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Virginia Health Commissioner's Minority Health Advisory Committee



Promoting Health Equity in Virginia

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP
Virginia Health Commissioner

VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment

“Minority Health Advisory Committee: Promoting Health Equity in Virginia”

Our Mission

The mission of the Minority Health Advisory Committee is to promote the elimination of health inequities among racial and ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged populations in Virginia.

Our Membership

MHAC members are appointed for four-year terms by the Virginia State Health Commissioner.

The committee is representative of Virginia’s racial and ethnic minority and disadvantaged populations as well as other key stakeholders.

The MHAC includes representatives from state and local public health agencies, health care providers, consumers, colleges and universities, and faith and ethnic organizations.

Our Role

MHAC members advise and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health, with particular attention to:

- Identifying limitations associated with existing laws, regulations, programs and services.

- Identifying and reviewing health promotion and disease prevention strategies.

- Supporting policies and legislation to foster health equity.

Our History

Virginia’s State Health Commissioner created the Minority Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) in 1990 to promote and advocate for the elimination of health inequities among all racial and ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged populations in Virginia.

The MHAC is committed to promoting health equity and social justice, including addressing the social determinants of health.

Our Major Projects

- Conduct health equity screenings and forums utilizing tools such as the “Unnatural Causes” documentary in discussions with stakeholders to promote community based

efforts to improve health among marginalized and disadvantaged communities

- Develop legislative recommendations to promote health equity

- Develop community based collaborative partnerships to promote health equity

"In order to serve the public well, we need to know what concerns our citizens. Members of the Minority Health Advisory Committee bring important health issues directly to me. Their work is essential to ensure that the health matters of minority and disadvantaged citizens across the Commonwealth are adequately addressed by the Virginia Department of Health."

Dr. Karen Remley