



## ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

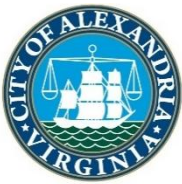
Thursday, May 21, 2026

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 K. Casey Award
- VIII. Core Values/Guiding Principals Exercise
- IX. 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)
- X. Agenda Topics for January
- XI. Public Comments
- XII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday July 16, 2026

Commission Members	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Cassandra Walter</b> , Chair- Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dr. David Bowen</b> , Vice-Chair – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dr. Jerome Cordts</b> - Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Lisa Chimento</b> – NHVA Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Anita McClendon</b> – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JeanAnn Mayhan</b> – Partnership Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Jennifer Bretsch</b> – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dr. Lauren Gibberman</b> – Dentist Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Lori Cooper</b> – Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Michele Walz</b> – Community Services Bd
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Nia Smart</b> – Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ramiro Galvez</b> – Fire Department Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sylvia Jones</b> – Health Professional
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dr. Michael Trahos</b> – Physician Practicing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant- Inova Rep
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant- ACPS Rep
Alexandria Health Dept. Staff	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dr. David Rose</b> Health Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Natalie Talis, MPH</b> Population Health Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Casey Colzani</b> Executive Secretary, Staff Liaison



**Minutes of the Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
Virtual PHAC Meeting  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

<b>In-person</b>	
<b>Virtual</b>	Chair- Cassandra Walter (CW), Jerome Cordts (JC), Michele Walz (MW), JeanAnn Mayhan (JM), David Bowen (DB), Anita McClendon (AM) Lisa Chimento (LC), Jennifer Bretsch (JB)
<b>Absent</b>	Ramiro Galvez (RG), Nia Smart (NS), Sylvia Jones (SJ), Dr. Michael Trahos (MT), Dr. Lauren Gibberman (LG),
<b>AHD Representatives</b>	Casey Colzani (CC), Dr. David Rose (DR), Natalie Tallis (NT)
<b>Guests</b>	Dominic Bonaiuto (Inova)

**I. Establishment of a Quorum**

- Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm by Chair, Cassandra Walter (CW), roll taken.

**II. Approval of the previous meeting minutes**

- Lisa Chimento (LC) moved to approve previous month’s minutes; David Bowwen (DB). All in favor; motion carried, minutes approved with edits.

**III. Review Agenda**

- CW reviewed agenda.

**IV. Updates From the Chair**

- Dr. Trahos returning as the physician liaison nominated by the Medical Society of Northern Virginia.
- ACPS and Inova liaison positions are vacant. Inova will have a temporary representative at PHAC meeting until role is filled.

**V. Health Department Highlights**

- CHIP
  - AHD applying for the “Love Your Block” grant to support CHIP implementation. Commissioners are encouraged to continue sharing grant opportunities.
  - Arlandria- Held two community meetings conducted primarily in Spanish. Current goals are refining the neighborhood vision statement and initial focus-areas. Themes so far are Community Belonging, Social Connection, Safet welcoming “third spaces”.
  - Landmark/Van Dorn- focus areas selected: Youth opportunities outside school, community safety & violence prevention, greenspace, recreation and

- safe outdoor activity areas. Next steps will be to determine work groups, define problems, maps existing resources and neighborhood outreach.
- Mental Wellness – All five workgroups have held their first meetings.
  - Thank you to all the commissioners who have supported.
  - **Healthy Homes**
    - Last year’s Council add/delete item (approx. \$112,000) successfully supported: CHW home assessments, Education and outreach, Healthy Homes initiatives. Due to the program’s success, this year’s budget includes approx. \$83,000 in continued funding.
  - **Mayor’s Community Convening**
    - Presentation delivered by AHD’s Population Health Team.
    - Several concerns raised by community participants:
      - Lack of granular, neighborhood-level data
      - State data sometimes based on very small Alexandria samples (10–15 people)
      - Insufficient data about homelessness
      - Challenges addressing health disparities without detailed demographic info
      - Strong community theme:
        - The African American community feels more fragmented today than in the past.
        - Loss of community cohesion is impacting mental and social well-being.
        - Interns took notes; follow-up actions will be shared with the Mayor.
  - **Measles Preparedness**
    - Nearby counties have active cases, though Alexandria has had none. AHD continues monitoring and maintaining readiness.
    - Coordination underway with, ACPS, City partners, DCHS for quarantine and support planning
    - Ensuring updated communication plans, materials, and operational readiness
  - **State Health Commissioner’s Updates**
    - New VDH Commissioner Dr. Cameron Webb recently appointed.
    - Dr. Webb previously led federal health equity initiatives at the White House. He intends to reestablish health equity as a core strategic framework within VDH, form an internal task force, release a report within the year or early next year, integrate equity into program planning, data reporting, and structural drivers of health.

## **VI. Action and Discussion Items**

- **Flora Krause Casey Public Health Award**
  - Subcommittee update: Ceremony set for June 9 at 5:30 PM, Council Overflow Room at Mark Center. Refreshments and materials finalized; award is ready pending engraving.
  - Only one nomination was received but determined to be strong and appropriate.

- LC moved to approve Rosy Noguchi as the awardee of the 2026 award, BD second. All in favor, motion carried.
- Committee will notify the awardee and proceed with engraving.
- AHD communications team will handle press release and program materials.
- Dental Services
  - PHAC and Commission on Aging representatives met to discuss dental access in Alexandria and the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic and unfilled appointments.
  - AHD and Northern Virginia Dental Clinic to follow up on referral process alignment and appointment utilization.
  - Commission to revisit whether dental access will remain a priority after establishing core values in May.
  - Potential liaison role identified for staying informed about Commission on Aging dental efforts without forming a joint committee at this time.
  - Commissioners to consider including Neighborhood Health and local dental providers in future discussions or panels once priorities are defined.
- Health Care Access Subcommittee
  - Discussed whether to continue or disband the Health Care Access Subcommittee. Access to care is a core value of the entire Commission's mission, not a single project area.
  - Commissioners noted any existing efforts (CHIP coalitions, mental wellness work groups, dental access efforts) already address access issues.
  - The Health Care Access Subcommittee formally disbanded by consensus.
  - Will hold a strategic planning session at the May meeting to clarify, core values, priority areas, and possible collaborations with other commissions.

## **VII. Liaison and Community Partner Updates**

- Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
  - CHIP Updates under AHD updates
- Inova Hospital System
  - Dominic Bonaiuto will be standing in for the Inova representative position until permanent fulfillment.
  - Inove hosted topping0out ceremony for new Inova Alexandria Hopsital. Project is progressing well with opening in late 2028

## **VIII. Public Comment**

- No public comment.

## **IX. Adjournment**

- Anita McClendon (AM) motioned to adjourn JM second. All in favor, motion carried.



What are three areas you believe PHAC can make the most difference in improving health among Alexandrians?

## PART 1: Write Your Group's Ideas Down

Raising profile/  
understanding of  
public health  
issues w/ council  
and other  
commissions

Promote creation  
of resource  
connector

Advocate for PH  
infrastructure -  
specifically  
workforce

Promote  
community  
services that  
support targeted  
groups

Improve  
healthcare access  
and quality

Diversity, Equity,  
and Inclusion.

Advise Council  
on Budget and  
Policy

Monitor health  
stats indicators  
and  
recommending  
actions

Public Health  
Value for money  
(including public  
money)  
ie City grant to  
Inova

Serve as a bridge  
between AHD and  
Council - Make  
policy  
recommendations  
which AHD cannot

Focus on non-  
insured patients

Concentrate on  
Medicaid & issues  
of PCPs not  
accepting  
Medicaid patients

Effective  
implementation of  
Tobacco control  
policy

Establish  
partnerships with  
other  
commissions and  
boards

Reduce racial  
disparities and  
premature death.

Increase  
involvement/  
presence with city  
council

Legislative  
process in  
Richmond

Coverage  
mapping access  
for vulnerable  
populations

Be valued,  
independent  
source of insights  
on critical public  
health issues

Prevention of  
intimate partner  
violence.

Concentrate on  
access to care a  
priority issue-  
Medicaid/Medicare  
reimbursements-  
dwindling  
reimbursements

Advocate for  
preserving  
reproductive  
health



What are three areas you believe PHAC can make the most difference in improving health among Alexandrians?

## PART 2: Ideas From All Groups - Clustered by Theme

### HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Improve healthcare access and quality

Coverage mapping access for vulnerable populations

Concentrate on access to care a a priority issue- Medicaid/Medicare reimbursements- dwindling reimbursements

Focus on non-insured patients

Monitor health stats indicators and recommending actions

Concentrate on Medicaid & issues of PCPs not accepting Medicaid patients

### COMMUNITY SERVICE RESOURCES

Promote creation of resource connector

Promote community services that support targeted groups

#### STAND ALONE

Legislative process in Richmond

### ADVISE COUNCIL

Advise Council on Budget and Policy

Increase involvement/ presence with city council

Serve as a bridge between AHD and Council - Make policy recommendations which AHD cannot

Raising profile/ understanding of public health issues w/ council and other commissions

Public Health Value for money (including public money) ie City grant to Inova

Establish partnerships with other commissions and boards

Be valued, independent source of insights on critical public health issues

#### STAND ALONE

Advocate for PH infrastructure - specifically workforce

#### STAND ALONE

Effective implementation of Tobacco control policy

### HEALTH EQUITY

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Reduce racial disparities and premature death.

#### STAND ALONE

Prevention of intimate partner violence.

#### STAND ALONE

Advocate for preserving reproductive health



What are three areas you believe PHAC can make the most difference in improving health among Alexandrians?

## PART 3: Rank Themes

Healthcare Access

10

Advise Council

9

Community  
Service Resources

5

PH Infrastructure

3

Health Equity

3

Tobacco Control

3

State Legislative

2

Reproductive Rights

1

Intimate Partner  
Violence

0

**PHAC ANNUAL ACTIVITIES (as of May 2026)**

<b>REQUIRED ANNUAL PHAC ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Due</b>
City Manager Budget Letter	September	November
City Legislative Agenda	August	October
Annual Report	July	October
Chair Elections	N/A	December

<b>OPTIONAL ANNUAL PHAC ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Targeted Timeframe</b>
Chair Meeting with Mayor	ASAP in the Calendar Year
Flora K. Casey Award	Public Health Week (Nominations or Ceremony)

## **ALEXANDRIA CITY CODE:**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION**

#### **Functions, powers and duties; staff assistance:**

The functions, powers and duties of the commission shall be to advise and support the City and the City council as to:

- Evaluating and advising regarding any and all health matters in the City; the planning for and coordination of public health needs, services and programs, and regarding the priority of public health needs, services and programs in the City;
- To provide information and evaluation of public health related matters at the request of City council;
- To investigate specific public health issues on its own initiative and at the request of the City council, and render advice and recommendations for evaluating and ameliorating such issues as the commission deems appropriate;
- To provide a forum for the discussion of public health matters for citizens and health professionals in the City;
- To render advice and recommendations concerning the advantage or disadvantage of specific health care practices or services to the public;
- To do and consider all things necessary or convenient to carry out the responsibilities expressly given in this subsection; and
- Such other tasks as may be requested by the City council.

Except as expressly provided in this article, the commission may adopt rules and regulations in regard to procedure and other matters for the conduct of its business, so long as the same are not inconsistent with the city code, including, but not limited to, the establishment of committees through which it may carry on its functions, duties and purpose.

Subject to the availability of funds and staff, the city manager and director of the Alexandria Health Department shall provide staff or other assistance to the commission. (Ord. No. 4557, 6/24/08, Sec. 1).

# **ALEXANDRIA CITY CODE:**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **Creation, composition, organization and term:**

**Members:** 16

**City Staff:** Casey Colzani, Alexandria Health Department, 703.746.4956

The Public Health Advisory Commission, initially established by Resolution No. 790, adopted May 12, 1981, is hereby established by ordinance and designated as a standing committee known as the Public Health Advisory Commission.

The 16 members of the commission shall be appointed by the City council as follows:

- 3 Citizen members, who shall be health professionals and at the time of appointment derive, or within the previous five years derived, their principal income from providing health care, health services or health related activities
- 5 Citizen members, who shall not be professionals as defined above
- 1 Physician practicing in the City, nominated by the Medical Society of Northern Virginia
- 1 Dentist practicing in the City, nominated by the Northern Virginia Dental Society
- 1 Representative of the Alexandria Community Services Board, nominated by such board
- 1 Representative from the Inova Alexandria Hospital, nominated by the hospital
- 1 Representative from the Neighborhood Health Inc. Board of Directors, nominated by such board
- 1 Representative from the City's Fire Department, nominated by the City manager
- 1 Representative from the Alexandria City School Board, nominated by such board
- 1 Representative from the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria Steering Committee, nominated by such committee

The members shall serve for a term of two years, and such terms shall be staggered, except that a member who is the representative of an organization shall cease to be a member upon termination of such representative capacity. City council shall fill vacancies for the unexpired portion of the term.

## *ARTICLE V Public Health Advisory Commission*

**Editorial Note:** Ord. No. 4557, § 1, adopted June 24, 2008, amended the Code by adding provisions designated as a new Art. U, §§ 2-4-140, 2-4-141. Inasmuch as there already exist provisions so designated, the provisions of said Ord. No. 4557 have been included herein as Art. V, §§ 2-4-170, 2-4-171 at the discretion of the editor. See also the Code Comparative Table.

### **Sec. 2-4-170 Creation, composition, organization and term.**

- (a) The public health advisory commission, initially established by Resolution No. 790, adopted May 12, 1981, is hereby established by ordinance and designated as a standing committee known as the public health advisory commission.
- (b) The 16 members of the commission shall be appointed by the city council as follows:
  - (1) three citizen members, who shall be health professionals who at the time of appointment derive, or within the previous five years derived, their principal income from providing health care, health services or health related activities;
  - (2) five citizen members, who shall not be health professionals as defined above;
  - (3) a physician practicing in the city, nominated by the Medical Society of Northern Virginia;
  - (4) a dentist practicing in the city, nominated by the Northern Virginia Dental Society;
  - (5) a representative of the Alexandria Community Services Board, nominated by such board;
  - (6) a representative from the Inova Alexandria Hospital, nominated by the hospital;
  - (7) a representative from the neighborhood health board of directors, nominated by such board;
  - (8) a representative from the city's fire department, nominated by the city manager;
  - (9) a representative from the Alexandria City School Board, nominated by such board; and
  - (10) a representative from the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria Steering Committee, nominated by such committee.
- (c) The members of the commission shall be appointed in the manner prescribed in title 2, chapter 4, article A of this code. The members shall serve for a term of two years, and such terms shall be staggered, except that a member who is the representative of an organization shall cease to be a member upon termination of such representative capacity. City council shall fill vacancies for the unexpired portion of the term. (Ord. No. 4557, 6/24/08, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4951, 6/13/15, Sec. 1)

### **Sec. 2-4-171 Functions, powers and duties; staff assistance.**

- (a) The functions, powers and duties of the commission shall be to advise and support the city and the city council as to:
  - (1) evaluating and advising regarding any and all health matters in the city; the planning for and coordination of public health needs, services and programs, and regarding the priority of public health needs, services and programs in the city;

- 
- (2) to provide information and evaluation of public health related matters at the request of city council;
  - (3) to investigate specific public health issues on its own initiative and at the request of the city council, and render advice and recommendations for evaluating and ameliorating such issues as the commission deems appropriate;
  - (4) to provide a forum for the discussion of public health matters for citizens and health professionals in the city;
  - (5) to render advice and recommendations concerning the advantage or disadvantage of specific health care practices or services to the public;
  - (6) to do and consider all things necessary or convenient to carry out the responsibilities expressly given in this subsection; and
  - (7) such other tasks as may be requested by the city council.
- (b) Except as expressly provided in this article, the commission may adopt rules and regulations in regard to procedure and other matters for the conduct of its business, so long as the same are not inconsistent with the city code, including, but not limited to, the establishment of committees through which it may carry on its functions, duties and purpose.
  - (c) Subject to the availability of funds and staff, the city manager and director of the Alexandria Health Department shall provide staff or other assistance to the commission. (Ord. No. 4557, 6/24/08, Sec. 1)

**Secs. 2-4-172—2-4-179 Reserved.**