

**Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)
July 14, 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, Adrienne McFadden, MD, JD, FACEP, FAAEM, FCLM; Linda Redmond, PhD; J. Elisha Burke, M.Div., D.Min.; Theresa Teekah, MA, RN, MPH-C; Patti Kiger, M. Ed (PhD); Keisha L. Smith, MPA; Cecily Rodriguez, MPA; Karen Reed, MA, CDE; Augustine Doe, MS, MPA;**

Attended Via Polycom/Phone: **Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Maia McCuiston Jackson, MD, FAAP; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN;**

Requested Telephonic Attendance: **Elizabeth Locke, PhD, PT; Luisa F. Soaterna-Castaneda, BS, MPH; Kate S. K. Lim, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHQ, CPHRM; (Note: Technical difficulties prevented participation)**

Did Not Attend: **Emmanuel Eugenio, MD, FAAP; Beth O'Connor, M. Ed, BA; Jameika A. Sampson, MPH, MBA; Sheila Trimiew-Johnson, BA;**

Welcome

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

Adoption of Agenda

The April meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

ACHDHE Recommendations to the Commissioner

On behalf of the council, Theresa Teekah, ACHDHE Vice-Chair, read and delivered to the State Health Commissioner the council's recommendations from the ACHDHE April 14, 2015 meeting presentations (see attached document).

Approval of Minutes

The April 14, 2015 minutes were approved as submitted.

State Health Commissioner's Updates

Dr. Marissa Levine provided the following highlights:

1. Dr. Levine updated attendees on VDH activities since the last meeting as follow:
 - a. Dr. Levine welcomed everyone and thanked the members of the council for their feedback/recommendations. She informed the council about the inclusion of their previous and current recommendations in the state's Population Health Plan that is being developed. More stakeholders are included as partners of the state Plan for Wellbeing, Dr. Levine explained. She encouraged ACHDHE members to provide additional input by taking the

- survey for the Plan for Wellbeing, which is currently on VDH's website at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2080957/Virginia-Population-Health-Plan>.
- b. Dr. Levine told the members of the council that version II of the Health Opportunity Index (HOI) is being developed by Dr. McFadden and her team within the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE). As a baseline, the HOI will accumulate components for assessing the social determinants of health (SDOH).
 - c. Further, Dr. Levine spoke about the work of the Office of Family Health Services (OFHS). She indicated that Dr. Peake and her team are working on a standardized community Health Assessment to be operationalized by the Local Health Districts for the benefit of their partners.
2. Regarding the agency's budget, Dr. Levine discussed the state budget cuts that fall alongside the revenue surplus announced by the Governor. She cautioned that the budget could still be impacted negatively by the federal sequestration. VDH is also looking at ways to ensure it is getting a good financial return on its programs. Dr. Levine explained for example, studies show that every dollar spent on the VDH Tobacco Quit Line program, there is a saving of ten dollars in healthcare cost or lost productivity. She concluded that the agency is pursuing a technical assistance grant as well.

Presentations

“Environmental Public Health Tracking Presentation” Presenter: Chris Gordon, Office of the Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health.

Mr. Gordon's presentation emphasized the use of data to achieve environmental justice. The data he presented were hospitalizations and emergency departments' visits between 2000 and 2013 for heart attack, asthma, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heat stress. The presentation exhibited a map of Virginia showing: 1.) asthma hospitalizations for blacks and whites and concentrations for both populations in separate areas; and 2) hospitalization rates for heart attacks by race.

Mr. Gordon described social justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

An ACHDHE member suggested adding to the map prevalence of asthma to consider environmental factors that induce acute asthma attacks leading to hospitalization. Presenter said the purpose of these maps was to demonstrate the capability of the mapping. Mr. Gordon indicated that as the metrics are being developed, the advisory council members' input regarding the areas of specialties and interests of their constituents is critical. He encouraged the members of the council to submit ideas for metrics.

“Health Impact Assessment presentation” Presenter: Karen Reed – Director, Division of Multicultural Health and Community Engagement, Virginia Department of Health.

Ms. Reed introduced the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as a practical approach that can inform and influence decision makers about how a proposal would impact health. The HIA is a process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods, and considers input from stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population, and the how those effects could be distributed among the population. She pointed that the overarching aim of the HIA is to create conditions that encourage and support the protection and improvement of people's health and wellbeing. The HIA additionally provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects. Ms. Reed discussed the importance of incorporating the HIA processes in non-health sector decisions, where health is not the main objective but the outcome of the project may have major effects on the health and well-being of people, particularly vulnerable groups. Ms. Reed encouraged the use of an HIAs in decision making to assure inclusion of health considerations from a wide lens, including the determinants of health.

With the understanding that health is in all policies, an ACHDHE member asked a question regarding the numerous policies around the state, when health is not at the table, on who initiates the inclusion of the HIA process. There was discussion that the utilizing the HIA process should include a wide range of stakeholders (including health) at the onset. Ms. Reed shared how some other state health departments initially self-invited themselves to the table, and were later asked to participate in subsequent decision making as their value was recognized. Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu shared that, prior to the Fairfax Health Department conducting their HIA, they had spent years building their partnerships through Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) assessment and the use of the stakeholder gatherings in which they explored health and health equity, utilizing the "Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making you sick?" video designed to educate and engage the non-health sector partners in understanding health from a wider lens. ACHDHE members indicated that they found the HIA a useful tool and would like to see health departments be more involved in conversations about policy/program/project decisions that could impact the health of the community.

"Fairfax Health Department Health Impact Assessment - Richmond Highway Transit Center"

Presenter: Sara Pappa – Program Manager, Partnership for Healthier Fairfax, Fairfax Health Department.

Ms. Pappa shared the purpose of their Health Impact Assessment (HIA) project, which was conducted by Fairfax Health Department. The HIA addressed the development and implementation of policies that promote healthy and safe physical environments for all who live, work, and play in the Fairfax community. She explained that the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process began in 2009 when the county created its Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which includes health in all policies. This assessment was Fairfax's first HIA that was conducted with the assistance of a National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) project grant from November 2013 to July 2014. The transit center was planned for a low income community, where concerns had been raised about the impact. The multi-disciplinary team met monthly to look at six focus areas: traffic safety, air pollution, access to parks, access to goods and services, community violence, and community cohesion. The vision expanded from just a transit center to a recreation spot with a

soccer field. The project team began with 30 site options, then narrowed the selection down to two. The process generated trust and cooperation between government entities and community groups.

An ACHDHE member asked if staff members were trained about HIA process. The presenter responded staff was trained by NACCHO, the sponsor of the project, and they also attended other HIA conferences.

Updated Business:

Summer Food/WIC Programs

Ms. Theresa Teekah reminded members about the importance of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The SFSP provides free meals to any child under the age of 18 across the Commonwealth. Ms. Teekah shared that a phone text program had been developed in order that individuals can learn of the SFSP locations around the state. She provided the following instructions: Go to your smart phone text message icon, enter the number 877-877 and then type "FOOD" in the subject line; you will be generated an auto message response requesting your address; once you respond you will receive a listing of the nearest summer feeding program site to their geographical location.

Announcements and Updates

OMHHE Updates

Dr. McFadden shared that Virginia has achieved and exceeded its goal of enlisting 100 congregations into the Virginia 100 Congregations for Million Hearts Initiative. Currently, 122 faith-based organizations have joined the initiative. She reminded the council that the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) joined Million Hearts on November 24, 2014 with the goal of recruiting 100 Virginia faith-based organizations by the end of 2015. Dr. McFadden presented a PowerPoint presentation that included photos of some Million Heart Congregational activities. She acknowledged the work of the initiative's participants and partners to provide wrap-around support to the initiative.

In closing her updates, Dr. McFadden announced OMHHE actions taken regarding the council's recommendations from the April 14, 2015 meeting presentations. She shared the enhancement of marketing efforts which include short video segments of success stories of past program participants for some of OMHHE workforce incentive programs.

ACHDHE Member Updates

No member updates provided.

ACHDHE Action Items

- ACHDHE members were encouraged to provide additional input by taking the survey for the Plan for Wellbeing currently on VDH's website at; (<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2080957/Virginia-Population-Health-Plan>).

Public Comments

- No public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 pm.

Next ACHDHE MEETING: Tuesday, October 13, 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

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