

From: **David C. Rose, MD, MBA, FAAP, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparity & Health Equity (ACHDHE), Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**

Date: April 11, 2023:

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

In response to the January 10, 2023, presentation on “Virginia’s General Assembly Bills, 2023” presented to the ACHDHE by **Alexandra Jansson**, Policy Planning Specialist, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Governmental & Regulatory Affairs, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health monitors General Assembly bills, particularly legislative budget elements, that focus on health equity and diversity priorities, as one of the Commissioner’s top five priorities.
- The Virginia Department of Health, at each General Assembly, promotes broader and new long-term funding needs to expand the workforce scholarship and loan repayment initiatives for enhancing access to and the quality of care of those living in underserved areas in Virginia.
- The Virginia Department of Health, following each General Assembly, continues to update the ACHDHE members on the status of bills with significant impact on health outcomes and the Commissioner’s equity and diversity priorities.

In response to the January 10, 2023, presentation on “COVID-19 Best Practices and Lessons Learned” presented to the ACHDHE by **Dwayne Roadcap**, Director, Office of Drinking Water, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health expands community outreach to provide low-income families’ financial assistance and seeks General Assembly funds for pre-crisis safe water management programs that include precautions for water leaks, water overconsumption monitoring, and water testing.
- The Virginia Department of Health promotes best practices in drinking water problems analysis and infrastructure needs (abandoned areas and buildings, broken pipes, and water distribution systems) through the creation of partnerships with relevant agencies for changes to building codes to ensure quality drinking water.

In response to the January 10, 2023, presentation on “Sickle Cell Disease Program Management” presented to the ACHDHE by **Shamaree J. Cromartie**, Blood Disorders Program Coordinator & Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health focuses on providing adult sickle cell disease resources, including information for those transitioning from pediatric to adult care in at-risk communities.
- The Virginia Department of Health improves surveillance of sickle cell disease by collecting more accurate and up-to-date disease incidence and prevalence measures with data on the burden of the disease in identified population groups. Such information can be used to seek adequate funding and better plan interventions and support programs.
- The Virginia Department of Health supports the inclusion of sickle cell disease curriculum in the training of medical professionals and the consideration of continuing educational opportunities to edify non-specialist community health care providers.

In response to the January 10, 2023, presentation on “Flu/COVID Update” presented to the ACHDHE by **Elena Diskin**, Scientist Manager, Office of Epidemiology, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health continues to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts and expands the collection and analysis of data on underlying health conditions to determine the impact of and to address public misinformation of the disease.
- The Virginia Department of Health assesses the diversity of its staff at all levels of its organization, to ensure the representation and communication needs of the communities they serve, with the goal of eliminating barriers to capacity building and trust.

Signed: David C. Rose

David C. Rose, MD, MBA, FAAP, ACHDHE Chair