

To: M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA, State Health Commissioner  
From: Melody Armstrong, MPA, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparity & Health Equity (ACHDHE), Virginia Department of Health (VDH)  
Date: October 8, 2019  
Subject: ACHDHE Recommendation for Program Enhancement:

In response to the July 9, 2019 presentation on the “Virginia’s First LGBTQ+ Health Equity Symposium & LGBTQ+ Public Health Data Collection,” presented to the ACHDHE by Ted Heck, we respectfully recommend the following:

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) advocates for the increased awareness and inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community across the continuum of trainings, conferences and other activities statewide.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) promotes the development of culturally appropriate and standardized updated health information questionnaires that include acceptable demographics and identifications, inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) demographics, pronouns, and preferred names in addition to legal names, of LGBTQ+ community members.
- Lastly, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) trains its staff on cultural competence and the proper collection of SOGI data.

In response to the July 9, 2019 presentation on the “Virginia’s Community Health Workers (CHW) Initiative,” presented to the ACHDHE by Valerie McAllister, we recommend that:

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) strategically develops the CHW workforce to promote the awareness of preventable diseases, reduction of medical cost and the improvement in health outcomes in vulnerable communities.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) promotes the awareness of CHWs uniformly within the VDH structure and partnerships across the commonwealth and facilitate standardization of the CHW core competencies and training curriculum.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) prioritizes the CHW certification process past the grand parenting period and work towards financial sustainability for the CHW workforce within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Melody Armstrong, MPA, & Chair, ACHDHE