



ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

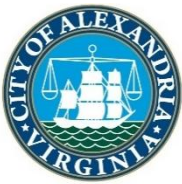
Wednesday, April 22, 2026

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

- I. Welcome All
- II. Roll Call, Verify Quorum
- III. Review/Approve Minutes
- IV. Review Agenda
- V. Updates from the Chair and Vice Chair
- VI. Health Department Highlights
- VII. Action and Discussion Items
 - Flora Krause Casey Public Health Award
 - Healthcare Access Subcommittee
 - Dental Services
- VIII. Liaison and Community Partner Updates
 - a. Inova Alexandria Hospital
 - b. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, CHIP
 - c. School Board (ACPS)
 - d. Neighborhood Health, Inc.
 - e. Community Services Board (CSB)
 - f. Alexandria Fire Department
 - g. Practicing Dentist
 - h. Practicing Physician (appt. pending)
- IX. Agenda Topics for January
- X. Public Comments
- XI. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday,

Commission Members
<input type="checkbox"/> Cassandra Walter , Chair– Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. David Bowen , Vice-Chair – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jerome Cordts - Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Chimento – NHVA Rep
<input type="checkbox"/> Anita McClendon – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/> Holly Jackson – ACPS Rep
<input type="checkbox"/> JeanAnn Mayhan – Partnership Rep
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Bretsch – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lauren Gibberman – Dentist Rep
<input type="checkbox"/> Lori Cooper – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Riddy – Inova Rep
<input type="checkbox"/> Michele Walz – Community Services Bd
<input type="checkbox"/> Nia Smart – Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/> Ramiro Galvez – Fire Department Rep
<input type="checkbox"/> Sylvia Jones – Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant – Physician Practicing in City
Alexandria Health Dept. Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. David Rose Health Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Natalie Talis, MPH Population Health Manager
<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Colzani Executive Secretary, Staff Liaison
Active List of Topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDS Commission Alignment • Public Health & Quality of Life Standing Committee (City Council) • Environmental Policy Commission • _____ • _____



Public Health Advisory Commission of Alexandria, VA

Minutes of the Thursday, March 19, 2026 PHAC Meeting 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

In-person	Chair- Cassandra Walter (CW), David Bowen (DB), Jerome Cordts (JC), Lisa Chimento (LC), Michele Walz (MW), Dr. Lauren Gibberman (LG), JeanAnn Mayhan (JM), (AM) Sylvia Jones (SJ), Melissa Riddy (MR), Jennifer Bretsch (JB), Lori Cooper (LCO)
Virtual	Nia Smart (NS), Ramiro Galvez (RG)
Absent	Anita McClendon (AM), Holly Jackson (HJ),
AHD Representatives	Casey Colzani (CC), Natalie Tallis (NT)
Guests	

I. Establishment of a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair, Cassandra Walter (CW), roll taken.

II. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

- Lisa Chimento (LC) moved to approve February 2026 minutes with edits; David Bowen (DB) seconded. All in favor; motion carried, minutes approved with edits.

III. Review Agenda

- CW reviewed agenda.

IV. Updates From the Chair

- **Commission Vacancies**
 - Medical Society of Northern Virginia will nominate Dr. Trejos again for the physician seat.
- **Meeting with Mayor Gaskins**
 - Key takeaways from Chair meeting with Mayor Gaskins
 - Regular communication cadence between PHAC and Mayor/Council
 - Identify a Council member with strong public health interests as a liaison.
 - PHAC Presence at Council meetings, share meeting notes with council regularly.
 - Track legislation with potential funding impacts.
 - Unified messaging from the commission to Council/Mayor

V. Health Department Highlights

• Potomac River Sewage Spill

- AHD staff (Dr. Gaddy) will attend the public town hall to address health-related questions. AHD does not conduct environmental testing but supports public clarification around health risks.

• Measles Preparedness and Response

- 14 statewide measles cases; 9 in Northern Virginia.
- No confirmed cases in Alexandria, but exposures have occurred.
- AHD has engaged with ~125 potentially exposed individuals.
- Strong local vaccination rates remain protective.
- DCHS helps support individuals requiring 21-day home quarantine.

• CHIP Update

- Mental wellness workgroups will launch in April; workgroup leads trained.
- Landmark/Van Dorn: accepting focus-area submissions, next meeting April 18th
- Arlandria: strong community meeting participation; developing vision statement and focus area ideas.
- Partnership for a Healthy Alexandria celebrating 20th anniversary in 2026; new grant cycle forthcoming.

VI. Action and Discussion Items

• Healthcare Access Subcommittee

- Members expressed concerns about bandwidth and the broad scope of “access.”
- Options discussed: reorganize, operate as full-commission topic, create a steering group, or dissolve.
- Tabled for June meeting following Casey Award commitments.
- Commission on Aging will begin working on dental access, NT will connect Chairs of both commissions to determine cross-commission initiative.

• Flora K. Casey Award

- Discussion regarding lack of dedicated city funding for the award.
- NT will bring a preliminary budget to AHD leadership Tuesday for review (award cost, food, supplies).
- Inova offered \$500 in sponsorship with recognition, decision deferred pending AHD guidance.
- Subcommittee still needs to: confirm ceremony date, draft budget, coordinate with AHD communications team, secure event room. Nominations will be released at the end of March through the end of Public Health Week.

VII. Active Topics Discussion

VIII. Liaison Updates

- **Inova Hospital System**
 - Landmark and Springfield Hospitals are progressing rapidly and will “top out” next month
 - Once topped out, the structures will be enclosed quickly, making them look complete from the outside even though they will open in 2028.
 - Inova is opening its annual community grants cycle, totaling approximately \$1 million in funds for nonprofit partners.
- **Neighborhood Health**
 - Neighborhood Health has raised concerns about slow WIC enrollment processing for Alexandria residents.
 - WIC processing appears faster in Arlington and Fairfax than in Alexandria. AHD delays are largely due to staffing shortages, including difficulty hiring registered dietitians because private sector salaries are much higher. AHD and NH Leadership at Mark Center Drive are in active communication to troubleshoot delay.
- **Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria**
 - See CHIP updates under Health Department Highlights

IX. Public Comment

- No public comment.

X. Adjournment

- JM moved to adjourn meeting, MW seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:02 p.m.