

To: Colin M. **Greene**, MD, MPH, Acting State Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health:
From: Nia **Harrison**, MPP, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparity & Health Equity (ACHDHE),
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Date: April 12, 2022:
Subject: **ACHDHE Recommendations for Program Enhancement:**

In response to the January 11, 2022 presentation on “Access Barriers to Health in Rural Virginia Dashboard” presented to the ACHDHE by Nancy **Bell**, Population Health Manager & PIO West Piedmont Health District and Clarissa **Noble**, Division of Primary Care, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health supports the expansion of Patrick Country's telehealth model into other rural communities by sharing best practices and providing technical and financial assistance as available.
- The Virginia Department of Health continues its efforts to incorporate available demographic information into the Rural Health Data Commons dashboard's existing metrics, including but not limited to race/ethnicity, age, and disability status.

In response to the January 11, 2022 presentation on “Virginia’s 2022 General Assembly,” presented to the ACHDHE by Joe **Hilbert**, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health uses its authority, to the extent possible, to protect vulnerable communities by supporting the provision of low-cost COVID-19 tests, and COVID-19 mask and vaccination mandates, in compliance with CDC guidance.

In response to the January 11, 2022 presentation on “VA Health Assessment and Improvement Plan” presented to The ACHDHE by Khalida **Willoughby**, Health Assessment and Improvement Manager, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health continues its effort to incorporate health equity into the state health assessment and health improvement plan.
- The Virginia Department of Health creates a Center for Community Health Improvement, and use the Center to provide guidance, best practices, and technical assistance to local health districts to effectively address health equity into their community health assessments.

Signed: Nia **Harrison**

Nia Harrison, MPP, & Chair, ACHDHE