

Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee Center, Gold Room 1
1108 Jefferson Street
Thursday, May 10, 2007
3:30 – 5:00 PM

Steering Committee Members Present:

- Marian Van Landingham – Chair, *Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria* Steering Committee
- Bob Custard – Environmental Health Manager, Alexandria Health Department
- Robin Wallin – School Nurse Coordinator, ACPS
- Veronica Aberle – Nurse Manager, Alexandria Health Department
- Rika Maeshiro – Vice-Chair, Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission; Co-Chair, Healthy Lifestyle Work Group
- Lisa Baker – Director, Alexandria Office on Women
- Charles Konigsberg – Director, Alexandria Health Department
- Angela Crawford – Epidemiologist, Alexandria Health Department
- Kathy Bury – Infection Control Nurse, Inova Alexandria Hospital
- Ron Frazier – Director, Office of Youth Services, DHS
- Rebecca Parkin – Associate Dean, Research and Public Health Practice; Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health, GWU School of Public Health and Health Services
- Cara Pennel – Health Planner, Alexandria Health Department

Presentation: Alexandria Community Environmental Health Assessment

- Bob Custard, Alexandria Health Department, Environmental Health Manager

Priorities for Action:

Tier I (Top Priorities)

- Indoor Air Quality / Respiratory Health
- Outdoor Air Quality
- Surface Water Quality

Tier II

- Built Environment (Healthy Lifestyles)
- Food Safety
- Disease Carriers & Vector Control

Tier III

- Chemicals and Toxics
- Recreational Safety
- Drinking Water
- Solid Waste
- Noise

See enclosed PowerPoint slides for additional details.

Discussion / Comments: Community Environmental Health Assessment

The steering committee members were asked to comment on the assessment and how and under what body a follow-up to the assessment might occur.

- The City is implementing an Environmental Action Plan, which consists of developing an inventory of existing programs and policies, collecting information on relevant plans, model programs and practices from other jurisdictions that may be applicable in the City, preparing a Draft Environmental Action Plan for the City and designing a community outreach plan and Facilitate an Eco-City Community Summit.
- It was proposed that a third leg be created under the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to follow-up to the Community Environmental Health Assessment. The work groups would be: Mental Health / Substance Abuse Prevention, Healthy Lifestyles (to focus solely on the overweight/obesity issue), and Indoor Air Quality / Respiratory Health. Built environment/healthy lifestyles (Tier II priority) would fit under the Healthy Lifestyles Work Group and tobacco use control and prevention initiatives would be moved under the IAQ/Respiratory Health Work Group.
- The question was raised as to why the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) wouldn't do a follow-up to this assessment. Answer: The EPC has an environmental focus, but their first priority is frequently on infrastructure issues rather than health and people. The Partnership would bring the health and human perspective. Additionally, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) and the EPC already have well-established programs in addressing outdoor air quality and surface water issues – the Partnership could address the respiratory health and built environment priorities.
- It was recommended that a joint subcommittee be established with representatives from the Alexandria Health Department (AHD), T&ES, EPC, and the Partnership (similar to the public health / mental health partnership on the Mental Health / Substance Abuse Prevention Work Group). This would facilitate collaboration and buy-in.
- It was decided that Dr. Konigsberg and Bob, along with Marian and a representative of the Public Health Advisory Commission would have a conversation with T&ES and EPC about opportunities to work together on the follow-up and how to proceed.