

To: Marissa Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP, State Health Commissioner
From: Luisa F. Soaterna, MPH, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparities & Health Equity (ACHDHE)
Date: July 11, 2017
Subject: ACHDHE Recommendation for Program Enhancement

In response to April 25, 2017, ACHDHE meeting presentations, we, the members of the **ACHDHE**, respectfully make the following recommendations.

“Youth Health Equity Leadership Institute Program Update” – Presenters: Augustine Doe and Sophie Wenzel;

We applaud the current efforts led by VDH staff and current partners leading the YHELI program and in order to see this program excel we recommend the following:

- 1) Support the replication of YHELI in other jurisdictions around the Commonwealth and encourage the allocation of funding to make this expansion possible.
- 2) Work towards the creation of partnerships with other state agencies including the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), for broader access to a range of offerings and resources for YHELI program participants.
- 3) Support YHELI program staff in the creation of stronger quantitative measures that will in turn facilitate access to funding streams and program replication in communities throughout the Commonwealth
- 4) In order to primarily address youth health disparities, members of the ACHDHE proactively support YHELI and its established initiatives as collaborative community partners.

“Increasing Adolescent Well-Being: Promoting Healthy Relationships” – Robert Franklin

We recommend the following:

- 1) VDH collaborate on advancing healthy relationships and includes information about people with disabilities as particularly vulnerable population.
- 2) VDH strategies on collaborative ways to communicate with people with disabilities about healthy relationships and provides training on sexual abuse specifically tailored to them.

Thank you for your consideration of the recommendation.

Luisa F. Soaterna, MPH, Chair

cc: ACHDHE members