Members present: Jim Edmondson, Dr. Bennie Marshall, and Bruce Edwards

VDH staff present: Dr. Karen Remley, State Health Commissioner and Joe Hilbert, Director of Governmental and Regulatory Affairs

The members discussed the procedures for filling the vacancy in the Board of Health Chair position and for appointing the nominating committee. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Call to Order

Jim Edmondson, Executive Committee member convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Edmondson explained that Dr. Julie Beales, Vice Chair, would be arriving at the meeting later in the morning due to an unavoidable delay. Mr. Edmondson also advised the Board about the resignation of Dr. Craig Reed as Chairman of the Board of Health due to Dr. Reed’s relocation to South Carolina. Mr. Edmondson welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that there were many members of the public in attendance. Mr. Edmondson indicated that there were
no regulatory items on the Board’s agenda for this meeting. He reviewed the Board’s public participation policy.

Mr. Edmondson announced that action needed to be taken to name the successor for the remainder of Dr. Reed’s position as Chairman. The Board’s bylaws indicate that in the event that the chairman is to be replaced, this action needs to take place at the next regular meeting which is this meeting. Mr. Edmondson stated that any member wishing to serve in this position is eligible to do so. Mr. Edmondson made a call for nominations for the chair position. Dr. Bennie Marshall nominated Dr. Beales to serve as Chair and the motion was seconded. No additional nominations were made. The motion was approved unanimously and Dr. Beales will serve as Chair through June 30, 2011.

With Dr. Beales’ election to the position of Chair, the Vice Chair position became vacant. Mr. Edmondson made a call for nominations for Vice Chair; Dr. Marshall nominated Mr. Edmondson. The motion was seconded. No additional nominations were made. The motion was approved unanimously and Mr. Edmondson will serve as Vice Chair through June 30, 2011.

Joe Hilbert reviewed the agenda for the meeting and the information items contained in the notebooks available for the Board members.

**Matrix of Pending Regulatory Actions**

Mr. Hilbert reviewed the listing of all of the pending VDH regulatory actions. There were no questions.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the October 15, 2010 Board meeting. Mr. Hilbert indicated that the word “Medevac” was misspelled in two places in the minutes. VDH staff will make that correction. The minutes were approved as corrected.

**Commissioner’s Report**

Dr. Remley recognized Ed Spearbeck and the recent loss of his wife. The Board observed a moment of silence in her memory.

Dr. Remley introduced Jill Grumbine and Jeff McDaniel as the VDH “agency stars” for this meeting. Agency stars are VDH staff that best demonstrate and exemplify the mission and vision of VDH. Ms. Grumbine was instrumental in the investigation of a recent active tuberculosis case in Henrico County. Mr. McDaniel was instrumental in the investigation of a possibly contaminated well in the Thomas Jefferson Health District.

Dr. Remley briefed the Board on the First Lady’s Capital Feats initiative to promote physical activities. She also briefed the Board on recent reductions in heart attack-related mortality in Virginia. Dr. Remley briefed the Board on a series of issues pertaining to maternal and child
health, with a particular focus on teen pregnancy, family planning, infant mortality, and intentional termination of pregnancy.

Dr. Remley provided the Board with an overview of the process that VDH plans to follow to prepare draft emergency regulations for the licensure of facilities that perform first trimester abortions. From March through May, 2011, VDH will research regulations already in place in other states. From May through August, VDH staff will draft the regulations. On or about September 1, draft regulations will be sent to Board of Health members to review. The draft regulations will be presented to the Board at the September 15, 2011 meeting. December 31, 2011 is the target date for the regulations to be signed by the Governor. Emergency regulations are effective for a maximum of 1 year, but can be extended for an additional six months by the Governor.

There was a discussion by the Board concerning several specific aspects of the process to be followed. Dr. Remley clarified that, while the September 15 meeting will be the Board’s first opportunity to provide input on the draft emergency regulations, the Board will continue to be involved with the preparation and approval of the permanent replacement regulations.

Legislative Update

Mr. Hilbert provided a brief summary of legislation that has been signed into law. Unless otherwise noted, the new laws go into effect July 1, 2011. Many bills were introduced in the 2011 General Assembly session that affect VDH. Sixty-nine bills were assigned to VDH for review and analysis by the Governor’s Office; 34 passed. The Governor has 30 days after the end of session to decide to sign or reject legislation. April 6 is the date for the reconvened session.

There was a brief discussion concerning several bills including those dealing with childhood immunizations, dental hygienists, drinking water, death certificates, emergency medical services, and certificate of public need.

Budget Update

Mike McMahon provided the budget update. The proposed budget had not been signed by Governor as of the date of the meeting. He gave a brief overview of the 41 VDH service areas.

There was a discussion concerning prior budget reduction strategies that have been used by VDH. There was also a discussion concerning VDH funding sources.

Break

Dr. Beales reconvened the meeting after a break. She indicated that she had been unavoidably detained and thanked the Board for their confidence in her by electing her as Chair.
VDH Performance Improvement System

Josh Czarda gave an update on the development of the VDH performance improvement system. He briefed the Board on the development of an agency performance dashboard as well as three performance improvement projects that are currently underway. There was a discussion concerning how performance ideas are generated within VDH.

Public Comment

Dr. Beales reviewed the procedure for public participation during the public comment period. Five members of the public spoke with regard to regulations for the licensure for abortion clinics; three were in support and three were opposed.

Speakers in support: Frances Bouton, Kate Fowler, and Louantha Kerr
Speakers in opposition: Hailey Hollifield, Mark Strandquist, and Eric Scott

Trauma Triage Plan

Gary Brown presented the Trauma Triage Plan. Following a brief discussion, the plan was approved unanimously.

Lunch Presentation

Matt Cobb, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources briefed the Board on the status of the Virginia Health Reform Initiative.

The Governor’s Virginia Health Reform Advisory Committee completed its first year of work and issued 28 recommendations. Mr. Cobb discussed several components of health care reform in Virginia, including development of an online client portal, provider scope of practice issues, electronic health records, care coordination, development of a center for health innovation, and development of a health benefit exchange.

There was a brief discussion concerning how Virginia’s health reform efforts compare to other states, as well as discussion concerning behavioral health issues, purchasing of pharmaceuticals, and chronic disease prevention.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Beales appointed Bruce Edwards, Dr. Bennie Marshall, and Dr. Mary McCluskey to the nominating committee. The nominating committee will recommend a slate of Board officers for election at the June 2011 Board meeting.

Member Reports

Dr. Bhushan Pandya – Medical Society of Virginia. MSV is engaged in development of health information technology (HIT) and meaningful use. It is organizing round table meetings in Richmond and Tidewater to promote meaningful use of HIT. MSV has concerns about
substance abuse in Southwest Virginia and is working with legislators and local stakeholders in organizing an educational series in that region to increase awareness.

**Paul Clements – Nursing Home Industry Representative.** He told the Board that it was an interesting legislative session. Reductions in long term care funding were not as large as in some prior years. Medicaid reimbursement continues to be a challenge. He discussed issues concerning an ongoing national effort to survey and rank long term care facilities.

**Gail Taylor – Consumer Representative.** No report.

**Dr. Anna Jeng – Public Environmental Health Representative.** She briefed the Board on a continuing education effort sponsored by the Virginia Environmental Health Association for environmental health professionals.

**Eric Deaton – Hospital Industry.** There is ongoing work within the hospital industry focused on quality improvement, reporting of health outcomes, reducing infection rates, and process improvement. Discussion is ongoing concerning how to reform the Medicaid reimbursement system.

**Dr. Mary McCluskey – Managed Care Health Insurance Plans.** Health care reform issues are similar to what managed care is facing. There is the possibility of doubling enrollment which raises concern about the ability of the system to handle that many enrollees. Managed care has done some innovative work by establishing medical care homes. They are looking to transform physician offices to efficient business models. Chronic disease is of increasing concern.

**Jim Edmondson – Consumer Representative.** He discussed the importance of primary care physicians. He also discussed reimbursement issues pertaining to primary care physicians and specialty physicians.

**Dr. Julie Beales – Medical Society of Virginia.** She discussed the importance of how health care reform issues are addressed, with a particular focus on how medical care is provided.

**Dr. Bennie Marshall – Virginia Nurses Association.** She discussed issues pertaining to nursing scope of practice, nursing education and training, workforce planning, and workforce data.

**Kay Curling – Corporate Purchaser of Health Care.** She discussed a number of issues concerning employer and employee purchasing of health care. Purchasers are all trying to determine what health care reform means to them, and how they will have to react and respond. Consumers are beginning to understand that their behavior impacts what their costs are. A lot of employers are out in front for wellness initiatives.

**Ed Spearbeck – Virginia Pharmacists Association.** He briefed the Board on issues pertaining to prescription processing and access to pain medication.
Bruce Edwards – Emergency Medical Services Representative. He advised the Board concerning recent bylaw changes on the part of the EMS Advisory Board, which has resulted in a better organized, less siloed structure, and enabled better coordination of the State EMS plan.

Dr. Charles Johnson – Virginia Dental Association. He told the Board that the Virginia Dental Association’s (VDA) Mission of Mercy clinic program occurs once a quarter. The VDA has completed 50 such programs. Dr. Johnson told the Board that Virginia should be proud of this program.

Dr. John de Triquet – Local Government. He told the Board that he supports the use of non-physician health care providers as a means to achieve cost savings. He also supports the use of hospitalists as a cost effective means of health care delivery.

Other Business

VDH expects a continued influx of public participation for the upcoming June 9 and September 15 meetings. VDH will be identifying the appropriate space to accommodate the increased attendance at these meetings.

Orientation

The meeting continued with those members who wished to stay to review the orientation manual for new Board members. The meeting continued to be officially in session; however, there would not be any discussion for matters that would require a vote by the Board members.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.