

To: **Colin Greene, MD, MPH, 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: January 10, 2023:

Subject: **ACHDHE Recommendations for Program Enhancement:**

In response to the October 11, 2022, presentation on “VA New Electronic Meeting Policy” presented to the ACHDHE by **Joe Hilbert**, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental & Regulatory Affairs, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health creates widespread awareness of electronic meeting policies and provides a more consistent remote communications access.
- The Virginia Department of Health clarifies and codifies ACHDHE into the Virginia State regulations.
- The Virginia Department of Health creates an electronic meeting policy that ACHDHE could adopt.
- The Virginia Department of Health provides additional support staff (IT) to assist with the ACHDHE activities.

In response to the October 11, 2022 presentation on “COVID-19 Children Vaccination Update” presented to the ACHDHE by **Christy Gray**, Director, Division of Immunization, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health develops a marketing campaign that focuses on the need and benefit of children receiving COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The Virginia Department of Health continue to support efforts to vaccinate children in schools.

In response to the October 11, 2022 presentation on “LGBTQ+ Health Challenges” presented to the ACHDHE by **Ted Heck**, HIV Prevention Contract Monitor and Transgender Health Services Specialist, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health develops robust internal and external data collection and analysis regarding the LGBTQ+ community that include identification of users, local clinics, and gender specific facilities.
- The Virginia Department of Health implement best practices internally, and promote best practices externally, that increase the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community in order to improve their health outcomes.

In response to the October 11, 2022 presentation on “An Overview of Monkeypox Infection in Virginia” presented to the ACHDHE by **Jenny Calhoun**, Nurse Consultant HIV/STI/Viral Hepatitis, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health develops multiple approaches to disseminate information to communities about the symptoms, prevention, and treatment of Monkeypox, and related myths, through an expanded awareness campaigns on social media platforms, webinars for the general public and service providers, and community meetings.

Signed: *Nia Harrison*

Nia Harrison, ACHDHE Chair