

**Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission  
Minutes of the Thursday, June, 18 2015 Meeting**

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Floor Conference Room  
Alexandria Health Department

- I. Welcomes, introductions and attendance – Katya Wanzer

**Present**

Katya Wanzer  
Arlene Hewitt  
Rebecca Ash  
Jessica Hill  
Michael Trahos  
Stephen Haering, AHD  
Diana Sanchez, AHD

**Guests**

Tricia Rodgers, NoVA Health Foundation  
Noraine Buttar, SAPCA  
Richard Merritt

- II. Meeting was called to order at 5:49 p.m. A quorum was not established.

- III. Approval of the meeting minutes from the April 16, 2015 meeting will be held until the next meeting.

- IV. E-Cigarettes Discussion – Noraine Buttar, Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA)

- SAPCA's focus is on alcohol, marijuana and tobacco abuse prevention. Survey results are consistently low when it comes to e-cigarettes. There are two good studies that say e-cigarettes could be a good cessation technique but more data is still needed.
- Last year the senate approved and passed the law making it illegal to sell e-cigarettes to teenagers under the age of 18. The same regulations that apply to tobacco, also apply to e-cigarettes. What did not pass was a tobacco registry, which would be similar to the alcohol registry. The alcohol registry requires stores who sell alcohol to register in order to sell the products. We would like to have the same for tobacco. ABC and Police Department do the checks for alcohol and they would do the same for tobacco.
- The Community Services Board (CSB) is working with SAPCA regarding e-cigarettes. Right now there has not been a problem seen with synthetic marijuana being used with e-cigarettes. There are also no real requirements or regulations as to the amount of tobacco used in e-cigarettes.
  - Have you heard from the City in regards to having e-cigarettes as a part of the City's smoking ordinance? – Meredith T.
  - It has not come up but I will verify.
  - The tobacco registry will be good to back-up and support. What is Maryland doing regarding e-cigarettes? – Katya W.
  - I will check on that and let you know.

- V. Review of Report and Recommendations from the Mayor's Advisory Panel – Meredith Taylor via telephone

- The chair of the Mayor's Advisory Panel has welcomed feedback regarding the Final Report. Would like to open up discussion to PHAC in regards to reviewing the report and providing feedback. Under strategies for reducing the coverage gap and increasing access to essential health services for the low-income, the

- first strategy would need to name a lead organization and site funding sources, where appropriate, for transparency. Research of the various organizations is needed in order to have a lead organization named.
- What is the health screening regarding? (BP, cholesterol, etc?) – Katya W.
  - What is the process if someone is found with an issue? – Rebecca A.
- Neighborhood Health (NH) would take the lead in regards to that but it would not solve the issue of not having a health care home. Specialty care and lack of access is an issue. My role as chair and we as a Commission are responsible for providing clear and sound policy to City Council.
    - This is the first step to solving an issue about the 5500 uninsured. I highly encourage approving this report in order to move forward, as this is the first step. – Arlene H.
  - I would like to look at alternative associations and see if this association is truly the best for this cause.
    - There is an issue with finding access to care for specialists. Very few doctors are still accepting Medicare. Doctor’s practices are now converting to concierge service. Having insurance does not equate to having access to care because of reimbursement rates, etc. – Dr. Trahos
  - Strategy two discussions – I see this issue as a regional issue.
    - Accountable care community, which entity might look at specialty services/care. Is ACC going to address specialty care? – Dr. Haering
    - Specialties are going concierge and it will be a matter of time before that ends up here – Dr. Trahos
  - Strategy three discussions – taking on an individual cost can be a high cost. I would like to see how FACE is taking on that cost.
  - Strategy four discussion – Let’s identify the lead organizations and time frames for that.
  - Strategy five discussions – Timeframes would be helpful and who would oversee all of this to make sure we have accountability and ensure success.
  - Strategy six – Again, looking for a lead in organization and to also see if we could be the lead in this. What do you think about the Commission taking the lead?
    - Do you think we would be privy to this information? – Katya W.
      - Yes, we could obtain this information. We would need to get a timeframe.
    - What is the time frame or deadline? – Katya W.
      - I don’t have a deadline about providing feedback to panel but the sooner, the better. I would like to take the next step and take this feedback to the panel. I don’t feel comfortable putting my name without specificity and answers to feedback given.
    - Is there a way to make it more like action items? – Katya W.
    - The Health Department provided a summary of recommendations to the Panel, based on previous Panel discussions, that summarized the recommendations and stated specific goals, timelines, and responsible parties – the Panel did not adopt this format. – Dr. Haering
    - There are a lot of details that are missing with this report – Dr. Trahos
      - I will take the feedback given tonight to the Panel.
    - What will happen if this doesn’t happen because of the feedback? – Arlene H.
      - We can take back this portion and handle it as a Commission
    - No matter what, someone has to carry this on. The PHAC and PHA can carry this on. This has been on their agenda for years. – Dr. Haering

## VI. Standing Reports

- A. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PHA) – Meredith Taylor – via telephone
- This fall PHA is looking to having a community meeting. PHA is also looking to come up with a communications plan.
- B. Alexandria Health Department (AHD) – Dr. Stephen Haering
- In 2011 AHD won the Neil Lowry award for top pool safety program in the U.S. Recently City Council approved homeowners associations with 65 or fewer members can elect to eliminate lifeguards from pools. The Health Department was contacted before this was approved and a memo was sent to Council, not recommending the amendment to the code. When I receive emails from City Council for suggestions, I will copy Meredith on these emails.
  - A crumb rubber concern, which is what is used in synthetic turf fields, was recently brought up by a resident. NBC news did a report on soccer players, who played on synthetic turfs and an increase in cancer. We have reached out to person who expressed these concerns. ATSDR has been contacted in regards to this matter in order to ensure that research is done. We hope to conduct a study with the ATSDR.
  - YRBS 2014 results will be coming out within the next month. We are also creating a health care profile. We want to be a data driven organization.
  - VDH is now looking at budget allocations and Fairfax and Arlington has been cut. We may know in the next month if we receive a budget cut. It will affect staffing and programs, and with the ability to fill vacancies due to retirements.
  - AHD where one of a few districts to receive the Commissioner’s award and we also received a NACCHO award in regards to PPHR.
- VII. Additional Updates – Katya Wanzer
- City Council approved the changes to the roster/ordinance. We will now have someone from the Fire Department, PHA, and someone from ACPS as part of the new PHAC roster.
- VIII. Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 16, 2015

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

*Diana Sanchez*

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