

Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity
October 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Central Office Madison Building

109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219
13th Floor Conference Room– 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Attended in Richmond:

State Health Commissioner: Dr. Cynthia Romero

Elizabeth Locke, PhD, PT; Theresa Teekah, MA, RN, MPH-C; Portia Cole, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Emmanuel Eugenio, MD, FAAP; Beth O'Connor, M. Ed, BA; Linda Redmond, PhD ; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Karen Reed, MA;

VDH Staff: Augustine Doe, MS, MPA; Pierre Robinson, BS;

Attended Via Polycom/Phone:

Patti Kiger, Med (PhD); Vonda Barnett, MS, BSN

Did Not Attend:

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Susan Alford, BS, MBA; Kate S. K. Lim, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHO, CPHRM; Patricia N. Matthew, BA; Sandra Nelson-Cherry, PhD; Cecily Rodriguez; Luisa F. Soaterna, BS, MPH; Sheila Trimiew-Johnson, BA; Melissa Canada; Sandra Nelson-Cherry, PhD

Welcome

The Meeting was called to order by Dr. Elizabeth Locke, ACHDHE Chair. After welcoming everyone, Dr. Locke introduced Dr. Cynthia Romero, Virginia State Health Commissioner.

Dr. Romero expressed thanks to Dr. Locke for her leadership and ACHDHE members and staff for the ongoing engagement and support of the council.

Introduction of New Members:

Dr. Locke introduced the newly appointed members to the council. New members are:

- a. Ms. Vonda Barnett – Care Manager, Emporia Community Based Outpatient Clinic, Emporia, VA;
- b. Ms. Kate S. K. Lim – Quality Management, Patient safety and Accreditation/Regulatory Compliance for Riverside Tappahannock Hospital, Tappahannock, VA;
- c. Ms. Beth O'Connor – Executive Director, Virginia Rural Health Resource Center and Virginia Rural Health Association, Blacksburg, VA;
- d. Ms. Sheila Trimiew-Johnson – Cosmetology Instructor, Richmond Technical Center, Richmond, VA.

Attendees and public member introductions followed.

Adoption of Agenda

The Council agreed to add an update on VDH's Virginia Rural Health Plan. The October 9, 2013 meeting agenda was adopted with this change.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the July 16, 2013 minutes as read.

State Health Commissioner's Updates

Dr. Romero addressed the Council as follows:

1. The Virginia Department of Health is preparing for the upcoming health care reform and is focusing on the future of public health in the Commonwealth. The Council and other community partners will have an important role in ensuring VDH policies are addressed in the best interests of Virginia residents.
2. VDH will continue to be a data driven organization. Community-based data collection is essential to meet the health care needs of all age groups.
3. VDH is in the process of identifying cylinders of excellence (SILOs) as well as its role in establishing and maintaining communications among cylinders of excellence and stakeholders.
4. VDH is advocating for maximum utilization of the 2012 Health Equity Report to facilitate community stakeholders' abilities to translate this data into sustainable projects. Dr. Romero further indicated that the communities are willing to leverage the data to help achieve VDH goals of eliminating health disparity and achieving health equity in Virginia.
5. Dr. Romero introduced VDH efforts in working with Virginia Department of Veterans Services to address the health care needs of Virginia veterans. Dr. Romero supported this collaboration and focused on the Council's expanded purpose to be inclusive of all populations and geographical areas in its mission to achieve health equity. The Commissioner indicated her support for expansion of Council membership to represent all geographical areas in the state to facilitate the interests of our veterans who are impacted by health disparities.

Presentation: "Veteran Challenges and Available Resources."

Presenter: Brandi Jancaitis, MPH – **Interim Regional Director – Greater Hampton Roads Virginia Wounded Warrior Program & Director, Housing Development for Veterans Virginia Department of Veterans Services**

Ms. Jancaitis provided a brief history of the Virginia Department of Veteran Services and other program areas. The key points of her presentation included:

1. An overview of veterans in Virginia:
 - a. Virginia's veteran population is approaching 950,000.
 - b. One of every 10 Virginians is a veteran.
 - c. Virginia ranks 7th among U.S. states in veteran population and 4th in younger aged veterans (ages 20 – 49).

- d. Virginia ranks 1st among U.S states in percentage of women veterans (16%).
2. Veteran services are needed to address homelessness, military sexual trauma (MST) and post-traumatic stress disorder.
3. Additional information may be viewed at <http://www.wearevirginiaveterans.org/>.
4. Council members asked several questions and made comments specific to the agency presentation, namely understanding agency program's goals as they relate to the mission of ACHDHE and achieving health equity for veterans.
5. The full content of the presentation will be available on OMHHE website. The OMHHE will inform the Council when this presentation will be available.

Membership Expansion:

The Council discussed the need to expand its membership and ways to identify new members.

- Several organizations and agencies including transportation, mental health, economic development, housing, employment commission, civic organizations and faith-based organizations were cited as possible member targets to capture a wider range of the social determinants of health. The Council supports membership expansion to include agency, business and/or civic representatives specific to Veterans' Affairs, transportation, mental health, economic development, faith-based groups and employment.
- Dr. Romero referred the Council to visit the Forbes website: <http://www.forbes.com/places/va/>. She explained that the social determinants of health are also the social determinants of a vibrant community, a statement that can be used to encourage non-traditional public health partners to consider membership on ACHDHE.

NEW BUSINESS:

MHHEAC Name/Structure discussion

Dr. Romero shared that the scope and vision of the group has expanded and as such the name needs to reflect that direction. The new name is the Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE). Dr. Romero noted that the name change is a reflection of the expansion of the scope of the Council and a path consistent with integrating all segments of the population and inclusive of those in rural areas.

Meeting Schedule:

Dr. Romero supports a December 2013 meeting in Roanoke, VA as a way to engage rural partners. The Council will be notified of the specific location of the December 10th meeting in the coming weeks.

Update on Virginia State Rural Health Plan (VSRHP)

Karen Reed shared the following update:

1. The VSRHP includes incorporation of feedback received from the Council during the comment period. The updated VSRHP was approved by Dr. Romero and sent to VDH Communications and will be forwarded to Board of Health afterwards. This Plan will be published on the OMHHE Website and shared with partners.

2. Ms. Reed addressed systematically communicating the VSRHP with VDH partners and implementation strategies using projects for limited funding including the FLEX grant to support some community initiatives.

Announcements and Updates

OMHHE Updates - Karen Reed reported as follows:

A. Vacancies:

1. Office Director Position, OMHHE

- a. VDH is currently interviewing for the Office Director Position.
- b. Ms. Reed thanked members of the Council for directing partner groups to the VDH website to view the position announcement.

2. Business Manager Position:

The Business Manager position will be posted on the OMHHE website this week for 10 days. Council members were encouraged to share the information.

B. OMHHE Funding

Two OMHHE grants were not funded. Funding resulted in Virginia State Office of Minority Health Partnership grant funding awards declining from 47 to 22 awards.

C. OMHHE Initiatives

- a. The Virginia Medical Interpreting Collaborative Conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 9am to 3pm at Mary Washington Hospital Campus – John Fick Conference Center, Moss Free Clinic Building.
- b. VDH partners are encouraged to share success stories on National Rural Health Day (November 21, 2013) including the activities at VRHA Conference in November she explained. Members are encouraged to share partner information with OMHHE.
- c. OMHHE's Virginia Medical Interpreter Database (VMID) will launch during National Rural Health Day. It was created to facilitate access and referral of trained medical interpreters to assist with health care needs of Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals. The site is currently being populated and everyone is encouraged share site information.
- d. The Virginia Rural Health Association Conference is scheduled for November 17-19, 2013 in Roanoke, VA. This Conference is supported by the OMHHE grant funding (<http://www.vrha.org/2013conference.php>).

D. Joint Commission of Health study on the location of the SORH –

The Joint Commission Health Study results will be reported during the General Assembly on October 22, 2013. This study is, in part, a response to a request made by the Virginia Rural Health Resource Center to be identified as the State's office of rural health.

OTHER UPDATES:

Dr. Eugenio reported on the Asian American Association of Central Virginia and collaborative research with Virginia Commonwealth University. Two doctoral studies in progress are “The Health Profile and Needs of the Asian American Community” and “Asian American Informal Support Network in Richmond”.

The Central Virginia Community Health Fair and offered flyers to the committee members to share with stakeholders and community partners. The fair takes place on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds (Exhibition Building), 10300 Courthouse Road, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832 from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm. The fair will include a flu clinic and vision and dental screenings.

ACHDHE Action Items

- a. The VRHA will host the upcoming December 10, 2013 ACHDHE meeting in Roanoke, VA.
- b. The Commissioner’s availability will be provided to ACHDHE members at a later time.
- c. A link to the State Rural Health Plan will be provided on the OMHHE website. Date: TBA.

Public Comments

Four public members attended today’s meeting. The public attendees thanked the Council for its work and stated that they learned much while attending the meeting. One public member thanked the Council for its sensitivity in addressing some of the SDOH issues that affect veterans and their families. Dr. Locke concluded the public comment with an invitation to the public members to attend and participate in future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm.

The Next ACHDHE MEETING is scheduled for: December 10, 2013, Time: 11:00am – 2:00 pm in southwest Virginia (Possibly Roanoke or Blacksburg area)

Respectfully submitted by:

Augustine Doe, Health Equity Specialist

Minutes reviewed by: Dr. Elizabeth Locke, Chair

Additional resources provided by the presenter Brandi Jancaitis, Interim Regional Director – Greater Hampton Roads Virginia Wounded Warrior Program & Director, Housing Development for Veterans Virginia Department of Veterans Services, 900 E. Main St. West Wing, 6th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219. Ms. Jancaitis' email and telephone contacts are brandi.jancaitis@dvs.virginia.gov and (804) 786-0596.

1. Military/Veteran Culture:

Army OneSource Free Training available until 9/30/14. Free online CEU courses in military culture, the impact of combat stress and deployment on children and families and PTSD (http://aos.cequick.com/Army_One_Source_Free_Online_Training.aspx).

2. Veteran Families:

Here is the Family of Heroes free online training thru Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) which utilizes Avatar Caregivers to help veterans adjust post-deployment and promote help seeking behaviors among veterans struggling with the transition. <http://www.familyofheroes.com/virginia/>

3. National Guard and Reservists:

Guard and Reservists may have different challenges when reintegrating into their civilian jobs and lives following deployment, particularly if they are separated from military installations. Information on National Guard and Reservists may be accessed at Virginia National Guard Family Assistance Program: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/fac/>

- a. Mr. Aaron Martin Virginia Family Assistance Coordinator can provide detailed information on state-level resources for the Guard community. Kindly find herein his email aaron.j.martin8.ctr@mail.mil and telephone number (804) 236-7859.
- b. Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) prioritizes services for Guard and Reservists in need of behavioral health and support services and direct services assistance can be accessed by calling 877-285-1299 or 804-371-4675.

The link to information on homelessness in the female veteran population is <http://www.dol.gov/wb/trauma/>. The guide covers how to address the psychological and mental health needs of female veterans and presents a compilation of best practices aimed at improving effectiveness in engaging female veterans.