

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

Date: July 11, 2023:

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

In response to the April 11, 2023, presentation on “An Overview of VA Mobile Crisis Intervention Initiative” presented to the ACHDHE by **Curt Gleeson**, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health continues to work with DBHDS in creating the awareness of the new VA Mobile Crisis Intervention Initiative and ensure cooperation and collaboration on data based strategic planning between both agencies at the state and local levels, the Community Service Boards, and the local health departments.
- The Virginia Department of Health supports DBHDS obtain stable funding for the VA Mobile Crisis Intervention Initiative. Funding may include financial resources/tuition reimbursement for college students in exchange for in-state employment and continuing education for the professional development of substance use disorder staff.
- The Virginia Department of Health encourages DBHDS to extend awareness and training of VA Mobile Crisis Intervention Initiative to frontline workers at emergency shelters, public safety personnel, minority groups and other partners.

In response to the April 11, 2023, presentation on “Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP)” presented to the ACHDHE by **Bethany Geldmaker**, VMAP program manager, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health increase access of pediatric mental health services to all areas in Virginia including rural communities, low-income areas, and immigrant groups and engage with non-traditional providers (Patient First).
- The Virginia Department of Health encourage better data collection on socio-economic and population characteristics (disability) to highlight communities or areas of need based on identified VMAP disparities.

In response to the April 11, 2023, presentation on “Mental Health Cultural Considerations” presented to the ACHDHE by **Elvira De La Cruz and Tomiko Tamashiro Pardo**, CEO & Senior Advocate and Language Access Coordinator, respectively, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health VDH considers providing financial support and language access to organizations that help connect underserved populations groups to healthcare professionals especially during crisis situations.
- The Virginia Department of Health assists LIVE Center in developing measurable outcomes to grow the program footprint for more engagement in the Latino community and other communities. This should include other bilingual and culturally connected initiatives.
- The Virginia Department of Health invests in this trusted agency, the LIVE initiative to increase support for Latino and vulnerable communities.

Signed: David C. Rose

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