



Public Health
Advisory Commission
of Alexandria, VA

Minutes of the Thursday, September 15, 2016
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Fourth Floor Conference Room
Alexandria Health Department

Liz Ghandakly	Ruth Chamowitz
Ann Harbour	L. Tamara Wilson
Michael C. Trahos	Keith Hearle
Allen Lomax	Jessica Hill
Barbara Nowak	Stephen Haering, AHD
	Hoda Bastani, AHD

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM. A guest of Dr. Haering was present— AHD pediatric resident Dr. Hoda Bustani. Commissioners confirmed they had received the minutes from the prior meeting. A quorum was not established, so it was agreed to vote to accept the minutes at the next meeting. A quorum was later established and the minutes for the June meeting were approved.
- II. Updates: City Legislative Director Bernie Caton met with Katya and Ann and to discuss Local Administration of AHD. He later reported back that the City would not be adding the request to the legislative proposal package this year due to budget constraints.
- III. Health Department: Discussion that the biggest cost of the above would be the local administration (salaries for the 18 people), but this had already occurred. Discussion that Virginia Department of Health had a 5% cut this year, which led to a hiring freeze. Discussion of self-funded health inspections (Flagstaff, AZ is an example of this). Requested input on talking points for this and agreed to send around Katya's memo. A priority for the next meeting will be this budget issue and having a presence at the city budget meeting. Discussion of Zika and efforts to protect the homeless population. Information is being sent to soup kitchens and shelters. In addition, MCOs now cover bug repellants with prescriptions. Health Department is also buying these things and providing them to people without coverage.
- IV. Partnership: There was a partnership meeting on 6/29 that focused on health equity, 84 people attended. One priority going forward is mental health and suicide prevention was added as a subgroup to this. Another priority was aging well in place, but this was changed to "aging well in the community"— Alexandria is designated as an "Age Friendly Community." Access to care is another priority and a focus was added on access to insurance for youth.

The dates for the surveys in schools (youth risk behavior surveys) are being moved to get better response rates.

- V. Neighborhood Health: Discussion of “FQHCs” – federally qualified health centers. Designation as an FQHC was very helpful for the neighborhood health clinics and it was named one of the top 50 for quality of 1200 nationwide. They have 15k patients and want to get to 20k by the end of 2018—this is a commitment to HRSA. The WOW bus completed 127 procedures this summer.
- VI. Inova: The Simplicity Clinic is opening soon—it is geared toward the working poor. It has a subscription service (\$10/week or, for episodic care, \$40/visit). It is geared toward those who cannot afford the co-pays associated with the other healthcare alternatives.
- VII. Open Discussion: Discussion of DEA enforcement of pain killer prescriptions and control and designation of pain killer drugs as “crime” versus “public health crisis.
- VIII. Minutes recorded by Liz Ghandakly and submitted by Katya Wanzer