

To: M. Norman **Oliver**, MD, MA; State Health Commissioner

From: Nia **Harrison**, MPP, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparity & Health Equity (ACHDHE), Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Date: July 13, 2021:

Subject: ACHDHE Recommendation for Program Enhancement:

In response to the April 13, 2021 presentation on “Virginia’s COVID-19 Statewide Update,” presented to the ACHDHE by Dr. Danny **Avula**, State Vaccine Coordinator & Richmond City & Henrico County Health Director, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) ensure the statewide COVID-19 vaccine record system effectively maintains the records of vaccinated individuals and provide a point of contact where missing vaccination records can be retrieved.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) expand its capacity to vaccinate people who are homebound by increasing local health departments’ ability to access mobile clinics and partner with other appropriate transportation providers.
- The Virginia Department of Health develops a data collection system of people with no or limited vaccine access, due to being homebound, and make this data available to local health departments.

In response to the April 13, 2021 presentation on “Virginia’s COVID-19 Statewide Update,” presented to the ACHDHE by Mr. Joe **Hilbert**, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) captures disability status of individuals within its immunization information data system and educate vaccine providers about the change within the data system.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) gathers ACHDHE members’ feedback and recommendations for VDH budget amendment requests to the Governor’s office each year by June prior to Virginia’s General Assembly of the following year.

The ACHDHE members recognize the COVID-19 vaccine mistrust and hesitancy in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, and other vulnerable communities including people with disabilities. We thank the agency for the great work and extraordinary job given the limited resources, and appreciate the agency’s continued collaboration with ACHDHE and other stakeholders to ensure that health equity is prioritized in the agency’s response.

Signed: Nia Harrison

Nia **Harrison**, MPP, & Chair, ACHDHE