



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

**Thursday, February 15, 2018
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room
Alexandria Health Department**

- I. Establishment of Quorum
- II. Approval of the February Minutes
- III. Updates from the Chair
- IV. Health Department Updates
- V. Update from Partnership
- VI. Update from Neighborhood Health
- VII. Gun Violence and Childhood Obesity priority consideration-Richard Merritt
- VIII. Adjournment

Commission Members	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chair, Ann Harbour
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vice-Chair, Patricia Rodgers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Biddinger
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Dunay
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Hawkins
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Jessica Hill
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Hricik
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patrick Killeen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Allen Lomax
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Millman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Merritt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barbara Nowak
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Michael C. Trahos
<input type="checkbox"/>	Katya Wanzer
Alexandria Health Dept. Staff	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Stephen A. Haering, Health Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Janine B. McCormick, Executive Secretary



**Minutes of the Thursday February 15, 2018
PHAC Meeting
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room
Alexandria Health Department**

Present	Ann Harbour (Chair), Stacey Biddinger, Chris Dunay, Dan Hawkins, Brian Hricik, Patrick Killeen, Allen Lomax, Richard Merritt, Michael Millman, Barbara Nowak, Tricia Rodgers (Vice-Chair), Dr. Michael C. Trahos, Katya Wanzer
Absent (Excused)	Dr. Jessica Hill
Absent (Unexcused)	
AHD Representatives	Dr. Stephen A. Haering, Janine B. McCormick
Guests	

I. Establishment of a Quorum

- Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm. A quorum was established.

II. Approval of the January 2018 Meeting Minutes

- Allen Lomax (AL) moved to approve the January 2018 minutes, Tricia Rodgers (TR) seconded, all in favor, minutes approved

III. Updates from the Chair – Ann Harbour

I. Health Department Updates (Dr. Haering)

- Big Move / Co-location – targeting summer 2019; lots of work
- HIV Getting to Zero – Universal HIV Testing; physician education; outreach to most vulnerable populations; nPEP and PREP
- CHA/CHIP – Community Health Assessment getting underway; will seek PHAC Commissioners as members of Steering Committee
- 2017 Staff Turnover remains high, >17%; salary and commute consistently rank high as reasons

V. Update from Partnership for Healthier Alexandria

VI. Update from Neighborhood Health

- See Attachment I

VII. Gun Violence and Childhood Obesity priority consideration – Richard Merritt

- See Attachment II

VIII. Adjournment

- Ann Harbour (AH) requested all priority submissions be received by March 8th.
- Budget meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1st.



Neighborhood Health Update
Public Health Advisory Commission
February 15, 2018

In 2017, Neighborhood Health provided services to 18,096 patients – 3,883 more than the 14,211 patients served in 2016. Almost 70% of the additional patients served did not have health insurance. Neighborhood Health plans to continue this growth by serving 21,000 patients in 2018.

Our main sites in Alexandria -- 2 East Glebe Road and Casey Clinic -- are offering evening hours several days per week. This helps patients who are unable to come to appointments during regular hours due to work or other reasons.

Neighborhood Health is partnering with the Alexandria Health Department on a grant to significantly increase HIV testing in its patient population. The goal is to identify patients with HIV who have not yet been diagnosed and get them into care. Neighborhood Health has a Ryan White program and provides care to patients with HIV. This program will also reduce transmission of the virus because more people will know their HIV status.

We were awarded a two-year grant by the Virginia Health Care Foundation to improve our care of patients with diabetes and depression. The grant will support diabetic education, case management, and enhanced integration of medical and behavioral health care for these patients. The program will take place at the Casey Clinic.

The Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Bus continues to provide dental services to low income children at ACPS elementary schools. Currently the bus is serving seven elementary schools. We have begun providing portable dental services at Jefferson Houston as well. In addition, we are in discussions to provide services at TC Williams.

On Feb 1, Neighborhood Health opened a pediatric practice on Sherwood Hall Lane, close to Inova Mount Vernon hospital. This practice was previously owned by a Pediatrician who retired after many years of services. Most of these children are low income and receiving Medicaid.

Neighborhood Health is working with the Department of Community and Human Services and the Health Department to co-locate at a new facility likely on the West End. This would reduce barriers to patients that need to access services and increase integration between the three organizations, greatly benefiting our mutual clients/patients.

Arguments on behalf of establishing an APHAC work group/task force on Reducing and Preventing Gun Violence-Related Deaths and Injuries in the City of Alexandria

(1) ***“If we are going to build a healthier Virginia for everyone, we must address the public health crisis of gun violence.”***

Governor Ralph Northam, Inaugural Address, Jan. 13, 2018

(2) In March 2017, Mayor Silberberg signed on to a Statement of Principles of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which began with the following :

Whereas: 30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence – including 12,000 who are murdered – destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns; and,

Whereas: **As Mayors, we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm,**

(3) National data strongly points to a looming public health crisis in gun violence:

- Gunshots are the second leading cause of injury-related death in children (ages 1 to 17), exceeded only by car accidents.
- Suicide accounts for nearly two-thirds of gun deaths in the U.S., killing over 21,000 Americans each year.
- Child suicides involving firearms increased 60% from 2007 to 2014.
- A school shooting happens on average every three or four days in the U.S.

(4) A priority on Preventing and Reducing Gun Violence in Alexandria would be consistent with or supportive of certain Key Indicators in the City’s Strategic Plan for a SAFE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY. Specifically,

- Reduce the number of violent crimes from the 2015 rate of 209 incidents per 100,000 residents; and,
- Increase the percentage of residents who have a positive overall feeling of safety in Alexandria from 2016’s 80%.

Moreover, it would also be supportive of one important Action Item for the SAFE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY category. Specifically,

- Implement strategies to assure the safety of key populations: children, victims of domestic violence, older adults, and individuals suffering a behavioral health crisis.

(5) VISION ZERO II??

VISION ZERO is a city-wide initiative designed to eliminate all traffic deaths and serious injuries in Alexandria by 2028. Quoting from the VISION ZERO Action Plan, the impetus behind the initiative was as follows: “Traffic-related injuries and fatalities pose a serious public health risk that cannot be tackled by one group or City department alone. Each year, an average of 37 people in Alexandria are killed or seriously injured while using the City’s streets. After several years of decline, the percent of all crashes that resulted in death or serious injuries rose in 2016i for all

travel modes. The solution to this grave situation requires an intensive, collaborative effort from police, transportation engineers, elected officials, and, most important, each and every person who walks, bikes, wheels, and drives in Alexandria. The City departments and the Alexandria community will join forces to combat traffic injuries and fatalities. “

In Alexandria those who are the most vulnerable roadway users – the young, the elderly, bicyclists and pedestrians – have the highest rates of fatalities and serious injuries.....The young (ages 10 and under) and the elderly ... have a higher risk of serious injury or death if involved in a crash. These conditions are not consistent with the core values that make Alexandria a great city where people of all ages and backgrounds can safely live, work and visit. [Emphasis added]

QUESTION: Do our kids, youth (and teachers?) deserve the same level of attention and support for eliminating deaths and serious injuries resulting from gun violence (maybe VISION ZERO II) as the young, elderly, pedestrians and bicyclists will soon receive for eliminating traffic deaths under VISION ZERO?

(6) Attitudes of members of APHAC regarding gun violence prevention in Alexandria.

(a) Do you believe there are young children in Alexandria who are at risk of dying or severe injury because their father or guardian fails to keep his firearm locked up?

YES NO

(b) Do you believe there are teenagers or youth in the City who are at-risk of suicide because they know how to access their father's or guardian's firearm? YES NO

(c) Do you believe there are women and children and other relatives in the City who are at risk of death or serious injury if the woman's partner is a domestic abuser and has access to a gun? YES NO

(d) Do you believe there are at least a few troubled youth in the City that could inflict the kind of death and mayhem we witnessed yesterday in Florida in one of the City's schools? YES NO

(e) Do you think the Public Health Advisory Commission should create a working group on Public Health Approaches to Reducing and Preventing Gun Violence in the City of Alexandria? YES NO

COMMENTS: _____

