.
- Allen played a pivotal role in forming and later leading the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
- In January of 2009, he became the Chair of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA), one of the Partnership's initial workgroups
- He helped apply, twice, for the Drug Free Communities grant that funded SAPCA for the past ten years
- He helped apply successfully for the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grant which SAPCA was awarded in 2020
- He has volunteered over 3500 hours of his time to SAPCA.
- Under his leadership, SAPCA has begun several initiatives that directly affect the health and lives of youth
- Before supporting any advocacy efforts or community changes, Allen first question is always, "How will this support and benefit the youth of Alexandria?"
- Allen Lomax is a unique youth advocate who truly understands that community change happens through providing information and education, building relationships and programmatic supports, and creating policy and environmental changes.
- Throughout his volunteer "career" with SAPCA, he has maintained a passionate commitment to the well-being, growth and development of youth and, in doing so, has made lasting contributions and changes to benefit youth in Alexandria.

Hope this helps!

Noraine

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Response was added on 08/02/2023 2:45pm.

We are looking for:

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3. An individual/organization whose work has improved the health of vulnerable and underserved Alexandria residents;
4. An individual/organization whose efforts have helped to reduce health disparities.

1) Nominator Name:	Annette Naeimypour
2) Nominator Address:	_____
3) Nominator Phone:	(703) 200-5234
4) Nominator Email:	sawnaei@yahoo.com
5) Relationship to Nominee/Organization:	Grandson's Dentist
6) Nominee Name:	Faranak Ghalehbaghi, D.S.S.
7) Nominee Address:	4605-D Pinecrest Office Park Drive Alexandria, VA 22312
8) Nominee Phone:	(703) 663-8005
9) Nominee Email:	_____

- 10) Please check which Award Criteria your nominee meets: Nominees will be eligible if they fit into one of the following five criteria:
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 - ☒ An individual/organization whose work has improved the health of vulnerable and underserved Alexandria residents;
 - ☒ An individual/organization whose efforts have helped to reduce health disparities.

Letter Of Support:

- 11) Please provide about 250 words describing the nominee's merits for the award.
- Please indicate examples of how the nominee has made a significant impact on Alexandrians' public health and well-being, as well as fostered an improved quality of life for the community through their volunteer efforts.
- Please include the nominee's accomplishments beyond areas of paid responsibility, as appropriate.
- Dr. Ghalehbaghi is admired by her peers and patients. Her expertise, calm manner , no- nonsense attitude helps ease the anxiety of parents and guardians' especially those seeking treatment for special needs children. She has served her community by providing dental care that is centered around each individual . No matter who or where you come from Dr. Ghalehbaghi is attentive and informed about how to handle your care. Her accomplishments and her precision of care is second to none. She is innovative in her treatments. Dr. Ghalehbaghi is a trustworthy member of her profession and someone to be admired for her skills in Dentistry.
- 12) Please attach any additional letters of support or support documents you wish the commission to take into consideration.

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Response was added on 08/25/2023 4:52pm.

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3. An individual/organization whose work has improved the health of vulnerable and underserved Alexandria residents;
4. An individual/organization whose efforts have helped to reduce health disparities.

1)	Nominator Name:	Robin Wallin
2)	Nominator Address:	1340 Braddock Place
3)	Nominator Phone:	(703) 619-8341
4)	Nominator Email:	robin.wallin@acps.k12.va.us
5)	Relationship to Nominee/Organization:	Colleague
6)	Nominee Name:	Fredy Martinez
7)	Nominee Address:	Alexandria City Public Schools 1340 Braddock Place Alexandria, VA 22314
8)	Nominee Phone:	(571) 289-2928
9)	Nominee Email:	fredy.martinez@acps.k12.va.us

- 10) Please check which Award Criteria your nominee meets: Nominees will be eligible if they fit into one of the following five criteria:

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- ☒ An individual/organization whose dedication to public service has helped prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, improve access to health services, and/or ensure appropriate health care for vulnerable Alexandrians;
- ☐ An individual/organization whose work has improved the health of vulnerable and underserved Alexandria residents;
- ☐ An individual/organization whose efforts have helped to reduce health disparities.

Letter Of Support:

- 11) Please provide about 250 words describing the nominee's merits for the award.

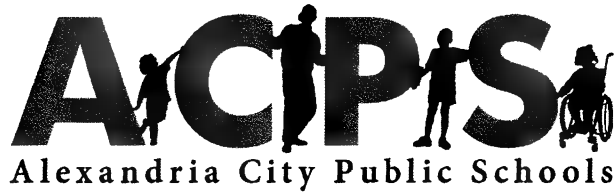
Please indicate examples of how the nominee has made a significant impact on Alexandrians' public health and well-being, as well as fostered an improved quality of life for the community through their volunteer efforts.

Please include the nominee's accomplishments beyond areas of paid responsibility, as appropriate.

In his role as the Substance Abuse Coordinator for Alexandria City Public Schools, Fredy Martinez uniquely and positively impacts some of Alexandria's most vulnerable youth, giving them an opportunity for a healthy and improved quality of life. He works tirelessly to develop programs to address substance abuse prevention and to also connect students and families to substance abuse treatment services when needed. He has been instrumental in developing a regular seminar for students and parents that introduces them to the substance abuse services available to Alexandria residents. Mr. Martinez also serves as an expert for other school staff and community members and collaborates with city and regional service providers to ensure that our students have the resources they need. In my role as the Director of School Health Services, I have had the privilege to work alongside Mr. Martinez as we implemented our stock naloxone protocols and trained several hundred staff and parents to be able to administer this life-saving medication. He meets with every student who is referred to his program and develops relationships that bring healing and hope in the midst of brokenness. He has also been instrumental in also bringing a recovery support group for teens to our community and works in his spare time coaching soccer and being a role model for young people. Fredy Martinez truly exhibits a passionate dedication to public service, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, and the improvement of access to substance abuse treatment services for Alexandria youth. It is an honor to nominate Fredy Martinez for the Flora Krause Casey Public Health Award.



- 12) Please attach any additional letters of support or support documents you wish the commission to take into consideration.

[FILE: LOS Fredy Martinez.pdf]



1340 Braddock Place
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: 703-619-8000
TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay)
www.acps.k12.va.us

 @ACPSk12
 /ACPSk12

Superintendent
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

School Board

Chair
Michelle Rief

Vice Chair
Kelly Carmichael Booz

Members
Meagan L. Alderton
Willie F. Bailey, Sr.
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
Jacinta Greene
W. Christopher Harris
Tammy Ignacio
Ashley Simpson Baird

August 25, 2023

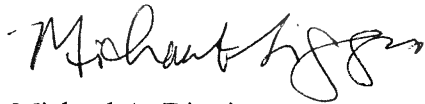
Flora Krause Casey Public Health Award Nomination

To whom it may concern:

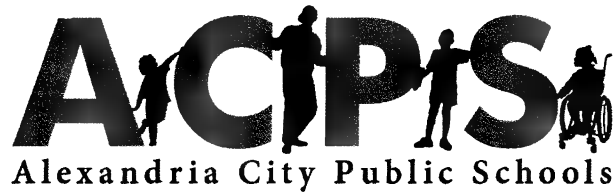
I am writing in support of the nomination of Fredy Martinez for the 2023 Flora Krause Casey Public Health Award. I have known Mr. Martinez for almost 6 years while serving as the dean of students at Francis C. Hammond Middle School in Alexandria. I owe Mr. Martinez for influencing my opinion, and ultimately, our practice in terms of how we addressed students who were identified as in danger of being addicted to drugs, etc. Prior to Mr. Martinez working with our school, our approach to students who were caught using or selling drugs was punitive. Fredy convinced us that substance abuse is best addressed through education and prevention. In addition to speaking to our staff and families, Mr. Martinez also helped to educate our counselors and social workers with the referral process (to include, at that time, referral letters in both English and Spanish). Over the years, Mr. Martinez has presented to hundreds of families and students and encouraged us to set up support groups that were held at the school.

Currently, as the Executive Director of Student Services, I work directly with Mr. Martinez in advising district leaders how they can educate students and staff about the dangers of substance abuse. His subject knowledge, community connections and undying commitment to educating and helping others is unmatched. He is truly a community gem who is more than deserving of recognition.

Sincerely,





Michael A. Diggins
Executive Director of Student Services



1340 Braddock Place
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: 703-619-8000
TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay)
www.acps.k12.va.us

 @ACPSk12
 /ACPSk12

Superintendent
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

School Board

Chair
Michelle Rief

Vice Chair
Kelly Carmichael Booz

Members
Meagan L. Alderton
Willie F. Bailey, Sr.
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
Jacinta Greene
W. Christopher Harris
Tammy Ignacio
Ashley Simpson Baird

August 25, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter in support of the nomination of Fredy Martinez for the Flora Krause Casey Award. Fredy Martinez is currently serving as the K-12 Substance Abuse Services Coordinator for Alexandria City Public Schools. In this capacity, Fredy has created a multi-tiered program of support that runs the continuum from prevention to intervention services. He provides age and developmentally appropriate lesson materials for schools to provide prevention education to students, trains teachers and staff on current trends, and was instrumental in the implementation of Narcan administration in our schools.

In all tasks and programming, Fredy brings a true passion for the work. School staff consistently name him as a valuable resource, and I know that the work he has done in support of students and families has truly saved lives. It is an honor and privilege to work with and learn from him, and I know that our Alexandria city community is a healthier one as a result of his work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,



Faiza Jackson, LCSW
Director of School Social Work
Alexandria City Public Schools

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Response was added on 08/04/2023 2:23pm.

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1. An individual/organization whose efforts have improved the health and quality of life of Alexandrians;
2. An individual/organization whose dedication to public service has helped prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, improve access to health services, and/or ensure appropriate health care for vulnerable Alexandrians;
3. An individual/organization whose work has improved the health of vulnerable and underserved Alexandria residents;
4. An individual/organization whose efforts have helped to reduce health disparities.

1) Nominator Name:	Nadia Pedersen
2) Nominator Address:	401 North Payne Street Alexandria VA
3) Nominator Phone:	(703) 232-0977
4) Nominator Email:	npedersen@bgcgw.org
5) Relationship to Nominee/Organization:	Professional/Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
6) Nominee Name:	Michael Menchel
7) Nominee Address:	401 North Payne Street Alexandria VA
8) Nominee Phone:	(571) 213-4609
9) Nominee Email:	

- 10) Please check which Award Criteria your nominee meets: Nominees will be eligible if they fit into one of the following five criteria:
- ☒ An individual/organization whose efforts have improved the health and quality of life of Alexandrians;
 - ☐ An individual/organization whose dedication to public service has helped prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, improve access to health services, and/or ensure appropriate health care for vulnerable Alexandrians;
 - ☐ An individual/organization whose work has improved the health of vulnerable and underserved Alexandria residents;
 - ☐ An individual/organization whose efforts have helped to reduce health disparities.

Letter Of Support:

- 11) Please provide about 250 words describing the nominee's merits for the award.
- Please indicate examples of how the nominee has made a significant impact on Alexandrians' public health and well-being, as well as fostered an improved quality of life for the community through their volunteer efforts.
- Please include the nominee's accomplishments beyond areas of paid responsibility, as appropriate.
- Michael Menchel or "Mr. Mike" as our hundreds of members and staff like to call him, has been a dedicated volunteer at the Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Mike has been an avid volunteer at our club for over 10 years. You can always count on him for a warm smile and an uplifting high five as he greets each member at our front door after school. Mr. Mike has a passion for bike riding and physical fitness. He believes in keeping the kids active and healthy. He worked with local organizations and stores to have bikes donated to the Boys & Girls club for our members to use for our weekly bike club. We are happy to report that from his efforts we now have over 50 bikes that our members use and enjoy regularly. Our members have also been a part of the Alexandria parade, which gives our members pride and a sense of being part of our amazing community. The Boys & Girls Clubs mission to help and empower youth that need us the most. We serve mostly at-risk youth, and it is imperative that we have strong male figures and mentors in our members lives. Mr. Mike's dedication to our youth and his dedication to our community is second to none. Mr. Mike has made it is goal and focus to ensure our youth receive the highest level of programming and life experiences. We are absolutely blessed to have Mr. Mike as a beloved volunteer at The Alexandria Club.
- 12) Please attach any additional letters of support or support documents you wish the commission to take into consideration.
- [FILE: 20171103_175834 (1).jpg]



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER WASHINGTON
ALEXANDRIA OLYMPIC BRANCH

Bike

Public Health Advisory Commission

2023 Statement of Principle

Maternal and Infant Mortality Report

Name: Andrew C Romero (or Jerome)

Email: andrew.phac@gmail.com (or Jerome's email)

GENERAL SUBJECT AREA — TITLE PROPOSAL

Paid Family Leave (6 weeks minimum)

COUNCIL PRIORITY: (Which City Council Priority does this proposal support?)

Support Youth and Families

STATE OR FEDERAL PACKAGE:

State

PROPOSAL: * (Provide a brief description of legislative or funding position)

The Public Health Advisory Commission proposes that our state, Virginia, expand and fully implement a minimum of 6 weeks of paid family leave for all new parents. This policy is designed to prioritize the health and well-being of mothers and babies, ensuring that parents have the necessary time and financial support to bond with their newborns and access essential postpartum care.

SOURCE: *(Provide the name of the Council Member, Department, Board, or Commission generating the proposal and the date of the proposal)

Public Health Advisory Commission (PHAC)

BACKGROUND:

Paid family leave policies have shown profound positive impacts on the health and well-being of both parents and children. Such policies lead to increased postpartum care, especially among women of diverse racial groups, and result in beneficial outcomes like increased breastfeeding rates, timely vaccinations for infants, and a decrease in hospital admissions for pediatric abusive head trauma. However, in states without comprehensive paid family leave, many new parents are left to rely on the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which offers only unpaid, job-protected leave. While

Virginia has taken a step in the right direction by providing eligible state employees with 8 weeks of paid family leave benefits, there's an opportunity to use this as a foundation and expand these benefits to all Virginians. This proposal aligns with the city's priority to "Support Youth and Families" and resonates with the secondary priority to "Provide Diverse Housing Opportunities."

Additional Background Information:

The Prenatal-to-3 (PN3) policy clearinghouse (<https://pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-2022/va/>) is a comprehensive resource that evaluates the effectiveness of state-level policies and strategies that impact the early life of children, from prenatal stages to age three. Their rigorous research and evidence-based approach have highlighted the undeniable benefits of paid family leave. According to PN3, state paid family leave programs not only improve the economic security of families but also play a pivotal role in enhancing child and parental health and wellbeing. By allowing parents the time and financial security to bond with their newborns, these programs foster better child-mother relationships, increase the likelihood of timely and preventative health care, and even impact the mental health of parents positively.

In line with the Council's priority to "Provide Diverse Housing Opportunities, the "Healthy Parents Healthy Babies" report (<https://housingequityframework.org/healthyparents-healthybabies>) offers insights into the challenges faced by pregnant individuals and new parents experiencing homelessness or housing instability. While the report's primary focus is on housing stability during the perinatal period, it underscores the broader challenges that can be alleviated with supportive policies like paid family leave. The report suggests that providing both housing and income support during the perinatal period can significantly improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

Eliminating Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Mortality in Alexandria, Virginia

Presented by: Monica Kozlowski

Alexandria PHAC
October 2021

Agenda

1. Background on Maternal and Infant Mortality
2. Overview of Evidence-Based Frameworks
3. Local and State-Level Policy Recommendations

Maternal Mortality:

a death occurring during pregnancy or within one year of delivery resulting from a pregnancy complication (CDC)

Infant Mortality:

the death of a child under one year of age (CDC)

Black birthing people and babies are far more likely to suffer from pregnancy-associated deaths than their White counterparts due to systemic racism

Black women in VA are **6 times more likely** to face racial discrimination during pregnancy than White women

- Virginia is ranked 25th in the country for lowest maternal mortality rates
- VA's maternal mortality rate has not seen a decline since 1982

Maternal Mortality



Nearly **four times greater rate of infant mortality for Black babies** in Alexandria

Infant Mortality

- Infant mortality rate for Black babies in VA is **64% higher** than the state average
- Virginia is ranked 23rd in the country for infant mortality rates
- Alexandria's infant mortality rate has been on the rise since 2016



**Unfair and unjust practices
kill Black Mothers, Birthing
People, and Babies and drive
health disparities**

Evidence-Based Frameworks for Reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality



Black Mamas Matter (BMM) Alliance Framework

The BMM Alliance is comprised of cross-sector leaders and advocates who have created a toolkit with policy recommendations to eradicate racial disparities in maternal mortality.



▪ Governor's Maternal Health Strategic Plan

Created by Governor Northam with the goal of eliminating racial disparities in maternal mortality by 2025 for the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Prenatal-to-3 Roadmap (Pn3)

The Pn3 framework focuses on the time frame of the prenatal period up to the age of 3, as this encompasses key developmental stages to put forth scientifically backed goals that support infant health and development.



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Recommendations to Address Racial Disparities and Support Mothers, Birthing People, and Babies in Alexandria

Local and State-level
Recommendations

State Recommendations

Adopt and fully implement at a minimum, **6 weeks of paid family** leave following the birth, adoption, or placement of a child into foster care

Implement a refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit of at least 10% of the federal EITC for all eligible families with children under the age of 3

Allow for presumptive eligibility for pregnancy-related services for Medicaid

Allocate funding towards training for primary care providers in family planning counseling and service delivery, especially in medically underserved areas

Require VA Maternal Mortality Review Team members to be reflective of the state's demographic composition

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Require VA **Maternal Mortality Review Team** members to be reflective of the state's demographic composition

Local Recommendations

Funding to support the **position of a coordinator** who will oversee and manage the availability, quality, and coordination of health services for mothers and infants across the City of Alexandria, as well as data collection and sharing between these parties.

Funding to support postpartum mental health services

(Aligns with: Community Health Improvement Plan, Mental Health, Taking Action: Strategy D, Tactic 4)

Local Recommendations

Funding to support the position of a coordinator who will oversee and manage the availability, quality, and coordination of health services for mothers and infants across the City of Alexandria, as well as data collection and sharing between these parties.

Funding to support **postpartum mental health services**

(Aligns with: Community Health Improvement Plan, Mental Health, Taking Action: Strategy D, Tactic 4)

Thank you for your time and attention.

Questions?