



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

**Minutes of the Thursday, February 16, 2023
PHAC Meeting
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom
Alexandria Health Department**

Virtual	Chair - Andrew Romero (AR), Richard Merritt (RM), Anita McClendon (AM), Sylvia Jones (SJ) Jerome Cordts (JC) Julie Stahlhut (JS) JeanAnne Mayhan (JM), Lisa Chimento (LC), Dr. Michael Trahos (MT) Melissa Riddy (MR) Dr. Jessica Hill (JH),
Absent (Excused)	Patricia Rodgers (PR)
Absent (Unexcused)	
AHD Representatives	Casey Colzani (CC), Dr. David Rose (DR) Natalie Talis, (NT)
Guests	

I. Establishment of a Quorum

- Meeting called to order at 5:23 pm by Chair Andrew Romero (AR) role taken.

II. Approval of the December 2022 Minutes

- Julie Stahlhut (JS) motioned to approve January 2023 minutes, Anita McClendon (AM) Second. Two amendments proposed- edit Grassroots Alexandria not Council will receive a letter from Andrew, and Richard requested the Flora K Casey award be an agenda item at next meeting. All in favor, motion passes, minutes adopted as amended.

III. Presentation on Enhanced SNAP and Medicaid Benefit Sunset by Patrick Okoronokwo, DCHS

- Patrick Okoronokwo from Department of Community and Human Services presented on the enhanced Medicaid benefit sunset.
- During expanded emergency benefits eligibility review was not required- no one was removed as a beneficiary during the emergency.

- Department will reassess eligibility for all Medicaid cases Alexandria has about 19,000 cases 33,000 individuals. Cases will either be approved or denied due to income or citizenship status. Anticipating that approximately 8,000 Cases in Alexandria will be closed and statewide 400,000 cases.
- Any closed cases will have the ability to appeal and will not lose coverage during the appeal process.
- 40-50% of staff have never done renewals. Training has begun and a dedicated staff will process the 19,000 cases over the next 12 months. There is a \$100,000/day fine if cases are not reviewed in 14 months.
- Will continue to process new applications.
- Approximately 50million across the country will lose coverage.
- DMAS sends renewal packages and there is a 60 day window for DCHS to receive the renewal information after which the case will close. But they will have an additional 90 days to return the packet in which it will be reviewed for renewal and the case could be reopened. After which individuals will have to apply for a new case which could take up to 45 days.
- Approximately 1 hour to process a family's renewal.
- Currently down about ten staff. Department is contacting previous employees and retirees for contractual work. Other City departments will be assisting with non-technical processes.
- DSS and DMAS are working managed care organizations to help notify members of the renewal process and assist them with completing renewal information in a timely manner.
- Commissioners had questions about staffing levels and budgeting. The state will be allocating overtime funds.
- City is responsible for ensuring that staffing is appropriate. But turnover is high. Patrick asked for support for 2-3 additional staff- these may be included in the upcoming budget. PHAC will send support levels as appropriate.
- Lisa Chimento – Neighborhood Health had staff assisting clients with Medicaid packets. Staff is preparing to support in the renewal process through notification and assistance to clients throughout the process.
- INOVA and their team are also assisting patients with renewal and new applications.

IV. Updates from the Chair-

- PAHC sent a letter to council regarding the possibility Local Administration of the Health Department. City will reach out to PHAC more directly as the process continues.
- Vice-Chair- Andrew Romero (AR) requested a discussion about selecting a vice-chair. Dr. Michael Trahos(MT) motioned to nominate Lisa Chimento as

Vice-Chair, Sylvia Jones (SJ) second. All in favor, motion passed. Lisa Chimento is now Vice-Chair.

V. Health Department Updates- Presentation on Health Data by Natalie Talis

- Natalie Talis presented on the health data and how AHD uses data to guide work.
- AHD uses Composite data like Community Health Assessments and County Health Rankings- Alexandria typically scores high on these assessments, so further analysis is used to further understand health in the community.
- AHD teams work with community and community partners to find what the community members are reporting as gaps in access.
- AHD works with community partners on solutions and evaluates the effectiveness of programs with the community.
- AHD reports to City council, Key Stakeholders, and the community on programs and current state of health (Reported daily, weekly, and monthly on COVID)
- Choose to work with impacted groups directly to develop individualized best practices for those groups.
- For the commission to consider for the future: What health topics would PHAC like data on for the commission and for council. What inflection points would PHAC want to receive data. Where in the data analysis process would it be helpful to share with Council.

VI. Announcements

VII. Public Comment

- No members of the public in attendance.

VIII. Adjournment

- JS motioned for meeting adjournment, MT second. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.