

**Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission  
Minutes of the Thursday, November 19, 2015 Meeting**

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Fourth Floor Conference Room  
Alexandria Health Department

- I. Welcomes, introductions and attendance – Katya Wanzer

**Present**

Meredith Taylor	Richard Merritt
Katya Wanzer	Jessica Hill
Allen Lomax	Rebecca Ash
Katie Dziak	Ann Harbour
Keith Hearle	Daniel Hawkins
Arlene Hewitt	Stephen Haering, AHD
Barbara Nowak	<b><u>Guests</u></b>
Diana Sanchez, AHD	L. Tamara Wilson
Michael C. Trahos	

- II. Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. A quorum was established.

- III. Approval of the meeting minutes from the October 15, 2015 meeting.

- Motion to approve the minutes –Allen Lomax
- 2<sup>nd</sup> to back motion – Katie Dziak
- Minutes was approved unanimously at 5:33 p.m.
  - Rebecca Ash abstains from voting.

- IV. Overview from the Chair – Katya Wanzer

A. Updates on Gun Violence, Crumb Rubber, E-cigarettes

- Casey Health Award was mentioned, packets will be sent out soon.
- Suggestion to post publically the Casey Award nomination announcement in order to open up nominations to the general public. – A. Lomax
- Spoke to the APD regarding gun control and safety. The language between what we are looking for and what they can offer are different. PHAC needs to target what the goals are. – K. Wanzer
  - Attended public hearing and groups were advocating for gun violence prevention. – R. Merritt
  - Bryan Moran, Director of Public Safety for VA would like to attend PHAC meetings. – A. Hewitt
  - Engaging someone from Sheriff's associations would be beneficial – A. Harbour
- Do we want to have a working group to go over this issue? – K. Wanzer
  - Gun violence is a public health issue. It is number eleven on the list of violent crimes. – Dr. Haering
- If we did have a working group, would anyone be interested? We would have to see what we can do at the local level. – K. Wanzer.
  - Yes, I would definitely be interested – R. Merritt
- Crumb Rubber will also be revisited in the new year – K. Wanzer
  - Our Epi and Dr. Singh will be attending a Parks and Rec meeting tonight regarding Crumb Rubber – Dr. Haering
- NACCHO flyer on e-cigarettes distributed for review. – K. Wanzer
- I think the Commission should focus on 1 – 4 priority items to send to Council. – A. Hewitt

- Vice Mayor Silverberg has expressed concerns over Maternal and Child Health issues in the City – A. Lomax
- She has also expressed interest in smoking – R. Merritt
- B. Compose a letter to City Council
- I would like to draft a letter to council by our meeting in January which would congratulate council on election and re-elections and provide them with recommendations for 2016.
  - Move to send a letter to City Council, congratulating them on their election and re-election into office and also providing recommendations to them. – K. Wanzer
  - 1<sup>st</sup> to approve the motion – D. Hawkins
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> to back the motion – A. Lomax
  - Motion to send a letter to City Council was approved unanimously at 5:54 p.m.
- C. List of PHAC priorities from 2015 were presented to the Commission.
  - From the list, some of these are activities. A lot of these are similar to the priorities but are activities. – R. Ash
  - The CHIP has access to care but lacks access to providers – D. Hawkins
  - CMS sent out a notice in October that they were reneging the reimbursements for Medicare/Medicaid. Physicians are not getting an increase but rather are facing a decrease. This is the first time in 33 years a letter was sent telling us that doctors are potentially dropping out of Medicare or should consider dropping. If we do not address the issue of providers getting reimbursed, we will be facing a huge issue. This is not being addressed by the City or State. If you want to deal with Access to Care, this is the issue we are facing right now. – M. Trahos
  - Physician payment is an important issue and facet but we need to face and address the barriers. Access to Care is broad. – D. Hawkins
- V. Report on Health Fair – Richard Merritt
  - Alexandria Gazette article passed out to the Commission. Mayor Euille appointed an Advisory Panel and this group made a series of recommendations to hold a health fair. The health fair was a success and many people attended. Almost 300 people registered and we had over 100 volunteers. We had great sponsors from ACPS, NH, AHD, and INOVA. Several who participated feel like this is the first of many steps. – D. Hawkins
  - Resolution commending the sponsors of the First Alexandria Community Health Fair was passed out to the Commission.
    - Move for PHAC to pass the resolutions presented by Richard Merritt – D. Hawkins
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> to back the motion – R. Merritt
  - I would not be able to support the resolution at this time for next year – A. Harbour
  - How much did this cost and what is the vision for next year? I can't commit NH or my board at this time, until we know more. I would move to wait to vote at this time. – K. Hearle
  - Lunches, printing, and staff were provided by INOVA. – A. Harbour
  - If you look at the newspaper article, you see how many people got their flu shots, had their BP checked for the first time, had their visions checked and were referred to places for free glasses. – A. Hewitt

- I would like to move to table the motion made by Dan Hawkins until more information about total costs about the event, in-kind and financial are provided. We would like to compare the costs to the benefits. – K. Hearle
  - Motion to table the motion made by Richard Merritt until more information about total costs for the event, in-kind and financial are provided. – K. Hearle
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> to back motion A. Lomax
  - Motion was passed at 6:22 p.m.
  
- VI. Neighborhood Health Update – Keith Hearle
  - Renovations at 6677 Richmond Highway will be completed in approximately two months. The new building will be providing needed space and you will be hearing more soon.
  
- VII. Partnership Update – Allen Lomax
  - Attended large community health meetings and priority team champions are meeting. PHA is posting on the website the progress on the key areas in the CHIP. I attended an event at Westminster Church and they expressed their support of the CHIP.
  - The YRBS was handed out to the Commission and the results were discussed. According to the results, alcohol and tobacco decreased and SAPCA has strategies in regards to continuing to target this. Teen pregnancy is getting better. Mental Health is a cause for concern as it has gotten worse. The Regional Suicide prevention, which had been taken up by Fairfax has gone dormant. Results of bullying were up but this was before the Mayor established his campaign to end bullying. There is more that needs to be done in order to address all of this.
  - SAPCA has spent a lot of effort and now we are below the national average. It shows that when you use evidenced based methodologies it makes a difference.
  
- VIII. Alexandria Health Department Update – Dr. Haering
  - Handed out the Clinician’s report and Health Profile I report to the members of PHAC. The Health Profile will show the methodology behind the data gathered. The community preventative task force, which is federally supported, reviews programs currently being run and how they are measured in high level of effectiveness. The goal of the Health Profile will show why a subject is a Public Health problem, what it rates in Alexandria and are there evidence based projects, initiates which can be used as a reference source. Are there evidenced based programs that can address the issues? What is being done in the community and what is not being done in the community?
  - The way CHSI works, is that they compare Alexandria to similar cities. They are our peer communities.
    - How is that determined? - Katya
  - Race and ethnicity was not included in CDC data but the CDC took socioeconomics, immigration, median house costs, etc.
    - Katie Leonard and Lisa Guli have been meeting with priority area champions to go over the Health Profile to fill in the gaps. – A. Lomax
    - If we are interested in policy recommendations, where can we do that? – T. Wilson
  - That can be done online or you can come in and talk to our epidemiologist and public health planner and have them go over that with you. We want people to come to us and we can go over to address gap analysis.
    - Why is the HIV prevalence so incredibly high? – K. Wanzer

- It has to do with the stigmatization of HIV/AIDS. We have expanded our Rainbow Tuesday services hours to every Tuesday to give people a safe place to go too.
  - AHD total budget is about 9.4 million for both state and city, and the city portion is about 5.5 million. Information was presented on 9/24 to Mark Jinks and he stated that we have an epidemic of high vacancy rates.
  - In 1992 Fairfax and Arlington Counties became locally administered. A proposal to be submitted to City Council is a proposal for Alexandria to become locally administered. We far exceed the State and City rate in a 12 month period. We have a lot of positions that are grant funded and a lot of positions that are part time and people are leaving in order to pursue full time positions in other jurisdictions. We are asking for \$800k and want all those grant funded positions to become City supplemented. We have some career opportunities and have reclassified some positions. The next step would be a fleet for our field staff.
    - The health of the City is in jeopardy if we cannot get AHD fully staffed. I propose we send a letter about our concerns for the safety and health of the City. – A. Hewitt
    - They held the community meetings on the budget. Mark Jinks will be providing the Council a summary of what was said at those meetings. Council is going to start having conversations about budget discussions. All the departments have been asked to take a 5% cut, except for Police and Fire. I propose we draft the letter to be sent to Council in December after we see what happens on Saturday. The letter can be sent to City Council, copying Mark Jinks and Debra Collins. – A. Lomax
  - Criteria are established by VDH and if your geographic region had women in need for FP services less than the state average, they would be cut from funding. They wanted to cut our funding because of where our population was located. I have been asked by the City Manager to provide the analysis and we have.
    - In early March there will be a big public meeting. The city will start in January on their strategic plan and strategies. City Council workgroup meetings will be in February, it is released after the City Manager releases the budget – A. Lomax
    - If we go locally administered, would that affect the Commission? – K. Hearle
  - No, that would not affect the commission because PHAC reports to City Council.
    - Are there disadvantages to becoming city administrated? – R. Ash
  - Aside from the \$800k there is none.
    - It will be an increase in cost to the city over the years. – A. Lomax
- IX. Additional Updates – Katya Wanzer
- INOVA is going through the CHNA process and I would like that to be sent that to be sent out to PHAC and anyone else in the community that would like to take it. The survey is available in seven languages. – A. Harbour
- X. Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 17, 2015

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

*Diana Sanchez*

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