

**Advisory Council ACHDHE on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)
April 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Central Office Madison Building
109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Main Floor Conference Room– 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Attended in Richmond: **Emmanuel Eugenio**, MD, FAAP; **Linda Redmond**, PhD ; **Karen Reed**, MA, CDE; **Augustine Doe**, MS, MPA;

Attended Via Polycom/Phone: **Kate S. K. Lim**, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHQ, CPHRM; **Maia McCuiston Jackson**, MD, FAAP; **Melody Armstrong**, MPA, BSN

Did Not Attend: **Lilian Peake**, MD, MPH; **Adrienne McFadden**, MD, JD, FACEP, FAAEM , FCLM; **Patti Kiger**, M. Ed (PhD); **Cecily Rodriguez**, MPA; **Luisa F. Soaterna-Castaneda**, BS, MPH; **J. Elisha Burke**, M.Div., D.Min.; **Keisha L. Smith**, MPA; **Beth O'Connor**, M. Ed, BA; **Elizabeth Locke**, PhD, PT; **Gloria Addo-Ayensu**, MD, MPH; **Grace S. Lambert**, MHA, MPA; **Kathryn E. MacCormick**, MSc

WELCOME

Dr. Redmond called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The April meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

On behalf of ACHDHE, Dr. Linda Redmond read and delivered ACHDHE's recommendation from the January 12, 2016 meeting presentations for the State Health Commissioner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 12, 2016 minutes were approved as submitted.

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

Mr. Joseph Hilbert, Director of Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, Virginia Department of Health

Mr. Hilbert presented on behalf of the Commissioner, and announced that Dr. Levine was in attendance at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) two-day Health Equity conference in Atlanta.

Mr. Hilbert noted Dr. Adrienne McFadden was also attending this conference, and both were serving on a CDC panel on data driven best practices, addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) and sharing information on Virginia's Health Opportunity Index (HOI).

Mr. Hilbert also shared that effective April 25, 2016, Dr. Hughes Nelson will begin as VDH's Chief Deputy Commissioner for Public Health Preparedness. He noted that Dr. Nelson is a respected primary care physician from southwest Virginia. Further, Mr. Hilbert informed attendees that Dr. Levine asked that members be updated on Virginia's drinking water because this topic was present in the news. Mr.

Hilbert reported that VDH has been proactive in communicating about Virginia’s drinking water to Governor McAuliffe and Secretary William Hazel. Mr. Hilbert highlighted the importance of consideration of Health Impact Assessments (HIA) in policy making and how an HIA could have prevented the situation in Michigan.

PRESENTATIONS

“Office of Drinking Water Lead Briefing”

John Aulbach, Office Director, Office of Drinking Water (ODW), Virginia Department of Health

Mr. Aulbach presented on water safety. He shared that Virginia has programs, policies and staff in place to ensure that lead in the drinking water is not a problem such as in Flint, Michigan. The VDH ODW’s 120 staff monitor and advise managers on 2,700 water systems, which include owners of small private wells to large systems, ensuring Virginians have water that is adequate, safe and affordable. Their office provides monthly status reports to Secretary Hazel and sends Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) weekly updates on the systems working on compliance issues. ODW is developing a new website to provide information on water purity issues across the state, making available all data collected and explaining procedures. Staffs are working with the EPA and other professionals on developing best practices for the state and the nation.

ACHDHE member expressed appreciation for the detailed presentation.

“Zika Virus Epi Overview”

Dr. Laurie Forlano, Office Director, Office of Epidemiology, Virginia Department of Health

Dr. Forlano provided an overview of the Zika virus disease in the US and Virginia, how it is transmitted, special concerns for pregnant women and women of childbearing ages, and prevention strategies. She says this is a newly identified problem and much is not known, but research is ongoing. Microcephaly is a major concern but it appears that there are a larger range of neurological effects in all ages. Public education is important, since prevention is key as there is no vaccination or cure at this time. Dr. Forlano shared that the Zika virus spreads to people primarily through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The mosquito picks up the virus by biting an infected person. So it is important that infected persons ensure they are not assisting with transmission. Because only one of five infected persons gets sick with fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis, it is important that all who travel to areas where Zika is prevalent take special precautions.

As of March 23, 2016, Zika infection has been laboratory-confirmed in nine residents of Virginia who acquired the disease while traveling or from a sexual partner who had been in an area where the Zika virus is prevalent. States submit information to the CDC weekly, numbers and concerns are growing.

The Zika virus is primarily transmitted by the Aedes mosquito which circulates in Virginia, Dr. Forlano continued. The virus remains in an infected person’s blood for about one (1) week. Because blood transfusion has been reported, some blood donation agencies have requested that recent travelers to Zika-affected areas defer donating blood.

Zika prevention strategies include reducing the size of the mosquito population, protecting against mosquito bites and avoiding sexual transmission. Men who reside in or have traveled to an area of active Zika virus transmission should abstain from sexual activity or consistently and correctly use condoms during sex with their pregnant partner or partner of child bearing age for six months or the duration of the pregnancy. Recommendations will be revised as more information becomes available.

Dr. Forlano indicated that all communities need to get involved as mosquito prevention takes a village. Community members should encourage removal of larval habitats and mosquito breeding sites, initiate community cleanup campaigns, and welcome mosquito surveillance personnel for data collection.

“Zika Communication”

Maribeth Brewster, Risk Communication Manager, Office of Risk Communication, Virginia Department of Health

Ms. Brewster presented on the Zika communication strategies considering four priority audiences—pregnant women and their partners, women of child-bearing age and their partners, travelers, and the general public. She indicated the three top Zika messages in Virginia as being:

- The best way to prevent Zika is to prevent mosquito bites. There is **no vaccine** to prevent Zika.
- Most people infected with Zika don’t even know they have it. People usually don’t get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika.
- See a healthcare provider if you develop a fever, rash, joint pain, or red eyes during a trip or within 2 weeks after traveling to a place with Zika, or if you have had sexual contact with someone who has traveled.

She also shared the Virginia’s Zika communication dashboard of messages translated in several languages currently on the website (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/zika-virus-update/>).

Ms. Brewster shared that VDH is working on animated Zika videos and including the Commissioner in public service announcements as were effectively utilized with VDH’s Ebola messaging. She emphasized “Drain and Cover” as two primary prevention practices everyone needs to do.

“Zika Emergency Preparedness Overview”

Presentation deferred.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

OMHHE Updates

Karen Reed, Division Director, Division of Multicultural Health & Community Engagement, Virginia Department of Health

Ms. Reed shared Dr. Adrienne McFadden’s regrets for her inability to attend the meeting and shared the following on her behalf.

- Minority Health Month Observance, April 15, 2016:
April is Minority Health Month. In celebration of the month the office is coordinating and supporting a number of activities including:

- Obtaining a governor's proclamation recognizing April as Minority Health Month
 - Coordinating an interagency tribal listening session, April 15, 2016, 10:15 a. m.
 - Collaborating on the Empowered to Serve Conference (a faith based conference focused on building a culture of health through faith), and various panels around the state, April 23, 2016, doors open at 9:00 a. m.
- Virginia's Health Opportunity Index:
The Health Opportunity Index is getting very positive attention and gaining great momentum. Staff has been asked to present on the work at a national level for the CDC, it is the subject of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) health equity webinar on April 28, and the office was also invited to speak on aspects of the tool at the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) conference in Charlotte, NC and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) conference in Phoenix, AZ.
www.vdh.virginia.gov/omhhe/hoi

OMHHE Programs:

Rural Health Program:

- The State Office of Rural Health is in full swing. Current activities include support of a Telehealth Needs Assessment for VDH, a feasibility study for tele-behavioral health for the Hampton Roads VAMC service population, substance abuse work, mobile integrated healthcare, and rural community activities.

Workforce Program:

- The workforce incentive programs are in full swing. The office is finalizing awards for 12 providers in the Virginia state loan repayment program (this program brings health care providers to Virginia's Health Professional Shortage Areas).
- Virginia has processed 16 J-1 visa waiver recommendation applications (which brings physicians who came to the US to study to health professional shortage areas and medically underserved areas).
- The nursing scholarship program application season will be opening May 1.

CLAS Program:

- OMHHE has updated the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services web pages: [www. CLASActVirginia.org](http://www.CLASActVirginia.org).
- 2016 Virginia Language Needs Assessment will be posted soon.

Upcoming Health Equity Cultural Training Program:

- “LGBT Cultural Competence in Health Care Settings” on Thursday, April 28, 2016, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. You may register on the Train Virginia website (<https://va.train.org>) using the course ID number 1061265.
- Virginia’s Health Opportunity Index and the Language Needs Assessment” on Wednesday, May 11 from 11:30am -1:00pm, TRAIN ID# 1063230.
- For information on trainings contact: Marilyn Breslow, CLASS Specialist at Marilyn.breslow@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7438.

ACHDHE MEMBER UPDATES

ACHDHE member announced that the Norfolk State University Center for Health Disparities hosted the first integrated Christian church coalition meeting with about 30 congregations represented last week. The meeting highlighted the Virginia’s Congregations for Million Hearts and signed up additional congregations for participation in the statewide initiative.

ACHDHE MEMBER ACTION ITEMS

ACHDHE members were requested to provide their feedback on the presentations. The presentation survey links are indicated below.

VDH Presentations

1. Presentation: “Office of Drinking Water Lead Briefing,” Mr. Aulbach
<http://kwiksurveys.com/s/isvKMDdW>
2. Presentation: “Zika Communication,” Ms. Maribeth - <http://kwiksurveys.com/s/U50iteOh>
3. Presentation: “Zika Virus Epi Overview,” Dr. Forlano - <http://kwiksurveys.com/s/PlcQUMt8>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Next ACHDHE MEETING: Tuesday, July 12, 2016.

Time: 11:00am – 2:00 pm

Location: Mezzanine Conference Room, VDH Central Office, 109 Governor Street, 23219 or via Polycom upon request.

Respectfully submitted by:

Augustine Doe, Health Equity Specialist

Minutes reviewed by:

Dr. Linda Redmond, Chair