

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

Date: April 9, 2024:

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

In response to the January 9, 2024, presentation on “VDH’s Public Health Policy Agenda” presented to the ACHDHE by **Michael Capps**, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) formulates a comprehensive strategy for actively seeking input from well-informed stakeholders. This approach aims to incorporate diverse perspectives from constituents that may not have been initially identified at the commencement of an activity.
- The Virginia Department of Health continues to integrate the principles of health equity into its plan for wellbeing. This integration should serve as a guiding framework for shaping the agenda within the plan, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to health and wellness initiatives, programming, and activities.

In response to the January 9, 2024, presentation on “Virginia 2024 General Assembly Bills Overview” presented to the ACHDHE by **Alexandra Janssen**, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendation.

- The Virginia Department of Health undertakes strategic approaches to integrate dentists into the stipulations delineated in House Bill 32 (HB 32) and Senate Bill 35 (SB 35). These bills mandate the Board of Medicine to adopt and implement policies necessitating licensed practitioners, who have direct contact with individuals who are or may become pregnant, to undergo two hours of continuing education focused on implicit bias and cultural competency in healthcare, as defined in the legislation. The ACHDHE acknowledges the potential challenges or limitations that the Virginia Department of Health may meet during the implementation of this recommendation. Nevertheless, the significance of the suggested bills in advancing health outcomes in the state of Virginia should be underscored.

HB 32: [LIS > Bill Tracking > HB32 > 2024 session \(virginia.gov\)](#)

SB 35: [Bill Tracking - 2024 session > Legislation \(virginia.gov\)](#)

Signed: David C. Rose

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