



**Minutes of the Thursday, March 21, 2024  
PHAC Meeting  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Via Zoom  
Alexandria Health Department**

<b>In-Person</b>	
<b>Virtual</b>	Chair- Jerome Cordts (JC), Lisa Chimento (LC), Anita McClendon (AM) Alex Long (AL) Patricia Rodgers (PR), Sylvia Jones (SJ) Richard Merritt (RM), JeanAnne Mayhan (JM) Dr. Michael Trahos (MT) Andrew Romero (AR), Melissa Riddy (MR),
<b>Absent</b>	Michele Walz (MW), Dr. Jessica Hill (JH), David Bowen (DB)
<b>AHD Representatives</b>	Casey Colzani (CC), Natalie Talis (NT) Dr. David Rose (DR)
<b>Guests</b>	Chief Andrew Duke

**I. Establishment of a Quorum**

- Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm by Chair Jerome Cordts (JC); role taken.

**II. Approval of the Previous Meeting’s Minutes**

- Dr. Michael Trahos (MT) motioned to approve February 2024 minutes, JeanAnne Mayhan (JM) Second. All in favor, minutes approved – no edits.

**III. Review Agenda**

- Jerome Cordts (JC) reviewed the meeting agenda with the commissioners.

**IV. Update From the Chair**

- JC met with Mayor Wilson after previous meeting. Two places where PHAC can provide input: City Budget process (letter was submitted in the fall), and local administration of Health Department
- Met with MRC Coordinator- Commission will present the MRC proclamation photo at volunteer appreciation event in April- details TBD

**V. Health Department Update**

- Recruitment for Public Health Planner position is nearly finalized.
- Community Health Assessment- June or July 2024 launch. Steering committee from 2018-2019 included representation from PHAC, will be requesting representatives from PHAC again. Tricia Rodgers was the previous representative from the commission.
- County Health Rankings have been released. Changes from previous years- use to rank cities against each other. Communities are on a spectrum with Virginia and

national benchmarks. Traditionally metrics are too high level for specific AHD work, but helpful information for Citywide issues.

- AHD continues with the Strategic Plan process. Trauma informed systems workgroup has provided additional input in that process.
- Department has been engaged with several communicable disease outbreaks beginning in February. Tracking and managing cases of Pertussis in the high school- working with ACPS, and regional VDH Epidemiology staff. Additionally, a case of Meningitis, involved entire AHD to work with community- including community outreach from staff from across divisions, contact tracing and providing post-exposure prophylaxis in the field. Worked closely with key community members to assist in complex contact tracing.

## **VI. Topical Issues for Discussion**

- **2025 City Budget-** Key items of interest for AHD are community health workers, informatics and systems capabilities, resilience, and retaining staff. PHAC has opportunities to provide comments during the budget process to address health issues in the City, including AHD and other city departments.
  - November letter to City Manager included, recruitment/staff retention, COVID-19 Recovery, equity, importance of community partnerships, and local control of AHD.
  - Informatics Specialist was left out of the City budget as presented. This position is listed in the budget as FTE lost due to ending of grant funds. AHD as identified additional grant funds to continue this position, but AHD is looking at being able to build that position into general funds in the future.
  - One community health worker position- has been created with a reclassification of a current position. One position remains grant funded, AHD looking at additional options for the future.
  - Commissioners asked if there has been an analysis on budget impact at health and how many grant funded positions AHD has. What would the impact be if grant funding wasn't able to be obtained? AHD doesn't have a grant development team, so grants are obtained by division managers.
  - Example: Community Health workers are boots on the ground resources for AHD and community members. These positions work directly with the community to link them to resources. Informatics position working on technical systems to make online appointments, analyzing data to build program strategies. AHD would have greatly diminished impact without positions like these grant funded ones.
  - For 2026 budget cycle commission should monitor grant positions to provide greater detail for commission letters in the fall to City Manager. Additionally monitor other department budgets whose work impacts the health of the city (i.e., police, fire)
  - Chief Duke- look at performance measures of AFD. Because of call volume AFD often have no transports in waiting. 1000 people a day die of sudden cardia arrest- Response times are currently 8 minutes and 20 second, which

is nearly outside the most effective time for defibrillation. New Chief of EMS has been selected.

- **Local Administration of Health Department**

- Mayor and Council invite PHAC to provide input on local administration, including a Council working session, when the time comes. Three jurisdictions are currently locally administered, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Arlington.
- Commission will discuss over the next few months. PHAC will need to determine where the commission can have the most impact, and set parameters based on expertise and how local administration would be impacted by changes in elected officials that will be coming in the next year.
- Currently no action, contacts from City and State have been connected.

## **VII. Legislative and Engagement Topics**

- **Medicare for All-** City Council has adopted the Medicare for All resolution that Grassroots Alexandria spoke previously to the commission- commissioners did not come to a consensus on support. Information on that resolution will be shared with the commissioners.

## **I. Liaison and Community Partner Updates**

- **Inova Health System-** Oakville health center should open in October. Breaking ground on Landmark in summer/fall 2024.
- **Practicing Physician-** Independent Nurse Practitioner bill was tabled at committee. Bill would have allowed Nurse Practitioners to begin independent practice with a lower amount of clinical experience.
- **Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria-** Quarterly Update-CHIP Tactic Poverty. Advocate for greater investment in childcare- Currently PHAC has the opportunity to get involved still. JM will be discussing with the Tactic owner and Chair about how to proceed. A white paper on this topic was prepared in 2021.
- **Neighborhood Health-** NH is also encountering shifts in COVID and APRA grant funds. Looked at other funding for CHS's to help funding for this year. Currently looking into other opportunities and fiscal planning to ensure continuity of operations. Encountering issues with the Federal Pharmacy program, NH is monitoring this situation. VHC had been running Women and children's health center in the Columbia Pike area, now under NH management as of January- no staff changes and facility will be open to any NH patient with no residency restrictions. NH not seeing significant impacts with Medicaid unwinding, but is being constantly monitored.

## **II. Public Comment**

- No comments from members of the public

## **III. Adjournment**

- LC Motioned for meeting adjournment, MJ second. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.