

State Health Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)

April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

James Monroe Building

101 N. 14 Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Main Conference Room (In-person and Televised Meeting) – 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Attended In-person: **Colin Greene**, MD, MPH; **Kathryn Crosby**, MBA; **Henry Murdaugh**, MPH; **Linda Lee Redmond**, PhD; **Nia Harrison**, MPP; **Kate S. K. Bradshaw**, Ph.D., FACHE, CPHQ; **JohnJason Cecil**, BA; **Antonio Villa**, MD, MPH; **Lauren James**, MD; **Carolyn C. Turner**, MS; **Elvira De La Cruz**, BS; **Melody Armstrong**, MPA, BSN; **Patti Kiger**, M. Ed;

Virtual Attendance:

J. Elisha Burke, M. Div., D. Min.; **Maceo E. Freeman**, D. Min; **Zakia McKensey**; **Gordon Walker**, MS; **George Worthington**, MS;

Did Not Attend:

Radhika Thirunagari, MS; **Daud Mohamed**; **Lauren Powell**, Ph.D, MPA; **Lean Abdelaziz**, BA; **Eleanor Woodson**, BSN, RN; **Bonny K. Dillon**, PhD, BCPC, LPC; **Keisha L. Smith**, MPA; **Barbara Board**, PhD;

VDH Staff: **Augustine Doe**, MS, MPA; **Kandi Chamberlain**, MPH;

WELCOME

Ms. Nia Harrison, ACHDHE Chair, introduced herself and welcomed the attendees before calling the meeting to order. She asked the State Health Commissioner and ACHDHE members to introduce themselves.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Harrison provided an overview of the meeting agenda and requested its adoption. She noted one change in the order of the agenda items.

Meeting Agenda:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Harrison thanked the members for attending in person. In order for the Council to take formal action after the Commonwealth's public health emergency expired last July, the majority of members participating in a meeting must attend in person. The Council's last three meetings did not have an in-person quorum, and there is therefore a backlog of meeting minutes and recommendations to address during this meeting.

The July 13, 2021, October 12, 2021, and January 11, 2022 minutes were approved with one correction to a member's name in the January 11, 2022 meeting minutes.

The documents are forthcoming.

ACHDHE draft April 2022 meeting minutes:

The document is forthcoming.

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

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The ACHDHE recommendations from the July 13, 2021, October 12, 2021, and January 11, 2022 meetings were read and presented to the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Greene by Mr. JohnJason Cecil, ACHDHE Vice Chair.

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Dr. Colin Greene, State Health Commissioner shared the following updates:

State Health Commissioner's Appointment:

- Dr. Greene announced that his appointment was Friday afternoon, April 8, 2022. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Greene retired in 2017 from the United States Army after 30 years as a medical officer. He joined the VDH family nearly four years ago as the local health director in Lord Fairfax (Winchester) Health District, Virginia.

COVID-19 Updates.

- Dr. Greene shared that now and for the last month or more, not only has the COVID case count dropped but also, more importantly, the hospitalizations and the death rate dropped tremendously from their previous highs. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes that and they have adjusted the COVID-19 recommendations. Dr. Green also shared that virtually the entire state of Virginia is in the green zone on the CDC's community map. See the links below.
 - <https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/23020191/cdc-covid-19-guidelines-omicron-ba2>
 - <https://twitter.com/CDCgov/status/1507454796910907397>
 - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>
- VDH is moving forward to a plan where we will deal with COVID in a way that is more consistent with more traditional disease prevention measures, Dr. Greene explained. Some people are still opting to wear masks. Currently, masking is optional everywhere. However, there some places we are still requiring them, in healthcare situations, and other select situations, he continued. See CDC's masking information links below.
 - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#anchor_1641318078836
- Dr. Greene shared some updates on the CDC's exposure and infection control processes.
 - If you have upper respiratory symptoms that could potentially be COVID, you should stay home and test yourself.
 - If you are negative, you can treat it more like a cold.
 - If you are positive, you should go through the ten-day isolation. Five days at home and five days of wearing a well-fitting mask while you are out in public.
 - Then if you are exposed, you know you are exposed to a known active case of COVID, the quarantine protocol, which is 10 days on, also stands. Five days at home, five days with a mask, unless you are fully vaccinated and boosted for adults, in which case you don't have to quarantine.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>
- He shared with the ACHDHE that after reviewing the State Plan for Wellbeing, he was struck by the infant mortality and maternal mortality rates, and the associated disparities.
- He also expressed interest in addressing the high COVID-19 rural death rates that transcend racial barriers.

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- In conclusion, Dr. Greene referenced his military experience and shared that issues of disabilities are dear to him. He then welcomed the faith-based partnership presentation that was scheduled at the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Topic: "Virginia Department of Health Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program Overview"**
Presenters: Kathryn Crosby, DEI Officer, VDH
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2022/04/DEI.pdf>
- **Topic: "Virginia's 2022 Rural Health Plan Overview"**
Presenters: Heather Anderson and Clarissa Noble, Division of Primary Care, Office of Health Equity, VDH
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2022/04/Rural-Health-Plan-Overview-ACHDHE-4-12-2022-VRHP.pdf>
- **Topic: "Virginia's COVID-19 Data Updates"**
Presenters: Rexford Anson-Dwamena & Helen Tazelaar, Division of Social Epidemiology, Office of Health Equity, VDH
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2022/04/REX-versionACHDHE-Updates-OHE-Informatics-Update.pdf>
- **Topic: "Sacred Spaces, Health and Social Justice"**
Presenter: Dr. Elisha Burke Director, Health & Wellness, Social Justice, SACRED SPACES, Baptist General Convention of Virginia, Virginia
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2022/04/Sacred-Spaces-Health-and-Social-Justice-2022-1.pdf>
- **Topic: "Overview of VDH Resources for Healthy Schools"**
Presenter: Joanna Pitts, School Health Nurse Consultant, VDH, & Tonishia Short, Coordinator Team Lead, COVID-19 School Support Unit, VDH
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2022/04/PittsACHDHE-PP-4-12-22-2-1.pdf>

UPDATES:

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates

Mr. Henry C. Murdaugh, Acting Director of the Office of Health Equity introduced himself and shared updates:

- OHE received the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) health disparity COVID grant for \$27 million. The office has allocated funding to
 - hire community Health Equity Specialists in each local health district;

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- hire community health epidemiologists in 15 health districts; and
- support historically black colleges and universities.
- The new hires will collaborate with the central office to make the current health equity initiatives sustainable.

ACHDHE Members' Updates:

JohnJason Cecil, Anthem Health Keepers

- Mr. Cecil reminded all in attendance to encourage Medicaid recipients to update their information in order to retain coverage. Otherwise, as many as 400,000 members are at risk of losing coverage. Members have been allowed to be continuously enrolled in Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic, but they will be required to renew their eligibility when the federal public health emergency ends.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
 - No public comment

ADJOURNMENT:

The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Next ACHDHE meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

July 12, 2022 meeting link: Coming soon

Host Site: The Office of Health Equity, Virginia Department of Health Central Office, 109 Governor Street, 23219. Please send your questions to augustine.doe@vdh.virginia.gov.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Augustine Doe, CLAS Program Manager & Acting Director, Division of Multicultural Health and Community Engagement (DMHCE)

Minutes Reviewed By:

Nia Harrison, Chair

JohnJason Cecil, Vice Chair