

To: Marissa Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP, State Health Commissioner
From: Luisa F. Soaterna, MPH, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparities & Health Equity (ACHDHE)
Date: April 25, 2017
Subject: ACHDHE Recommendation for Program Enhancement

In response to February 7, 2017 ACHDHE meeting presentations on the topic “Strategic Planning, Performance, Measurement, and Accreditation,” presented by Mr. John Ringer, Director of Public Health Planning and Evaluation for the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), we respectfully make the following recommendations:

- We applaud and strongly support the department’s effort to move forward with the accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board, which will add greater value and accountability for the public.
- We recommend that VDH prioritize working with other agencies such as the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) so that low income residents in rural areas of the Commonwealth with limited access to hospital and physician services are offered plans that are honored by their local medical resources.

The committee commends the Office of Health Equity in its efforts in 2016 as well as its planned efforts in 2017 to enhance culturally and linguistically appropriate services and the sustainability of a diverse workforce in the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration of the recommendation.

Luisa F. Soaterna, MPH, Chair

cc: ACHDHE members