

Advisory Council ACHDHE on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)
February 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes

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

Attended in Richmond: **State Health Commissioner: Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP,;** **Patti Kiger, M. Ed (PhD); Luisa F. Soaterna-Castaneda, BS, MPH; Linda Redmond, PhD ; Adrienne McFadden, MD, JD, FACEP, FAAEM , FCLM; Karen Reed, MA, CDE; Augustine Doe, MS, MPA;**
Attended Via Polycom/Phone: **J. Elisha Burke, M.Div., D.Min.; Maia McCuiston Jackson, MD, FAAP; Keisha L. Smith, MPA;**
Did Not Attend: **Emmanuel Eugenio, MD, FAAP; Kate S. K. Lim, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHQ; Elizabeth Locke, PhD, PT; Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSNCPhRM; Kathryn E. MacCormick, MSc.**

WELCOME

Dr. Redmond, former ACHDHE Chair, introduced herself and asked everyone to introduce themselves prior to calling the meeting to order.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda for the regular January meeting which was postponed to February 7, 2017 due to inclement weather was approved.

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

On behalf of ACHDHE, Ms. Kiger read and delivered ACHDHE's recommendation from the October 11, 2016 meeting to the State Health Commissioner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 11, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

Dr. Marissa J. Levine

Dr. Levine thanked the members of the ACHDHE and the ACHDHE outgoing Chair, Dr. Redmond, for leading the council and she also expressed appreciation for the ACHDHE feedback to advance the work of the agency. She welcomed Ms. Soaterna, ACHDHE Chair and her team, and then she provided highlights on VDH happenings since the last meeting in October of 2016.

Dr. Levine shared with the ACHDHE that the VDH strategic planning framework is a tool that keeps the agency focused on its goals and priorities, and it aligns the agency's internal efforts with the state's Plan for Well-Being. This process, which leads to accreditation, also leads to better treatment for all. Dr. Levine told the ACHDHE she welcomes feedback on the agency's strategic plan.

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Dr. Levine recounted opioid addiction seriousness, a new hazard first identified in the Commonwealth and also associated with cluster of deaths in other parts of the country. She informed the council of the emergency declaration she issued on November 21, 2016. The declaration has no legal basis, but its purpose is to raise awareness and engage communities, she explained. Dr. Levine further told the ACHDHE about a standing order she issued for Naloxone as a rescue medicine for opioid overdose. Naloxone use has received positive feedback; however, financial barriers continue to exist. Recently, Naloxone's manufacturer recently increased its price, making it more expensive to purchase. Dr. Levine called on communities and the state to work together to find solutions. Legislation is currently proposed to allow an organization to train individuals on Narcan (Naloxone) resuscitation and actually distribute Naloxone to these individuals so that they have access to it when they are out in the field. Support exists to make naloxone more readily available. Dr. Levine called on the ACHDHE members to do their own advocacy in support of these efforts.

- An ACHDHE member asked if any state agencies could investigate pharmaceuticals price gouging.
 - VDH has no authority to investigate price gouging; however, there are price gouging statutes during emergencies. Dr. Levine further shared that people can channel their concerns to the Attorney General's office or the Board of Pharmacy.

VDH is engaging collaboratively with local health districts in community health assessments. Some of the collaborative work include community health assessments (CHA) and community health improvements plans (CHIP), care assessments, regional and local emergency coordination around health emergencies, and local and regional opioid related coalitions. Dr. Levine shared information about the upcoming Population Health Summit in Charlottesville, Virginia as there will be breakout sessions to begin to address how regional partners can build resilient communities.

- For collaboration on initiatives like clean water, an ACHDHE member suggested advocacy groups such as Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy.
 - Advocacy groups are voices of the communities and VDH has engaged them in multiple health districts including Tidewater area Sierra Club. Dr. Levine encouraged ACHDHE members to inform VDH of opportunities to collaborate with community groups.

Dr. Levine expressed VDH internal efforts to diminish silos within the agency that may result from funding or professional distinctions. This structure limits reaching within and across agencies. She said that VDH is building the culture of inter-office efforts across the agency and formalizing relations. While inter-office collaborations exist across the agency, she would like to formalize how the agency collaborates on critical issues forming work groups, for example in emergency management.

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- ACHDHE member asked if there were inter-agency collaborations in Virginia for diminishing silos.
 - Yes, there are interagency collaborations. One specific example is the Department of Education and Virginia Department of Health collaboration at the programmatic levels. VDH has specific roles for school health processes and school health assessment with the safe school nurse a component of our family health program at VDH.

PRESENTATION

“Strategic Planning, Performance Measurement, and Accreditation”

John Ringer, Director of Public Health Planning and Evaluation, VDH

Mr. Ringer presented an overview of strategic planning relating it to VDH’s mission, vision, goals and measurement of progress towards achieving the goals. As a complex agency, VDH needs strategic planning because it is the law, good business practice, and a responsible management tool. The agency’s mission is to protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia and its vision is to make Virginia the healthiest state in the nation. Further, Mr. Ringer said that VDH’s goal is to use performance measures to keep the agency on track towards its long term goals and objectives. Also VDH wants to use measures and data to inform agency management, the Governor’s Office, the General Assembly and the public of all the great things VDH is doing.

Mr. Ringer also shared information about the accreditation process. VDH is seeking accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Accreditation will improve agency performance, encourage continuous quality improvement efforts, improve management processes, and strengthen internal and external partnerships. PHAB’s measures for health equity include Identification of populations who experience barriers to health care services identified, and identification of gaps in access to health care services and barriers to the receipt of health care services identified. Other health equity measures include the implementation of cultural competence initiatives to increase access to health care services and policies, processes, programs and interventions to insure they are socially, culturally, and linguistically appropriate to specific populations with higher health risks and poorer health outcomes.

“Virginia’s 2016 Legislative Updates”

Joe Hilbert, Director of Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH

Mr. Hilbert informed the ACHDHE that VDH is following several bills this year at the Virginia General Assembly. He said that VDH is concerned about bills that impact the agency and public health. He presented these bills including the Comprehensive Harm Reduction/Syringe Services HB2317 (O’Bannon) – GOVERNOR’S BILL, which authorizes the Commissioner of Health, during a declared public health emergency, to establish and operate comprehensive harm reduction programs that include the provision of sterile and proper disposal of used needles and hypodermic syringes. He also shared information on HB1615 (Tyler) – VDH AGENCY BILL, which provides that the Chief Medical Examiner may appoint a medical

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examiner for each county or city in the Commonwealth. Under current law, the Chief Medical Examiner is required to do so. The bill authorizes appointed medical examiners to assist the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner with cases requiring medico legal death investigations.

In order to adequately respond to these bills and provide professional assessment of them, those from the agency work across offices as well as with community partners, Mr. Hilbert explained. He called for the continued work of the ACHDHE to help educate and advocate across Virginia for vaccines for children. He reviewed and discussed additional bills VDH is leading, following or watching.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates

Dr. Adrienne McFadden highlighted Office of Health Equity (OHE) accomplishments in 2016:

Office Name Change:

- The Office of Minority Health and Health Equity changed its name to the Office of Health Equity.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service (CLAS):

- OHE conducted 11 cultural competency trainings with over 300 VDH participants across the state.

Workforce:

- OHE funded 11 slots for the Virginia - State Loan Repayment Program (VA- SLRP), 23 recommendations for the Conrad 30 Waiver Program that placed physicians in health professional shortage areas, and gave 52 Virginia Nursing Scholarships. Collectively, OHE funded and provided over 143 years of service to medically underserved areas and health professional service areas (234,720 patient hours).

OHE Received the Following Recognition & Awards:

- Two national awards: most outstanding State Office of Rural Health and Virginia Critical Access Hospital Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project Certificate of Excellence
- One agency level award: the Commissioner's award
- OHE staff serve as members on three national boards: National Association of State Offices of Minority Health, National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, and Region III Regional Health Equity Council.

Collaboration:

- OHE work with and trained five student interns in a variety of skillsets to effectively transition from educational institutions to the work environment.

ACHDHE MEMBER UPDATES

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- To enhance the work of the ACHDHE and make the Advisory Committee work more efficiently, the Chair, Ms. Soaterna will be reaching out to the members individually.

ACHDHE MEMBER ACTION ITEMS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Next ACHDHE MEETING: Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

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:

Ms. Luisa Soaterna, Chair