

To: M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA, State Health Commissioner
From: Melody Armstrong, MPA, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparity & Health Equity (ACHDHE)
Date: January 14, 2020
Subject: ACHDHE Recommendation for Program Enhancement:

In response to the January 14, 2020 presentation on the “Virginia’s 2020 General Assembly Updates,” presented to the ACHDHE by **Joe Hilbert**, we respectfully make the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) embarks on the strategic dissemination to stakeholders and grassroots organizations including the ACHDHE the summaries of the General Assembly bills with potential to critically impact population health and health equity prior to each General Assembly.
- The Virginia Department of Health shares with the ACHDHE updates on the General Assembly passed bills that influence population health and health equity.
- The Virginia Department of Health provides more funding for student loans re-paid by term of serve in the designated Virginia’s Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).
 - HPSA link: <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/shortage-designation/hpsas>
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) champions and educates on bills that promote population health and health equity, including Medicaid for dental and vision coverage statewide.

In response to the January 14, 2020 presentation on the “Virginia’s Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,” presented to the ACHDHE by **Dr. Janice Underwood**, we respectfully make the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health supports the efforts of Dr. Underwood by providing regular updates to the ACHDHE, and adopting a process or procedure for VDH staff to participate in the evaluation of managers and supervisors (performance review) and to share feedback for improving and identifying operational issues.
- The Virginia Department of Health shares the evaluation results with both Dr. Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner and Dr. Janice Underwood, Office of the Governor for their awareness and policy action.
- The Virginia Department of Health, “go directly to poor white populations in VA and show them how their lives are impacted by racist policy.”
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) assists with expanding this great government initiative of inclusion as a means of progress for the attainment of health equity to all entities, non-profit, public and private organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Signed: _____
Melody Armstrong, MPA, Chair, ACHDHE