



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

**Minutes of the Thursday, June 15, 2023
PHAC Meeting
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid 4850 Mark Center Drive and via Zoom
Alexandria Health Department**

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

I. Establishment of a Quorum

- Meeting called to order at 5:38 pm by Chair Andrew Romero (AR); role taken.

II. Approval of the May 2023 Minutes

- Patricia Rodgers (PR) motioned to approve May 2023 minutes, Jerome Cordts (JC) Second.

III. Gun Safety and Gun Violence in Alexandria w/ Guest Speaker Councilwoman Bagley

- Councilwoman Sarah Bagley came to speak with the commission about non-law enforcement response to the increase in gun violence.
- Dedicated page on City Web Page about Red Flag law. For those who, through due process, have been determined to be mentally unsafe... have weapons taken away or sales blocked.
- Recent budget items: Mental Health support in Recreation Centers. Will be part-time employees, still determining staffing.

- Summer youth employment 241k increase to match the employment waitlist. Moving forward, will need public/private partnerships to become part of the program.
- ACORP – Alexandria Co-response Program. APD who are paired w/ a mental health professional. Previously only had one team. To ensure the best response to crisis calls. Have added two additional teams to provide near round-the-clock coverage.
- DSCH- suicide prevention. Lock-and-Talk state grant program. City has received 3 grants to focus on youth mental health and work on destigmatizing Capital Youth Empowerment Program, ACHS Mental Health Matters Club, and the Cooperative Opportunity Project received these grants. Act-Talk-Connect regional program begins with a focus on destigmatizing mental health conversations and connection with resources.
- Commissioners had questions about what the City's priorities would be resources, targeted groups, funding, etc. Safe storage conversations are key, as APD addressed the last meeting there is an increase of unsecured legal guns getting into the hands of youth. Conversations with parents and schools about mental health and proper storage and security of firearms.
- Councilperson Bagley offered to come back in the fall to discuss more ways that the public health aspect can be incorporated into the City's plan and budget for the next budget cycle.
- PR requested follow-up discussion on gun safety at next meeting. Requested AHD to discuss the topic from a public health perspective.

IV. Chair Election-

- AR is resigning from his position as Chair- effective and the conclusion of today's meeting.
- Richard Merritt (RM) nominated Jerome Cordts to replace him as chair through the end of his term in December. Second. Anita McClendon. Discussion was held about the nominee.
- All in favor, Jerome Cordts will become Chair through December.
- Chair and Vice-Chair positions will be up for re-election/ new nominations at the December 2023 meeting per PHAC by-laws

V. CHIP Update

- JeanAnn Mayhan provided the quarterly update for the CHIP. (*Previous quarterly delayed due to canceled meeting*)
- Commission was updated on the Spring 2023 CHIP Progress Report that was shared prior to last month's meeting. 80 tactics were designed to address policy and programmatic needs in the City, 75% of CHIP tactics are in progress.
- Will continue to provide brief quarterly updates and a compressive update every six months.

- Commission is a tactic owner on Housing
- PR presented on the Health Homes tactic and the Healthy Homes Network Kick-Off Tactic is to support health and well-being at home. Clean, pest-free, mold-free, etc.
- 40 people attended the Health Homes Network Kick-Off, which included landlords, property managers, housing providers, staff from multiple City departments and Rebuilding Together. Three deliverables, improving communication (searchable entities), identifying pain points, and working with residents. PR is a representative on the metrics subcommittee.
- Natalie Talis, presented on the launch of the ALX Breaths program- a free program that helps residents with asthma or COPD. During home visits, AHD staff help participants identify and address any triggers that may be impacting their breathing. Over six months, AHD staff can help participants better manage their breathing. Income-eligible individuals with Asthma, COPD, and receive home assessments, air filters, cleaning supplies, and advice from AHD's population health team.
- NT shared informational materials that will be provided to participants including green cleaning recipe cards.
- JM requested consideration at a later meeting, about incorporating PHAC's Draft report: Eliminate Racial Disparities in Maternal and Infant Mortality in Alexandria, Virginia (October 2012). Suggested that if approved by the commission, the report could be shared with the CHIP Poverty Workgroup regarding childcare enhancements in the city.

VI. Health Department Updates

- Local administration- State and City have contacted each other but no specific action item. Loudoun County has offered its support in the process

VII. Flora K Casey Award Update

- JC provided an update. JC met with staff liaison, Casey Colzani. They finalized nomination wording and consulted on a communication plan with AHD Communication's Officer, Eve Elliott.
- Nomination form language, updated as a compromise for commissioners on individuals/organizations and including information for those going above and beyond.
- The nomination form will be released at the end of July for four to five weeks. A subcommittee will be created to do a preliminary review and then present for a commission consensus. The final selection will be in September with an October/November ceremony date. Will continue to provide monthly updates.
- Will need to finalize the location of the ceremony.

VIII. Announcements

- JM provided information about the Office of Racial and Social Equity still offering individualized

IX. Public Comment

- No public in attendance

X. Adjournment

- JM motioned for meeting adjournment, JS second. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.