



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

**Thursday, February 18, 2016
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room
Alexandria Health Department**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. New Commissioner, Ruth Chamowitz
- II. Establishment of Quorum
- III. Approval of the Minutes
- IV. Updates from the Chair
 - a. Casey Award
 - b. City Council Letters
 - c. next steps with budget
- V. Standing Reports
 - a. Health Department Update – Dr. Stephen Haering
 - b. Partnership Update – Allen Lomax
 - c. Neighborhood Health Update – Keith Hearle
- VI. Vote on Casey Award nominees
- VII. Adjournment



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Minutes of the Thursday, February 18, 2016 Meeting
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room
Alexandria Health Department

Present

Richard Merritt	Rebecca Ash
Meredith Taylor	Katya Wanzer
Ruth Chamowitz	Allen Lomax
Michael C. Trahos	Tricia Rodgers
Ann Harbour	Katya Wanzer
Daniel Hawkins	Barbara Nowak
Katie Dziak	Tamara Wilson
Tricia Rodgers	Diana Sanchez, AHD
Stephen Haering, AHD	

- I. Welcome, introductions and attendance – Katya Wanzer
 - A. New Commissioner, Ruth Chamowitz
 - Brief introduction from new commissioner, Ruth Chamowitz.
- II. Meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. A quorum was established.
- III. Approval of the meeting minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting.
 - Motion to approve the minutes – A. Lomax
 - 2nd to back motion. – R. Ash
 - Minutes were approved unanimously at 5:42 p.m.
- IV. Updates from the Chair – Katya Wanzer
 - A. Casey Award
 - Discussion about the Casey Award nominees and clarification about the criteria for the nominees and if tasks are outside of their normal scope of work and regular job responsibilities. Cases made for each nominee and discussion opened up about awarding the award to two recipients.
- V. Vote on Casey Award Nominees
 - Motion: To recognize Althea Huggins and Dr. Charles Konigsberg as co-recipients of the Flora Krause Casey award. – D. Hawkins
 - 2nd to back motion – A. Lomax
 - 6 Ay's /6 Nay's – 6:02 p.m.
 - 1st Substitute Motion: To award the Flora Krause Casey award to one recipient this year – A. Harbour
 - 2nd to back substitute motion – K. Dziak
 - 4 Ay's / 7 Nay's – 6:06 pm
 - 2nd Substitute Motion: To award the Flora Krause Casey award to two recipients this year – A. Harbour
 - 2nd to back substitute motion – R. Merritt
 - 7 ay's / 2 nay's – 6:08 p.m.
 - Back to original motion – 6:11 p.m.

- Voting to award two recipients the 2015 Flora Krause Casey Award. Top votes were for Althea Huggins and Dr. Charles Konigsberg. - 6:15 p.m.
 - Motion: To award the 2015 Flora Krause Casey Award to Althea Huggins and Dr. Charles Konigsberg – B. Nowak
 - 2nd to back motion – D. Hawkins
 - The motion was approved unanimously at 6:16 p.m.
 - Clarification on voting procedures requested before next year’s Flora Krause Casey Award ceremony.
- B. City Council Letters – K. Wanzer
- Discussion about the draft letter to City Council. Commissioner’s request adding in additional Medicaid expansion and prevention/treatment of substance use information while also clarifying tobacco prevention and cessation objective.
 - Next steps for the health priorities discussed. The creation of a timeline that will establish an agenda for the year on how each priority item will be dealt with each month is suggested. A fifth priority item that lists other health emergencies is also recommended.
 - The suggestion of adding in the sentence: As you develop and approve the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, it is our hope that the budget will reflect appropriate actions to address each of these important issues and also serve for the planning process in the future.
 - The mention of the Community Health Improvement Plan in the letter is also recommended.
 - Motion to send letter to City Council with recommended edits. – M. Trahos
 - 2nd to back motion – A. Lomax
 - The motion was approved unanimously at 6:38 p.m.

VI. Standing Reports

- A. Alexandria Health Department (AHD) Update – Dr. Stephen Haering
- Report about the homicide, violent crime and nonfatal firearm-related injuries passed out to PHAC and discussed. Overview of the report presented to PHAC.
 - Zika discussion opened up to questions from the commission. Question about larvacide and microcephaly connection. The ministry of health has come out to say that there is no connection between the two. It is still to be determined how long after infection; the virus stays in the body. We are trying to stay ahead with information and communication about Zika. AHD is looking into testing and VDH entomologist is coming to the next health director’s meeting to discuss testing.
 - Virginia American Water is addressing concerns about lead in water. AHD has looked at test levels and there are no public health concerns or concerns about lead in the water in Alexandria.
 - AHD Epidemiologists are looking at heroin and opioid use data and are working with police, DCHS, Dr. Brown at Alexandria Hospital.
 - Commissioner M. Trahos shared information from memo sent to physicians regarding opioid use. DEA regulations regarding licensed suboxone physicians are making it impossible for them to practice.
 - Written information about opioid use requested to be shared with Commissioners.
 - Tuesday, Feb 23 City Manager will present the new budget. Two WIC satellite clinics are still closed and AHD cannot hire Environmental Health specialist. New MRC coordinator will be coming on board soon and the
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memo sent to City Manager will be shared once the budget is released on Tuesday.

- Commissioner A. Lomax recommends attending March 14 meeting and having someone speak in regards to budget concerns. Suggests also attending Healthy and Thriving work session in order to hear the questions Council is asking.
- Commissioner M. Trahos suggests scheduling meetings in advanced for issues such as budget discussions, etc.

B. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PHA) Update – Allen Lomax

- PHA is continuing to evolve, driven by Community Health Improvement Plan. There are a number of priority areas being focused on, especially after school programs. Data driven decisions are the focus. PHA no longer has workgroups and the next board meeting will be in June.
- During the snowstorm, the Mayor was concerned about children who are on the free/reduced priced lunches and their access to food. The discussion about what to do in the event of another storm/school shut down and making sure that they still get food was raised. DCHS, PHA, Hunger Free Alexandria, ACPS, and Parks and Rec are working together to make sure that children who need food when schools are shut down are not going hungry.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2016

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Diana Sanchez

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