



Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
Quarterly Meeting
Summary
March 26, 2008

Attendance: Mary Riley, Chair, Anti-Stigma Mental Health HOPE Campaign
Allan Lomax, Chair, Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria
Charles Konigsberg, Alexandria Health Department
Deborah Warren, Community Services Board
Mike Gilmore, Community Service Board
Lisa Baker, Office on Women and Co-Chair, Healthy Lifestyles Work Group
Lisa Guli, Alexandria Health Department
Lyn Hainge, Campbell Hoffman Foundation
Linda Cotton, Department of Human Services
Veronica Aberle, Alexandria Health Department
Kristin Langlykke, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.
Jacqueline Coachman, Department of Human Services
Richard Merritt, Public Health Advisory Commission and Youth Policy Commission
Arlene Hewitt, Public Health Advisory Commission
Robin Adams, Inova Alexandria Hospital
Bill Euille, Alexandria Mayor
Kathy Bury, Inova Alexandria Hospital
Robin Wallin, Alexandria City Public Schools
Bob Custard, Alexandria Health Department

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Mary Riley, welcomed all to the meeting on behalf of Marian Van Landingham, Partnership Chair who was unable to join us today.
2. **Reports from Partnership Work Groups.**
 - a. **Healthy Lifestyles Work Group.** Lisa Baker, Co-Chair reported on the 2007 successes including: Point of decision stair use; Healthy workplace competition; and Proud to be Smokefree program. The Work Group has been awaiting the results of the Inova Childhood Obesity study, which has been released, and several presentations made by Peggy Cressy. The Work Group

will be developing action plans to address the survey information on childhood obesity in Alexandria within the next several months. Lisa mentioned that the Work Group's initial discussions have focused on children ages 2-5, which survey data, points to largest problem in Alexandria. Partnership members suggested individuals to involve in the community to address this age group.

b. Anti Stigma HOPE Campaign. Mary Riley presented the 2007 activities and events of this work group. The Work Group has focused on community events and outreach to the general public. Emphasis early this year is on the month of May which is Mental Health month and the Campaign with the Community Services Board will host a community event on May 29, 2008 with speaker Kay Jamison, Ph.D. a noted celebrity on mental health and depression. Additionally, the Campaign has used complimentary SAMSHA materials at community events entitled "What a Difference a Friend Makes" and "Know Me as a Person, Not by my Mental Illness".

c. Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria. Mary Riley introduced Allan Lomax as the new chair of the Coalition and recognized Mayor Euille as the honorary coalition chair. Mary thanked Allen for assuming the chair's position and Allen recognized the previous chair's, Cate Alexander, for her leadership of the Coalition during the first formative year. Allen reviewed the 2007 activities of the Coalition which included the award of a state grant from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services for the Coalition to conduct a community assessment of youth substance abuse in order to collect qualitative data. The qualitative data will supplement the quantitative data recently released by the public schools (i.e. Developmental Assets and YRBS).

Allen also reported a federal grant that was recently submitted to the federal government (SAMSHA), which would fund the Coalition for five years. He recognized all those involved in the project and thank them. Partnership members involved in this project commented that the grant provided the Coalition with a great work plan if not funded.

3. Environmental Health Work Group. Dr. Konigsberg introduced the need for establishment of a new Work Group reporting to the Partnership. He sited the need to focus on the health aspects where the environment impacts the community. He noted the importance to closely coordinate these efforts with the City's Environmental Policy Commission and the City Environmental Division of Transportation and Environment Services Department. If the Partnership agrees to the formation of this Work Group, the first order of business will be to develop a mission and determine Work Group membership.

Bob Custard, Health Department Director of Environmental Health noted that there are 120 restaurants in Alexandria currently participating in the voluntary "Smoke Free Restaurant" program (out of a total 360 restaurants). He recommended this program be included in the Environmental Health Work Group

mission. He also mentioned other respiratory issues such as asthma is a health incidence that is rising rapidly in Alexandria specifically among youth.

Partnership members discussed the intentionality of this effort and recommended the Partnership move to act deliberately in forming this new Work Group. There was consensus from Partnership members to move forward with the establishment of the Work Group. Bob Custard and Ann Huston will meet next to discuss mission and membership.

4. Organizational Structure. With the above action to form a new Work Group on Environmental Health, the Partnership agreed with a new organizational chart that identifies four work groups (see attached).

5. Announcements.

a. Unnatural Causes. Dr. Konigsberg distributed a flyer announcing a new PBS special series on health and health disparities in America. Lyn Hainge reported on a viewing she attended and the community resources available at www.unnaturalcauses.org. The Alexandria Health Department has ordered the DVD series and will make this available to the Partnership for viewing.

b. Health Planner Position. Dr. Konigsberg announced the Health Planner position has been re-announced on the city website and he anticipates interviewing for this position in April.

c. Partnership Composition. Mary Riley requested members to consider Partnership membership and if there are important members or components of the city that are not represented. Members agreed current membership of Work Groups was a good representation of the City. Suggestions were made to include Early Childhood Commission and Social Services Commission as possible members.

d. Community Services Board Public Hearing. Mary Riley invited members to attend the CSB Public Hearing on May 1, 2008 7:00 p.m. at the CSB offices, 720 N. St. Asaph.

6. Adjournment. The next Partnership meeting date will be established when the new Health Planner is on board, targeting May 2008.

Submitted,
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Interim Health Planner
Alexandria Health Department