

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

In response to January 12, 2016 ACHDHE meeting presentations, we, the members of the ACHDHE, respectfully make the following recommendations:

I. “Virginia’s 2016 Legislative and Budget Updates” - Presenters: Joe Hilbert - Michael McMahon

We recommend the following:

- 1) VDH analyze community financial investments with health outcomes.
- 2) VDH request additional funding for smaller communities which may need a higher proportionate share of budget to address health disparities.

II. “Onsite Sewage Systems and Environmental Justice in Virginia” - Presenter: Danna Revis & Lance Gregory

We recommend the following:

- 1) VDH develop and publish an official onsite sewage system registry that includes random sampling to select and inspect an adequate number of systems annually and to record data necessary to determine the overall state of local onsite sewage systems.
- 2) VDH provide resources to help people on a sliding scale basis to fund repairs, improvements or replacements of failed or failing systems.
- 3) VDH improve grant funding information availability and work toward increasing the funding ratio for grants.
- 4) VDH increases outreach to rural minority communities.
- 5) VDH move forward with an outreach and implementation plan to address this issue.

III. “Richmond Youth Health Equity Leadership Initiative (YHELI)” - Presenter: Brandi Daniels – Information was shared about this initiative that was part of the work developed by the VDH, Office of Minority Health & Health Equity and Richmond Health District and other partners.

We recommend the following:

- 1) VDH financially and programmatically support the YHELI and similar youth health equity leadership programs that establish collaborative community partners to address health disparities and equity among youth.
- 2) VDH highlight the YHELI program on their website; and in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education, promote replication in other communities and schools.

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

Linda L. Redmond, PhD, Chair

cc: ACHDHE members