

Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission
Minutes of the Thursday, November 20, 2014 Meeting

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Floor Conference Room
Alexandria Health Department

I. Introductions and Attendance – Meredith Taylor

Present

Meredith Taylor
Rebecca Ash
Katie Dziak
Arlene Hewitt
Jessica Hill
Zuhail Haidari
Andrew LaVanway
Mark Penn
Katya Wanzer
Dr. Stephen Haering, AHD
Diana Sanchez, AHD

Guests

Allen Lomax

II. Meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. A quorum was established. – Meredith Taylor

- Discussion about membership vacancies. Currently there are two openings on the Commission. One is for a physician in the City of Alexandria.
- Does the physician have to be a citizen of Alexandria? – Dr. Stephen Haering
 - No, but they have to practice in the City – Meredith Taylor

III. Approval of the minutes from the October 16, 2014 meeting was reviewed and a correction to the name of Meredith Katherine Taylor was amended to Katherine Meredith Taylor. Motion to approved the minutes – Andrew LaVanway
Second to motion to approval of the minutes – Mark Penn
Minutes approved unanimously at 5:37 p.m.

IV. Standing Reports

A. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria – Meredith Taylor

- Guest speaker from Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PFAHA) – Allen Lomax
 - Healthy vending machines popping up in City government buildings and getting great press attention.
 - Hunger Free Alexandria initiative has established a donation fund account and has also started working with Whole Foods.
 - The Farmer’s Market at Old Town has started a pilot project for gleaning food. The effort is being lead by Christ Church to get food such as fresh fruits and vegetables to shelters.
 - There is a shortage of food storage and sanitary facilities and the PFAHA is currently looking into expansion.
 - The first or second week in December the CHIP is scheduled to be released.
- What is the likelihood of getting funding for food storage from the City? – Meredith Taylor
 - There is a 16 million dollar shortfall. Will it be the CHIP budget or City? We will have to see in March.

- B. Alexandria Health Department (AHD) – Dr. Stephen Haering
 - Discussion about Ebola. Since the last PHAC meeting, AHD has begun monitoring all travelers from Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia and recently added (as of 11/16/14) Mail to the list. There are no active cases and no one quarantined in VA. 77 travelers currently being monitored in VA and only the Health Commissioner can order an Isolation or Quarantine order. AHD is working with EMS, Neighborhood Health and community partners in preparedness to handle a case.
 - What is the protocol to handle an Ebola patient? - Andrew LaVanway
 - Every hospital in VA is prepared to handle a patient with Ebola. INOVA has determined to send patient's to specialized unit in Fairfax. Two hospitals, VCU and UVA have been approved as "specialized hospitals."
 - You briefed City Council in October; did you hear feedback or interest? – Meredith Taylor
 - City Manager receives a weekly report through Unified Command. The Unified Command has major organizations involved, such as hospital, OEM, EMS & Fire Dept., Communications, etc. No one is excluded.
 - Are you doing any media outreach/education? – Meredith Taylor
 - Yes, we were in the Alexandria Times and we are actively doing that. AHD is doing many presentations and education is being given to various organizations and commissions. We also send out daily Public Health Updates, regarding Ebola.
 - Discussion about current HR updates. The Deputy Director position has been filled with Dr. Tina Singh. Epi position is currently being recruited and the Public Health Emergency Planner, Cyndi Lake is leaving.
 - AHD services and programs are stable. Health Dept budget has taken biggest hit locally. VDH is taking a 4% cut next year - will update when more information is known.
 - Discussion with the Commission as to whether a letter should be generated to send to Council copying the City Manager regarding the 2016 Budget. – Meredith Taylor
 - The letter would support the CHIP and state that health is an important part of the budget, with a goal of sending by mid-December.
 - Motion: That the Chair generate a letter to City Council on behalf of supporting the CHIP and the budget – Andrew LaVanway
 - Second Motion: Backing the letter to City Council – Rebecca Ash
 - The motion was unanimously approved at 6:09 p.m.
- C. Department of Emergency Service - Mark Penn
 - Fire Dept is changing the delivery of EMS services, by moving medics to engines/fire trucks to become dual role providers. Everyone being hired now will be dually trained as firefighters/medics.
 - New E-news software is giving capabilities never had before to contact people. Software can get people to self identify themselves as special needs and open up a two way communication.
 - Monthly meeting with health commissions are occurring.
- V. Discussion about the Planning for Access to Care Meeting – Katya Wanzer
 - Call on 10/27, included, Arlene Hewitt, Katie Dziak, Katya Wanzer and Meredith Taylor. The big meeting will probably happen between January and March. Still figuring that out as well as writing up goals and talking points. The Mayor has also created an ad-hoc committee on (Mayor's Advisory Commission) on Medicaid Expansion.
 - Insurance Expansion the Mayor's efforts would influence our efforts. Do we have overarching discussion questions for that meeting? – Meredith Taylor

- VI. Discussion about the Planning for Casey Award Reception – Meredith Taylor
 - o Date and time established is January 27 from 5 – 6 p.m.
 - o Invitations will be paper and electronic and RSVP by date will depend on the caterers.
- VII. Discussion about the Engagement with the Regional Suicide Prevention Plan – Meredith Taylor
 - o 165k grant received and they would like to know if PHAC would want to be involved.
 - o Plan doesn't state who is addressing or enforcing plan. More clarification is needed regarding the questions raised and also regarding policy, as who does what with the plan and enforcement of strategies. – Rebecca Ash
- VIII. Developing an Annual Report for City Council
 - o Annual Report will be rolled over to next meeting.
- IX. Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m. approved.

Next Meeting: December 18, 2014

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Sanchez".

Diana Sanchez