

**To:** Marissa Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP, State Health Commissioner  
**From:** Linda Redmond, PhD, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparities & Health Equity (ACHDHE)  
**Date:** July 12, 2016  
**Subject:** ACHDHE Recommendations for Program Enhancement

In response to April 12, 2016 ACHDHE meeting presentations on the Zika virus efforts, we, the members of the ACHDHE, first commend VDH on its activities thus far. We respectfully also make the following recommendations:

- 1) VDH continue its pro-active efforts in: a.) monitoring both research findings on effective interventions and outbreaks in Virginia; and b.) planning/implementing timely public education on prevention.
- 2) VDH increase communication on prevention and VDH efforts with key community partners statewide such as the Virginia Congregations for Million Hearts and other faith based groups, non-profits and others.
- 3) VDH seek additional funding from the legislature in 2017 to address this health threat.

Thank you for your consideration of these important recommendations to enhance health equity.

Linda L. Redmond, PhD, Chair

cc: ACHDHE members