

**State Health Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)**  
**July 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Central Office Madison Building**  
**109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219**  
**Mezzanine Conference Room (Televised Meeting) – 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

Attended via Zoom/Phone: **M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA; Sable K. Nelson, JD; Linda Lee Redmond, PhD; Nia Harrison, MPP; J. Elisha Burke, M. Div., D. Min.; Kate S. K. Bradshaw, Ph.D., FACHE, CPHQ; Barbara Board, PhD; JohnJason Cecil, BA; Antonio Villa, MD, MPH; Eleanor Woodson, BSN, RN; Bonny K. Dillon, PhD, BCPC, LPC; Lauren James, MD; Maceo E. Freeman, D. Min; Keisha L. Smith, MPA; Carolyn C. Turner, MS; Gordon Walker, MS; Elvira De La Cruz, BS; Radhika Thirunagari, MS;**

Did Not Attend: **Daud Mohamed; Lauren Powell, Ph.D, MPA; Lean Abdelaziz, BA; Melissa Neu, DSL; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN; Patti Kiger, M. Ed;**

VDH Staff: **Augustine Doe, MS, MPA; Jasmine Smith, BS; Veronica Cosby, MAHS, MS.**

#### **WELCOME**

Ms. Nia Harrison, ACHDHE Chair, introduced herself and welcomed the attendees before calling the meeting to order. She requested that the ACHDHE members' roll call be conducted at a later time during the meeting.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The July 13, 2021 meeting agenda was approved and as submitted.

Meeting Agenda:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/06/ACHDHE-July-2021-Agenda.pdf>

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The ACHDHE April 13, 2021 meeting minutes were approved with a request to update the list of attendees.

Meeting Minutes: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/07/ACHDHE-April-13-2021-Draft-Minutes2.pdf>

#### **ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER**

Mr. JohnJason Cecil, ACHDHE Vice Chair, read the ACHDHE's recommendations for the April 2021 meeting presentations.

Recommendations: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/07/April-Meeting-Recommendations-for-4-30-2021-NH-Feedback.pdf>

#### **STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Prior to sharing his updates, Dr. Norman Oliver thanked the ACHDHE for their continued support of health equity initiatives in Virginia.

- K12 Reopening of Schools:
  - VDH is collaborating with the Department of Education to update the health department's current guidelines with the new Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

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- VDH COVID-19 Updates:
  - Dr. Oliver recognized that there is a lot of work going on with respect to K-12 public and private schools, both on the testing front and vaccination front as schools prepare to re-open. VDH is working with the Department of Education on issues of containment, and how to deal with cases or outbreaks in schools. The agency will be updating the guidance for schools in light of the new guidelines from the CDC.
  - VDH is doing additional work pertaining to educational and communications outreach in particular to those between ages 18 and 30, to get them vaccinated. These individuals have been very hesitant about getting vaccinated or even opposed to being vaccinated. The agency would like to reach a goal of ultimately having fully vaccinated 75% of the population since it has gotten one vaccine dose to between 73% - 74%, of adults in the commonwealth. With the appropriate communications campaign, we may well be able to increase the vaccination numbers of individuals between 18 and 30.
  - VDH is continuing to ensure the public's health with its pre-pandemic activities, the environmental health duties, restaurant inspections, the delivery of safe drinking water, and food supply.
- Agency Update:
  - VDH will be hiring a Chief Officer for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This position will report to the State Health Commissioner and be part of the Senior Leadership team.

**PRESENTATION:**

- **Topic: "COVID Vaccines in Schools: Poetizing Equity"**  
**Presenters:** Dr. Tom **Frank**, Health Director, Chickahominy Health District  
Caitlin **Hodge**, Chickahominy Health District, VDH  
**Presentation link:**  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/07/VDH-Local-Health-Dept.-School-Vaccine-Initiative.pdf>
- **Topic: "K12 Schools and COVID-19"**  
**Presenters:** Dr. Laurie **Forlano**, Deputy Director, Office of Epidemiology, VDH  
Christopher **Patterson**, Assistant State Planning and SNS Coordinator, Office of Emergency Preparedness, VDH  
**Presentation link:**  
[https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/07/ACHDHE-K12-Schools-and-COVID\\_7.2021-2-1.pdf](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/07/ACHDHE-K12-Schools-and-COVID_7.2021-2-1.pdf)
- **Topic: "K12 Schools and COVID-19"**  
**Presenters:** Sable K. **Nelson**, Acting Director, Office of Health Equity, VDH  
Seon **Rockwell**, Deloitte Health360  
**Presentation link:**  
[https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/07/ACHDHE\\_EquityDashboards.pdf](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/07/ACHDHE_EquityDashboards.pdf)

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**ACHDHE NEW BUSINESS:**

**ACHDHE Budget Recommendation Survey:**

Ms. Harrison updated members on the survey that was sent to ACHDHE members via email in May to gather their input on VDH budgetary priorities. Ms. Harrison noted that three members responded to the survey, and summarized their feedback. Ms. Harrison asked if members would like this feedback opportunity to continue in future years. Ms. Linda Redmond said she would.

**UPDATES:**

**Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates**

The Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates:

Ms. Sable K. Nelson, Acting Director, Office of Health Equity shared the following updates.

- To ensure vulnerable and marginalized populations' needs are met during this pandemic; OHE is developing population-specific campaigns and has contracted the services of Greene Street Communications, to ensure faith-based communities, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, as well as rural communities and interfaith communities have resources and tailored communications materials.
- The Commonwealth of Virginia received a notice of award of a \$27.3 million grant to address COVID-19 health disparities among populations that are high risk and underserved including ethnic populations and rural communities.

**OTHER UPDATES:**

- **ACHDHE Members' updates:**
- The State Developmental Disabilities Council received funding from the CDC to help support vaccination for people with disabilities. Request for Funding Proposals (RFPs) are being processed for potential release in the next month, or two, as mini grants.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Non-ACHDHE Members:
  - In light of the results of the 2020 census, Dr. Cecilia E. Barbosa, Chair of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board Health Committee, recommended VDH conduct an in-depth assessment of the health of the population that suffers from inequities. Dr. Barbosa also recommended advocating for the recommendations made by the Virginia Latino Advisory Board to the Governor in their annual reports, and strengthening community organizations by strengthening our direct connections to them and offering support beyond mini-grant opportunities.
  - A community health worker at the meeting, expressed concerns to those who may be in the position to assist, help, or render aid when medications are not available to people in correctional facilities. Her husband had to miss four doses of a high blood pressure medication and three doses of other high blood pressure medications, due to the medications unavailability. The Code of Virginia, cited below, states that emergency supplies of medication "may be" made available, which she believes should be changed to "shall be" made available.
    - Code of Virginia: 18VAC110-20-590. Drugs in correctional facilities.  
<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title18/agency110/chapter20/section590/>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.

**Next ACHDHE meeting:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Host Site:** The Office of Health Equity, Virginia Department of Health Central Office, 109 Governor Street, 23219 via zoom video conference. Non-ACHDHE members may request participation by sending an email to [augustine.doe@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:augustine.doe@vdh.virginia.gov).

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Augustine **Doe**, Health Equity Specialist

**Minutes Reviewed By:**

Nia **Harrison**, Chair

JohnJason **Cecil**, Vice Chair