

**Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)
October 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Central Office Madison Building
109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Mezzanine Conference Room– 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Attended in Richmond: **M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA; Lauren R. Powell, PhD; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN; MPA; Linda Lee Redmond, PhD; Maceo E. Freeman, D. Min; Keisha L. Smith, MPA; Patti Kiger, M. Ed; Elvira De La Cruz, BS; Antonio Villa, MD, MPH; Nia Harrison, MPP; Belinda H Willis, M. Ed; Radhika Thirunagari, MS; Sable Nelson, JD; Augustine Doe, MS, MPA**

Attended Via Polycom/Phone: **Lauren James, MD; C. Melissa Neu, DSL;**

Did Not Attend: **Luisa F. Soaterna-Castaneda, BS, MPH; Kate S. K. Lim, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHQ; Jene' Carter, MA. MPP; Kathryn E. MacCormick, MSc; Bonny K. Dillon, PhD, BCPC, LPC; J. Elisha Burke, M. Div., D. Min.;**

WELCOME

Ms. Melody Armstrong, ACHDHE Chair, introduced herself and asked the attendees to introduce themselves prior to calling the meeting to order.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The October 8, 2019 meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

Link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2019/10/ACHDHE-Oct-2019-MeetingAgenda.pdf>

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The ACHDHE July 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2019/10/ACHDHE-July-2019-Meeting-Minutes1.pdf>

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

Ms. Melody Armstrong, ACHDHE Chair, read the ACHDHE's recommendations from the July 2019 meeting presentations and delivered the document to the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Norman Oliver.

Recommendations link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2019/10/ACHDHE-MArmstrong-Recommendations-July-Presentarions2019.pdf>

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES

The State Health Commission, Dr. Norm Oliver, thanked the ACHDHE members for the recommendations and shared the following updates.

- VDH Updates:
 - Community Health Workers (CHW) Program:
 - VDH is working on a legislation for the 2020 General Assembly. The legislation prioritizes the CHW certification and program funding to enhance the public health workforce.
 - Equity and Inclusion:
 - The work of the agency is focus on diversity and the understanding of the root causes and distribution of diseases for the attainment of population health and health equity.
 - Health equity is programmatically what the agency does.
 - VDH Statewide Training on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

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- VDH is preparing to implement equity, diversity, and inclusion training agency-wide. The inaugural training will bring together the agency's senior leadership.
- A core team will be developed, structured, and trained to lead the initiative across the agency staff and new employees. There are plans to ensure reinforced training sessions are offered on the continuum for sustained application and inclusion of the trainings' learning objectives within the agency culture.
- There will be a review of VDH practices, policies, and procedures for their applicability to the concepts of equity, inclusion, and diversity.

PRESENTATION:

- **Topic: "Virginia's Maternal Child Health Program Updates "**
Presentation link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2019/10/TITLE-V-MCH-SERVICES-BLOCK-GRANT-OVERVIEW-OVERVIEW-STAKEHOLDER-DISCUSSION.pdf>
Presenter: Carla Hegwood, Acting Director, Title V Maternal & Child Health Block Grant, VDH

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business at the meeting.

UPDATES:

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates

Dr. Lauren Powell, Director, Office of Health Equity shared the following updates.

- OHE New Director:
 - Ms. Sable K. Nelson recently joined the OHE team as the Director for the Division of Multicultural Health and Community Engagement.
 - In addition to working for the National Minority Aids Council, Ms. Nelson, a licensed attorney brings to the team expertise in public health policy, program and project management, research, communications, training, administration to include public health program design and health-related policy and legal analysis.
- State Rural Health Plan Update:
 - The Office of Health Equity is working to update the State Rural Health Plan. The process includes community conversations. ACHDHE members and community partners are encouraged to engage the OHE in the process as the staff travel across the state.
- Henrietta Lacks Commission Updates:
 - The Henrietta lacks Commission is fully functioning.
 - The next meeting of the group is this December.
 - The Commission is planning the 100th Birthday celebration of Henrietta Locks next year, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ACHDHE members were encouraged to contact potential individuals for consideration on the ACHDHE.

OTHER UPDATES:

- The ACHDHE members shared the following updates:
 - Patti **Kiger** – Healthy Eastern Shore conversation
 - November 14, 2019 is Eastern Shore health disparities community conversation event.
 - JohnJason **Cecil** – Medicaid Open Enrollment
 - November 2019 – the end of the year, Medicaid open enrollment for all.

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- Resource: <https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Health-Insurance-Marketplaces/Plan-Year-2019-Open-Enrollment.html>
- Dr. Melissa **Neu** – Virginia Media, a senior resource magazine, Eastern Virginia.
 - Resource: <https://www.virginiamedia.com/prime/>
- Radhika **Thirunagari** – Goochland County Community Health Fair, November 9, 2019

Public Comment

- Jarene **Fleming**:
 - Due to an effective process improvement plan, Virginia WIC experienced +2.1% participant growth, making VA the fastest growing WIC program in the nation. WIC fact sheets were shared:
 - Resource links:
 - <https://s3.amazonaws.com/aws.upl/nwica.org/2019-wic-maternal-mortality.pdf>
 - <https://s3.amazonaws.com/aws.upl/nwica.org/2019-breastfeeding-peer-counselors.pdf>

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Next ACHDHE MEETING: Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

Time: 11:00am – 2:00 pm

Location: Mezzanine Conference Room, VDH Central Office, 109 Governor Street, 23219 or via Polycom upon request.

Respectfully submitted by:

Augustine Doe, Health Equity Specialist

Minutes reviewed by:

Ms. Melody Armstrong, Chair

Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Vice Chair

Luisa Soaterna-Castaneda, Chair Emeritus