

Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission
Minutes of the Thursday, December 18, 2014 Meeting

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Floor Conference Room
Alexandria Health Department

I. Introductions and Attendance – Meredith Taylor

Present

Rebecca Ash
Mary Dixon
Jessica Hill
Gene Kendall
Andrew LaVanway
Mark Penn
Meredith Taylor
Katya Wanzer
Dr. Stephen Haering, AHD
Diana Sanchez, AHD

Guests

Allen Lomax
Hadi AlShaikNasser, AHD

II. Meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. No quorum was established. – Meredith Taylor

- Question regarding the Flora Krause Casey award ceremony and if the time was changed from 6 – 7 p.m. to 5 – 6 p.m.? – Gene Kendall
 - Yes, the time was changed due to City Council’s schedule now meeting earlier. – Meredith Taylor.
- Quorum establish at 5:39 p.m.

III. Approval of the minutes from the November 20, 2014 meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes – Andrew LaVanway
Second to motion the approval of the minutes – Gene Kendall
Minutes approved unanimously at 5:41 p.m.

IV. Discussion and update regarding the Regional Suicide Prevention Plan – Meredith Taylor

- Questions brought forward about the Regional Suicide Prevention Plan were answered. Carrie Fesperman is leading the charge on the Regional Suicide Prevention Plan and they are currently in the process of gathering more data. They are meeting with the regional group. The plan is more programmatic versus policy driven and Fairfax County is leading the effort. A website is currently being created. The development of communication materials is looking to be more regional and the money for the program is for one year.
- Question regarding where did the funding come from for the plan? – Katya Wanzer
 - It is State funded. – Allen Lomax

V. Discussion about the Special Advisory Panel – Meredith Taylor

The Special Advisory Panel has 13 members and Dan Hawkins is the chair. Meredith Taylor and Allen Lomax have voting roles with the panel. Meredith Taylor is representing the PHAC.

VI. Standing Reports

A. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria – Meredith Taylor

- ❖ Guest speaker from Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PHA) – Allen Lomax
 - CHIP is in the final checking of the plan and the introduction is being finalized and it will be posted on the website no later than Monday, 12/22/2014.

- At the December meeting, what it means to be a member of PHA was finalized and the membership form was approved.
- The Childhood Obesity Network is meeting with the City on January 13.
- Whole Foods collaboration with Hunger Free Alexandria has currently raised \$20k and is doing well.
- Grant process is currently in talks to disperse the funds raised so far, in 2015.
- B. Alexandria Health Department (AHD) – Dr. Stephen Haering
 - Discussion about Kaiser Permanente product that offers health care to low income individuals and families who do not have access to any other public or private health insurance coverage.
 - HR issues – Epi position is currently being recruited, two people have refused due to the language in the job posting.
 - The clinical services for the Child Health program over at Casey and King St. are being transferred to Neighborhood Health. They are a medical home and have extended hours, etc. AHD will be transitioning to case management through our BabyCare program.
 - AHD and EMS continue to work together in regards to Ebola such as getting templates published for quarantine, to be distributed to law enforcement.
 - Government budget came out yesterday, and AHD is trying to figure out gap in Health Department (4%-7% cut)
 - Question about who approves moving child care services to Neighborhood Health- Meredith Taylor
 - The approval is from VDH since it is a VDH program and the City is supporting the move.
 - AHD orientation is scheduled for January 29, 2015. Diana Sanchez will send out invitation to all PHAC members.
- C. Department of Emergency Service - Mark Penn
 - Update regarding Ebola. It has been a struggle to figure out gaps in planning for Ebola. Such as with pets and what to do with animals in situations like this.
- VII. Discussion about the Casey Award Reception – Meredith Taylor
 - Reminder that the date and time is January 27 from 5 – 6 p.m.
 - 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 pm. will have opening remarks from Meredith Taylor, followed by Mayor Euille presenting award and Jon Porter speaking.
- VIII. Discussion about Access to Care – Meredith Taylor
 - Katya Wanzer and Allen Lomax are looking at setting up a joint meeting between PHAC and PHA the second week of March. The Mayor’s Special Advisory Panel wants to know the meeting date.
 - Room availability will depend on the date since about 30 people will be invited to the meeting. – Allen Lomax
 - Will reach out to Mayor’s office regarding the mission of the Special Advisory Panel. – Meredith Taylor
 - There is a problem with people not accessing what is available to them. – Katya Wanzer
 - The WOW bus is being underutilized – Gene Kendall
 - Wednesday, March 11 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. is the date that has been scheduled for the joint meeting between PHAC and PHA.
 - We will want to make sure that this group and meeting can differentiate itself from the Special Advisory Panel. – Meredith Taylor
- IX. Discussion about priorities for 2015 – Meredith Taylor
 - Open up for discussion about priorities for 2015 that PHAC can focus on?
 - Is there anything that the City is focusing on? – Jessica Hill
 - No, not at this time. – Meredith Taylor

- Is there anything that the Health Department is focusing on in terms of hand hygiene in the community? – Mary Dixon
 - We do it in terms of items like influenza – Dr. Haering
 - There has been a big hand hygiene push at INOVA Alexandria in the past eight months in order to reduce hospital acquired infections. – Mary Dixon
 - Talking about policies with City Council to reduce alcohol use or increase mental health first aid? – Mark Penn
 - Such as the youth and adult piece for example having school administrators take the youth mental health first aid. The Partnership to end homelessness in Alexandria is concerned about the discharge of homeless people from the hospital. – Allen Lomax
 - What are the barriers to homelessness, such as legal, etc? What are they and what can we influence? – Mark Penn
 - The Healthy Vending machine initiative was an example of influence. – Dr. Haering
 - Some examples could be:
 - Chemical and Smoke Free Air
 - Policy on Workhouse
 - Healthy Eating
 - Mobile Farmer’s Market
 - PHAC could work with Arcadia to teach people how to grow their own food. – Rebecca Ash
 - Social Stigma regarding Mental Health
 - Access to Care
 - Expanding PACE (Senior Care)
 - PACE is offered to Fairfax and Arlington but not Alexandria. People are leaving the city because there is no accessible and affordable housing. There is also a huge issue with transportation – Mark Penn
 - Question regarding using vouchers at Farmer’s Markets, does the City already do this? – Rebecca Ash
 - Yes, there are two in the City that already do this and the PHA goal is to have all Farmer’s Market use them. – Allen Lomax
 - Question regarding if a report has been made regarding how the voucher program is working? – Rebecca Ash
 - Yes and not all have been successful in using them – Allen Lomax
 - Proposal for January meeting is to come back with list regarding 2015 priorities and then go from there. – Meredith Taylor
 - City has a legislative agenda that has been put out and PHAC may want to look at that agenda to see if they can advise council on it. – Allen Lomax
- X. Keith Hearle will be replacing Gene Kendall on PHAC because his term is up.
Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:57 p.m. approved.

Next Meeting: January 15, 2015

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:



Diana Sanchez