

## Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)

January 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Central Office Madison Building

109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Mezzanine Conference Room– 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Attended in Richmond: **State Health Commissioner: Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Linda Redmond, PhD ; Emmanuel Eugenio, MD, FAAP; Lucie Ferguson, PhD, MPH, RN; Cecily Rodriguez; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN; J. Elisha Burke, M.Div., D.Min.; Jameika A. Sampson, MPH, MBA; Keisha L. Smith, MPA, Adrienne McFadden, MD, JD, FACEP, FAAEM , FCLM; Attended Via Polycom/Phone: Beth O'Connor, M. Ed, BA; Susan Alford, MBA, BS; Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Kate S. K. Lim, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHQ, CPHRM; Luisa F. Soaterna-Castaneda, BS, MPH; Maia McCuiston Jackson, MD, FAAP:(Attended Via Phone): Elizabeth Locke, PhD, PT; VDH; Karen Reed, MA, CDE; Augustine Doe, MS, MPA;**  
**Did Not Attend: Sheila Trimiew-Johnson, BA; Melissa Canaday; Theresa Teekah, MA, RN, MPH-C; Patti Kiger, Med (PhD);**

### Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Linda Redmond, ACHDHE Chair. After the welcome, everyone introduced themselves.

### Adoption of Agenda

The January meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

### Approval of Minutes

The October 14, 2014, minutes were approved as submitted.

### State Health Commissioner's Updates

Dr. Levine thanked the ACHDHE members for their contributions to enhance health equity in Virginia and for their participation on the ACHDHE

Dr. Levine acknowledged the outstanding efforts of the outgoing ACHDHE leadership, Dr. Elizabeth Locke and Dr. Lucie Ferguson, and thanked them for their leadership. Further she welcomed the new leadership and the new membership and expressed appreciation for their service.

Dr. Levine provided a brief presentation that highlighted the following:

1. Dr. Levine shared that the Virginia Department of Health is modeling the Population Health Improvement Initiative in Virginia in which every person in the state matters. The initiative involves key stakeholders as partners to advance population health collectively. Dr. Levine shared that VDH's efforts are consistent with the Population Health Improvement model which includes consideration of: socio-economic factors, behavior, genetics, and spirituality. Each of the factors impact disease burden, injury and quality of life. This model, with equity as its key determinant of prevention and medical care, is a valid template to improve the health of our entire population.

2. Dr. Levine discussed the National County Health Rankings conducted by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in which nationally, Virginia is ranked within the middle of the pack overall. She further indicated that significant disparities exist among Virginia's counties and in localities within Virginia's counties. Additionally, Dr. Levine stressed that until we deal with the factors that lead to the health outcomes/disparities, Virginia cannot achieve its goal of being the healthiest state in the nation. In response to an inquiry, Dr. Levine said that Northern states and those in the Pacific Northwest are among the states with some of the best health outcomes. It is not clear how Virginia will rank if it does not participate in Medicaid expansion
3. Dr. Levine discussed the importance of understanding public health from the "Ten Essential Services" framework that provides a working definition of public health and a guiding framework for the responsibilities of state public health systems with Assurance, Assessment, and Policy Development as the foundation. This framework is utilized by major public health organizations including CDC and US Public Health Service.

Dr. Levine encouraged the ACHDHE member to provide their insight, feedback, perspective, and questions for this very important and well launched initiative in Virginia.

### **Presentation**

**"Excellence in Public Health and the Law Initiative, 2015 General Assembly Preview, and Legislative Process Overview"** Presenter: Joe Hilbert– Director of Governmental Affairs, Virginia Department of Health spoke on the following topic areas:

#### **"Excellence in Public Health and the Law Initiative,**

Mr. Hilbert informed the ACHDHE members that VDH's work in advancing "Excellence in Public Health and the Law" received an Aspen Institute grant. The purpose of this grant is to develop a model process to improve chronic disease prevention. Specifically, the initiative targets improved nutrition in state facilities and increased physical activity, capitalizing on shared use of publicly owned facilities. A comprehensive study guided the resulting program design. Partnerships in carrying out the Chronic Disease Prevention program were strongly encouraged with the Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Corrections which are strongly focused on the health of those they are responsible for. Mr. Hilbert concurred and shared that DHRM is likewise invested in healthy behaviors. A Taskforce on Obesity is at work but must be able to demonstrate a return on investment.

Dr. Redmond asked about the timeline for the grant. The first year of this four year grant is focused on planning; we are required to have a state population plan by December. ACHDHE members are asked to submit their insights, feedback, perspectives, and questions regarding the state population plan to the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity) by July – August timeframe. Dr Eugenio asked for assistance in discerning the import of surveys introduced around this project. Dr Levine said the health departments will be surveyed to identify assets and gaps in services to adults and children at risk. We are looking at methods of data collection and dissemination.

Ms. Rodriguez suggested that food offerings consider the cultural context of those in-state facilities.

## **2015 General Assembly Preview**

Each year the Governor asks the State Health Commissioner if there is legislation the Department would want to be considered. VDH would welcome suggestions, early in the year, from ACHDHE members on ideas to improve health equity. Ideas for legislation must be submitted a year in advance of the general assembly, as the process can be lengthy.

## **Legislative Process Overview**

Mr. Hilbert explained the critical components of the legislative process: data collection, consideration of return on investment, analysis of existing laws, prior legislative activity and economic impact, stakeholder concerns (in support and in opposition), evaluations of the proposed activities and an analysis of best practices.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **New ACHDHE Procedure for Recommendation**

Dr. McFadden shared with the ACHDHE members that at the most recent ACHDHE planning meeting, some ideas were discussed to enhance ACHDHE recommendations to the Commissioner. The current protocol includes sharing members feedback provided at the meeting and comments included in the presenter evaluation forms via the meeting minutes. She outlined the new proposed procedures as follow:

### **Recommendations to the State Health Commissioner**

- The ACHDHE members will provide feedback on the presentations both during and after the meetings.
  - ACHDHE members discussed ways to make the feedback process more efficient. The members decided that they preferred a simplified online electronic version of the feedback form such as Survey Monkey. Also, members requested that questions be content specific - separating feedback on the presenter from the recommendations for the Commissioner.
- The leadership of the ACHDHE will convene prior to the next meeting to review all of the minutes and feedback collected and coalesce this information into a select few recommendations on behalf of the ACHDHE members to present to the State Health Commissioner. These recommendations can be presented in one of three ways:

Recorded in the meeting minutes and adopted along with the rest of the minutes; or

The recommendations will be recorded separately from the minutes and as part of the agenda, will be read at the subsequent meeting for the Commissioner's awareness and possible action; or

Both recorded and adopted with minutes AND read aloud for the Commissioner's awareness and possible action.

- At the close of the year, the ACHDHE's leadership with assistance from the administrative staff will review all recommendations and create a report.
  - ACHDHE members decided that the leadership proceed with the most effective method of providing ACHDHE recommendations to the State Health Commissioner.

### **Virginia's 100 Congregations for Million Hearts**

Dr. McFadden provided an update about Virginia's 100 Congregation for Million Hearts Initiative which is the faith-focused aspect of the national Million Hearts initiative, a program aimed at combating cardiovascular disease with a goal of preventing 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

Virginia's 100 Congregations for Million Hearts targets one of the largest and most influential groups in our communities to help accomplish this ambitious mission: our faith-based congregations. The purpose of the initiative is to enlist congregations to become champions of change in their communities, providing prevention education, resources and support to their members.

Dr. McFadden shared that 14 faith-based organizations have signed up to participate in the initiative representing a range of affiliations and geographical areas. She indicated that all congregations are encouraged to join the initiative!

ACHDHE members expressed their support for the initiative and agreed to share the information about the Virginia's 100 Congregations for Million Hearts Initiative's website on their organization's websites and with faith based communities.

### **Announcements and Updates**

#### **OMHHE Updates:**

Dr. McFadden announced that April is National Minority Health Month and encouraged ACHDHE members and organizations to notify OMHHE of any activities and events in observance of the month.

Dr. McFadden shared that her office, the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity has a new Community Health Program Specialist, Michael Mallon. She shared that Mike will work with rural communities and stakeholders to assess needs, develop appropriate programs, provide linkages to resources, and facilitate partnerships and collaborations.

#### **ACHDHE Member Updates:**

Dr. Eugenio shared information about the Asian American Association's Central Virginia Community Health Fair on October 24, 2015, in Henrico, Virginia. He also announced the Asian American Celebration on May 2, 2015, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Dr. Burke informed the ACHDHE members that May 2 - 3, 2015, is the Spirit of the Heart Conference in Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. Redmond shared information regarding an upcoming webinar and encouraged ACHDHE members to participate in the Health Equity Leadership and Exchange Network (HELEN). The link to HELEN is <http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=1b79f664217f7a2540b5ace40&id=4cfca0e190&e=753c973e0b>.

### **ACHDHE Action Items**

- A new feedback process (survey form) will be developed by ACHDHE Leadership/OMHHE Staff prior to April ACHDHE meeting.
- ACHDHE members will provide additional feedback on current meeting topics immediately following meeting.

**Public Comments**

- No public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm.

**Next ACHDHE MEETING: Tuesday, April 14, 2015,**

**Time:** 11:00am – 2:00 pm

**Location:** Mezzanine Conference Room, VDH Central Office, 109 Governor Street, 23219 or via Polycom upon request.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Augustine Doe, Health Equity Specialist**

**Minutes reviewed by: Dr. Linda Redmond, Chair**