

**Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity  
December 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes  
Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Central Office Madison Building**

**109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room– 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Attended in Richmond:

**State Health Commissioner: Dr. Cynthia Romero**

**Cecily Rodriguez; Sheila Trimiew-Johnson, BA; Karen Reed, MA**

**VDH Staff: Augustine Doe, MS, MPA; Karen Lyons, Sarah Jones**

Attended Via Polycom/Phone:

**Elizabeth Locke, PhD, PT, Chair; Beth O'Connor, M. Ed, BA; Kate S. K. Lim, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHQ, CPHRM; Patti Kiger, M.Ed (PhD); Vonda Barnett, MS, BSN**

Did Not Attend:

**Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Susan Alford, BS, MBA; Patricia N. Matthew, BA; Sandra Nelson-Cherry, PhD; Luisa F. Soaterna, BS, MPH; Melissa Canada; Theresa Teekah, MA, RN, MPH-C; Portia Cole, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Emmanuel Eugenio, MD, FAAP; Linda Redmond, PhD ; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN;**

(Note: Inclement weather resulting in closing of some health districts impacted Council in-person attendance in Blacksburg, VA).

**Welcome**

Dr. Elizabeth Locke, ACHDHE Chair welcomed attendees followed by Council introductions.

**Adoption of Agenda**

The December 10, 2013 meeting agenda was adopted as presented.

**Approval of Minutes**

The October 9, 2013 ACHDHE meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**State Health Commissioner's Updates**

Dr. Cynthia Romero began thanking Beth O'Connor for hosting the meeting in southwest Virginia and expressed regrets that weather hampered travel to attend in person. She thanked everyone for their efforts in attending and noted that weather was impacting some health departments being open.

Dr. Romero addressed the linkages of the VDH's mission "to protect and promote the health of all Virginians" to the goals of the ACHDHE. She noted that VDH services impact the following broad areas:

- Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protect against environmental hazards
- Prevent injuries

- Promote and encourage health behaviors/mental health
- Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery
- Ensure the quality and accessibility of health services

Dr. Romero further discussed how VDH serves the public across the life span of Virginians and provided quantitative data on services provided in 2012. Also, she provided an overview of how social determinants, such as transportation, education and housing impact health, individual behavior and health equity. There was discussion and interest to share information about addressing health issues more broadly including the social determinants of health.

Furthermore, Dr. Romero shared a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC ) slide that depicts “Factors that Affect Health.” Specifically discussion included interventions that would have the smallest impact – individual level to the largest impact on a societal level. A VDH Health Equity framework slide was presented that visually demonstrates the layers impacting Determinants of Health.

Further, in response to questions from the members regarding discussing the SDOH with elected officials, Dr. Romero shared that as citizens, ACHDHE members can approach legislators for developing constituent and legislator relationships and share information. If members are speaking with legislators in their citizen role, if they are comfortable, they can share information about the work of the ACHDHE. ACHDHE members were appointed by the health commissioner to be advisors regarding health disparity and health equity issues and not to be lobbyists for these issues. Rather, members can advocate (share efforts of) VDH programs and services that are addressing health disparities and promoting health equity and can serve as local resources of information.

VDH and any of our advisory councils, committees, work groups, etc. are NOT supposed to be “lobbying” elected officials. We have opportunities to “share our message” with and providing information to newly elected officials but this effort cannot be for lobbying purposes.

**Presentation: “New River Livability Initiative.”**

**Presenter:** Kevin Byrd, Director, New River Planning District Commission

Mr. Byrd provided a detailed overview of the New River Valley Livability Initiative. This three year planning process initiative included a comprehensive consortium of partner members. Through their efforts they were able to assess needs and create a regional vision document that enables a better understanding of citizen needs and preferences, better understanding of trends and opportunities to address them. Additional funding opportunities are now available, enhanced partnerships and the capacities building to more effectively engage citizens and implement the best ideas.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ACHDHE Presentation Topic / Feedback:**

ACHDHE members were provided with a Presentation Feedback Form based on the criteria outlined for presenters. Members discussed ways to utilize the form as a means of providing recommendations to the State Health Commissioner. Members decided in addition to providing feedback at the meeting, they would use the form to share ideas/recommendations. The form would be returned to Augustine

Doe, Health Equity Specialist. Mr. Doe will compile a summary document that will be shared with the Commissioner and members. The Council will begin using the Presentation Feedback Form at the April 2014 meeting.

**ACHDHE Meeting Schedule:**

There was discussion around the 2014 ACHDHE meeting schedule. Dr. Romero suggested that a survey be sent to the members to provide their input for locations to host the ACHDHE meetings in 2014. The survey was sent via email on December 11, 2013.

**ACHDHE Topics:**

Members are to provide input for 2014 presentation topics and send them to Augustine Doe.

**Announcements and Updates**

**OMHHE Updates -**

**1. Office Director Position, OMHHE**

Dr. Adrienne McFadden has been selected as the Office Director of the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity. Dr. McFadden will begin on January 10, 2014. A brief bio was sent to members. Dr. McFadden will be meeting with ACHDHE leadership and members in the coming months.

**Members' Update:**

The final version of the 2013 Virginia State Rural Health Plan (VASRHP) was approved in October and was shared at the Virginia State Rural Health Conference in November 2013. The VASRHP can be found at: <http://www.va-srhp.org/docs/plan/2013Plan-final.pdf>.

**ACHDHE Action Items**

- a. ACHDHE members will complete a survey to select locations for the 2014 meetings.
- b. ACHDHE members will provide suggestions on presentation topics for the 2014 meetings.
- c. ACHDHE members will send "Presentation Feedback forms" by January 10, 2014.

Information is to be sent to Augustine Doe, [Augustine.Doe@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Augustine.Doe@vdh.virginia.gov)

**Public Comment: None**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 pm.

**The Next ACHDHE MEETING is scheduled for: April 8, 2014 Time:** 11:00am – 2:00, Henrico Health Department, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive, Henrico, VA 23228.

**Respectfully submitted by:** Augustine Doe, Health Equity Specialist

**Minutes reviewed by:** Dr. Elizabeth Locke, Chair