



Public Health  
Advisory Commission  
of Alexandria, VA

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**Minutes of the Thursday, November 17, 2016  
PHAC Meeting  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Fourth Floor Conference Room  
Alexandria Health Department**

Katya Wanzer	Stephen A. Haering (Health Director)
Ann Harbour	Barbara Nowak
Allen Lomax	L. Tamara Wilson
Michael C. Trahos	Tricia Rodgers
Elizabeth Ghandakly	Emily Albert (Guest)

**I. Establishment of a Quorum**

- Quorum could not be established at beginning of meeting. However, after the arrival of Elizabeth Ghandakly (EG) a quorum was established.

**II. Approval of the June, September and October Minutes**

- June 16, 2017: No changes were needed. Michael Trahos (MT) motioned to accept the minutes as presented; Ann Harbour (AH) seconded; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.
- September 15, 2017: In Section II "Updates", Ann Harbour's (AH) name was corrected. In Section IV "Partnership", "aging in place" and "aging in the community" were changed to "aging well in place" and "aging well in the community", respectively. Allen Lomax (AL) motioned to accept the minutes with the changes, MT seconded; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.
- October 20, 2017: Section VI "Updates from the Chair" initials for L. Tamara Wilson should be changed to "LTW". In Section VII, Part B "Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (PHA)" should be changed to "The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition". Also, in the same section, "Community Health Improvement Plan" should be changed to "the Partnership". Finally, in Part E, "INOVA" should be changed to "Simplicity".

AL motioned to accept the minutes with the changes, AH seconded; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

### III. Updates from the Chair

- Katya Wanzer (KW) welcomed guest Emily Albert, a citizen of Alexandria.
- A “drop box” will be created for all PHAC documents. Documents provided in the drop box should not be edited, are only for review.
- Any requests or information should be sent directly to the Chair, who will then redistribute to committee members. Articles are fine, however, members are advised against engaging in discussions about the article.
- KW provided copies of letter to Mark B. Jinks, City Manager, to committee (See Attachment I).
- KW provided Surgeon General’s Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health for committee review. MT added that the Surgeon General mailed a letter to every physician in the U.S. about the opioid crisis and expressed his concern. Dr. Stephen Haering (SH) also added the importance of recognizing the social and cultural implications in the opioid crisis. AH added to the discussion INOVA’s contributions to fighting the rising abuse of opioids, such as using tools to track usage and expanding the use of these tools to more healthcare providers.
- Jessica [need last name] was present at the Community Health Fair, which will be on the agenda next meeting.
- Keith [need last name] will be making a presentation on Neighborhood Health in the coming months. Although no longer a committee member, he plans on reapplying.
- KW provided the committee with a copy of the Vision Zero resolution with changes (Attachment II). L. Tamara Wilson (LTW) asked about writing a letter of support. AL motioned to write the letter of support and, if the resolution is changed again, amend the letter to reflect the changes at the December meeting. Seven in favor; LTW, EG, AL, Barbara Nowak (BN), Tricia Rodgers (TR), AH, and KW. MT abstained, expressing concern of writing the letter and resolution being changed again.
- As discussed at the previous meeting, AH provided the committee with a list of talking points for encounters with Council members (Attachment III). SH suggested corrections to “Additional Details Related to Local Administration of AHD”; removing the word “pay” from the seventh bullet point, and

removing the final bullet point altogether. Committee agreed that such talking points are an argument for a study on the feasibility of transferring the Alexandria Health Department to local administration.

#### **IV. Standing Reports**

##### *a. Partnership Update – Allen Lomax*

- PHA has created a donation account. The account requires a minimum balance of \$10,000 before withdrawals will be allowed. There is a 3 person donation spending account committee who will check with Steering committee before withdrawing funds. NOVA [need remainder of organization name] will be holding a holiday party on December 1, 2016, and will announce the donation account.
- ACPS will be conducting the Youth Risk Behavior Study with ACPS 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders beginning the week of 11/28/2016.
- Assets survey was released to the public. Community meeting will be held on December 6, 2016 to discuss the results. There will also be a community meeting in early February 2017 with the Youth Services Organization.
- Drug Take Back Day event collected 310lbs of prescription drugs. Next event may be held in February of 2017. Still looking for a fourth location possibly on the West End. Additionally, acting police chief is doing an assessment to determine if a 24 hour drop box can be implemented. BN added the importance of advertising such events in the school system. SH notified committee that Drug Deactivation Kits are available at the Casey Health Center. AL stated program is still trying to work out where to send participants who wish to dispose of needles, as they currently do not have the capability to do so.

##### *b. Health Department Update – Dr. Stephen Haering*

- SH provided commissioners with "Message Map: Public Health Value" (Attachment IV) highlighting the broad scope of services the health department provides to the community.
- SH distributed "City Population and Health Department Staffing Trends 2007-2017" to commissioners (Attachment V).
- SH also distributed charts "City of Alexandria Budget Trends Fiscal Years 2007-2017" and "External Health Organizations" (Attachments VI and VII, respectively).
- The City Manager's office has informed SH of a 5% budget cut exercise for AHD.

- During SH's discussion of the City contributions to external health organizations, MT expressed concerns about the \$1 million + received by INOVA. MT provided the committee with a copy of the Washington Post article "Inova fumbled its redskins training facility naming rights deal" (Attachment VIII) and a copy of the September 12, 2016 agenda of the Fairfax County Health Care Advisory Board meeting (Attachment IX) of which MT is a member. MT motioned to ask the City Council to reallocate funds given to INOVA to the Alexandria Health Department. AH wants to present to the commission a list of what city funds to INOVA are spent on. Although AH will be away in January and February of 2017 for legislative session in Richmond, will coordinate with Jennifer Siciliano (sp?) of INOVA to attend a PHAC meeting. MT tabled his motion until after receiving list from AH and speaking with Jennifer Siciliano.
- TR dispersed Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia (SPAN) information cards on Depression and Aging and Mental Wellness.

V. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.