

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS

MINUTES FROM MEETING OF MAY 21, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leanne Desmond, Tavares Floyd, Jennifer Gillyard, Bruce Hightower, Dana Hines, Alison Lesht, Gerald Padmore, Eugene Stammeyer, Andrew Torre, Shelbert Williams

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Manya Magnus, Christopher O'Connell, Charles Sumpter, Gayle Terry

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: None

STAFF: Debby Dimon, Nechelle Terrell

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Commissioner Chair Andrew Torre called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. New member Leanne Desmond was welcomed to the commission, filling the ACPS liaison seat. Leanne is a school nurse at Douglas McArthur Elementary School. Andrew announced and congratulated Commissioner Tavares Floyd for being selected by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce for its annual "Forty Under 40" award.

II. New Business

2018 City Council Elections

Commissioners reviewed a draft document submitted by Andrew of potential questions for city council and mayor candidates for the upcoming elections. Questions included concerns about stigma reduction as a city leader, strategies in addressing the opioid epidemic, increasing HIV testing in the community and addressing the need for affordable housing for persons living with HIV.

The commission discussed the format and content of document, making necessary corrections and edits as needed. It was suggested that the commission arrange the questions according to priority in the event those responding not answer all questions submitted. The actual purpose of the questions and what the plans would be after receiving answers, was addressed. The commission was reminded of their role in advising city council and to use the information collected to assist with advising of current trends and needs of city residents living with HIV. It was later agreed that Andrew would make the corrections to the document that included reducing the content to one page, and resubmit to commissioners for final review via email.

The commission discussed the need for more interaction with city council members. Debby Dimon suggested possibly requesting a working session with members of city council.

III. Consideration of March Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed. Correction to statement made by Andrew.... Commissioner Tavares Floyd moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Commissioner Gerald Padmore seconded and the motion passed.

IV. New Business Part II

National HIV Testing Day

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day (observed June 27 each year) the commission and Alexandria Health Department will co-sponsor a "Comedy Explosion" on Wednesday, June 27th at Alley Cat Restaurant from 7 to 9 p.m. Local comedian Schewitz Whichard will host and will bring other comedians to perform. Nechelle shared information from Charles about a funding opportunity from The Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS) for National Testing Day events. Nechelle will seek funding to support providing food for the comedy event, incentives for raffles and donation to the host and performers. HIV testing will be conducted by the Getting to Zero campaign.

Getting to Zero will conduct HIV testing for Ruby Tucker Day on Saturday, June 23rd.

Kingdom Fellowship Church (Rev. Shakina Dunbar Rawlings, Pastor) will host an HIV Awareness Day Worship Service and Breakfast on Sunday, June 24th at 10:00 a.m. Service will include a testimony from an HIV positive individual.

The Getting to Zero campaign is sponsoring a "Sketch and Play" on Thursday, June 28th, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Park Meridian at Eisenhower. Event is free and open to the public.

Meeting Scheudle Update

In lieu of a meeting in June, commissioners are encouraged to attend the National HIV Testing Day event on the 27th. The next meeting is scheduled for July and there will be no meeting August.

V. Committee Updates

Community Partnerships

Commissioner Gerald Padmore announced that Inova Juniper and GMHC will host information tables at Capital Pride on June 10th. Commissioners were encouraged to attend, participate or support.

Gerald will find out if the partnership is still meeting on the 1st Wednesdays of the month.

Financial Committee

Commissioner Bruce Hightower wanted to know if the commission submitted the request for \$50,000 during the budget request process. Nechelle will check with Dr. Haering on the status of the request or if it was ever submitted.

Jennifer Gillyard discussed the need for fundraisers to fund future events.

Communications Officer

Jennifer encouraged commissioners to send her information from events, articles, etc. to post on social media.

Getting to Zero clinic on Mondays and Saturdays down the highway.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.