

Assisting the Governmental and Regulatory Affairs Team to Support Critical State Health Policy Initiatives

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Cohort 3

Host Site: Central Office (Governmental and Regulatory Affairs)



Contributions:

My project successfully bridged critical operational needs, ensuring seamless support for the recent June Board of Health meeting and site visits hosted by Mount Rogers Health District. In addition, I worked to update and create a comprehensive schedule for reviewing and revising VDH administrative policies, setting a structured path forward for agency policy management. The agency reaccreditation readiness assessment for PHAB was completed on time, maintaining the agency's compliance trajectory. Additionally, my project focused on thorough and well-considered analysis related to the Petition for Rulemaking regarding transgender athletes in sports and transgender women in shared spaces that was submitted to the Board of Health, demonstrating responsiveness to emerging policy issues'.

Objectives:

- Support the administration of State Board of Health meetings
- Develop an updated schedule for review and revision of the VDH Administrative Policies
- Coordinate completion of PHAB Reaccreditation Readiness Assessment by meeting with subject matter experts to gather documentation
- Help monitor and coordinate review Reports due to the General Assembly
- Monitor Petition for Rulemaking 432 regarding transgender athletes in women-only sports and women-only spaces and analyze over 2,300 public comments

Lessons & Skills Learned:

- Gained a valuable understanding regarding the regulatory processes in Virginia
- Demonstrated critical thinking and communication skills while helping develop agency policies
- Developed and trained an Artificial Intelligence (AI) model to analyze public comments on this Petition for Rulemaking 432. This was VDH's first approved AI initiative in public policy analysis.
- Sharpened project management skills

Challenges:

- Coordinating multiple stakeholders, Board members, internal teams, Office Directors, and external regulatory bodies under tight deadlines
- Managing the complexities of AI implementation, and ensuring accurate and transparent data preparation, training, and validation.

Acknowledgments:

I would like to give a huge thank you to Michael Capps, Joesph Hilbert and John Kotyk, and the rest of the GRA team for welcoming me with open arms and always being an amazing resource throughout this awesome experience!



This photo was taken at the Quarterly Board of Health Meeting in June. Shown are Board of Health members along with some staff from the Central Office.