

To: Marissa Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP, State Health Commissioner
From: Luisa F. Soaterna, MPH, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparities & Health Equity (ACHDHE)
Date: January 9, 2018
Subject: ACHDHE Recommendation for Program Enhancement

In response to the October 10, 2017 presentation on the topic “Data Updates from the Division of Social Epidemiology” presented to the ACHDHE by Justin Crow, we respectfully make the following recommendations:

- Make a health disparity portal a priority and closely examine ways to also incorporate ethnicity and populations with disabilities in all data tracking.
- We further recommend that VDH track health professional shortage areas and health insurance shortage areas.

In response to the October 10, 2017 presentation on the topic “Community-based Approaches, Richmond Public Housing Complex” presented to the ACHDHE by Amy Popovich and Sherrell Thompson from the Richmond City Health Department, we respectfully make the following recommendations:

- We recommend that VDH Office of Health Disparities widely promote Richmond City’s model public housing program to encourage replication in other communities and pursue funding opportunities to facilitate this replication throughout the Commonwealth in both rural and urban areas.
- We recommend continued support of legislative efforts enabling Medicaid reimbursement for Community Health Workers (CHWs).
- Further, we recommend that VDH pursue a study on the economic benefit of community health workers to communities that follow the Richmond City model.