

Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission

Minutes of the Thursday, July 17, 2014 Meeting

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Floor Conference Room

Alexandria Health Department

I. Introductions, Attendance and Call to Order

Present

Andrew LaVanway
Arlene Hewitt
Meredith Taylor
Katie Dziak
Mary Dixon
Shay Holman
Gene Kendall

Dr. Stephen Haering, AHD Health Director
Katie Leonard, AHD
Diana Sanchez, AHD

Guests

Allen Lomax
Richard Merritt

II. Meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. Minutes were reviewed and approved. No quorum was established.

III. Standing Reports:

Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria – Meredith Taylor

- Introduced guest speaker from Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria – Allen Lomax.
- Discussion about Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) – Allen Lomax
 - Goal is to send CHIP to Steering Committee in early August and then a copy to City Council for discussion and approval.
 - Assessment of emergency food, needs, and shelter as well as people who are eligible for food stamps.
 - CHIP wants to have everyone accept SNAP at farmer's market and also have a better discharge planning on patients discharged from hospitals.
- Question asked by Mr. LaVanway regarding 501.C3 status of Partnership
 - Focus is now on eliminating cons on becoming a 501.C3 - the grant process is long (12-18 months) and there are numerous issues.
- Question asked by Mr. LaVanway regarding health equity.
 - More conversations and reconsiderations need to take place with AHD.
- Question asked by Ms. Hewitt regarding how will commission take more responsibility with addressing issues.
 - If issues arise with CHIP, the commission will bring it to City Council.

IV. Alexandria Health Department – Dr. Stephen Haering

- Busy due to vacancies. New position for Deputy Director and a City position for a new Epidemiologist that will be posted will improve efficiencies at AHD.
 - State budget will arrive soon.
 - Car seat program has been cut by about 1/3 across Virginia.
 - Spoke with Chris Candio and AHD is prioritizing car seats to OB patients and foster moms.
 - Those who can't afford car seats can go to Neighborhood Health (people discharged from hospital)
 - Update regarding EPA meeting about asbestos at Hunting Point.
- V. Discussion about access to care by Richard Merritt
- Request to PHAC to propose to City Council regarding approximately 4500 uninsured residents of Alexandria and how to fix the problem
 - Suggestion to create a workgroup in order to identify the specific issues.
 - Too early to get involved and a better understanding of the Affordable Care Act is needed. - Allen Lomax
 - Concerns raised regarding waiting until October to address the issue - Arlene Hewitt
 - Neighborhood Health has limited capacity but uninsured patients are being seen. - Gene Kendall
 - Concerns about this taking Council priority over other public health problems with no local data, no systematic approach, no consideration of the CHIP's role. - Dr. Haering
 - Question by Mr. LaVanway - are there more uninsured people in 2014 than in 2013 and what is going to be told to City Council that they don't already know?
 - Question by Ms. Holman - Bring forth to City Council but how will that provide federal money to expand Medicaid coverage?

VI. Quorum established at 6:30 p.m.

VII. Motion: To send a letter to City Council to include issue of access to care for uninsured people of Alexandria - Arlene Hewitt
 Second Motion: Backing letter to City Council - Gene Kendall
 All in favor of motion to send letter to City Council, unanimously approved at 6:59 p.m. Mr. LaVanway will draft a letter to City Council advising them about this issue.

Motion to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 18, 2014 (no August meeting)

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:



Diana Sanchez