

**Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS)  
and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) Advisory Council Meeting**

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**Meeting Location**

Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association  
Washington and Jefferson Meeting Rooms  
4200 Innslake Dr, Glen Allen, VA 23060

**Virtual Access Link for Public:**

[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_iyr0XYxJTj-dPfaJUF5udw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_iyr0XYxJTj-dPfaJUF5udw)

*Meeting attendance required prior registration.*

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

<b>Council Member Attendance</b>	<b>Voting Record</b> Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain, M1= Motion, M2= Second
<i>Italicized</i> = Absent	Previous Meeting Minutes
<b>Voting Members</b>	
<u>Legislative</u>	
<i>Delegate Karen Robins Carnegie</i>	-
<i>Senator Barbara Favola</i>	-
Delegate Debra Gardner	M1
Delegate Patrick Hope	Y
Delegate Phillip A. Scott	Y
<i>Senator David Suetterlein</i>	-
<u>Non-Legislative</u>	
Ann Flippin	M2
Brian Gottstein	Y
Dr. David Jaffe	Y
Dr. Galam Khan	Y
Erin Reid	Y
<i>Dr. Aradhana Sood</i>	-
<i>Dr. Susan Swedo</i>	-
<i>Terry Woody</i>	-
<b>Ex Officio Members</b>	
Dr. Vanessa Walker-Harris (VDH)	-
<b>Vacant Seat</b>	
<i>Immunologist</i>	-

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Staff Attending:** Marcus Allen, Jayla Dickens, Beatrice Lele, Jennifer Macdonald

**Council Business**

Advisory Council Meeting called to order by Delegate Hope at 1:06 PM. Roll call completed. Quorum was achieved. Members introduced themselves and shared their interest in being a member of the Advisory Council.

### **Public Comment Period**

Teresa C. shared personal story with PANDAS/PANS. Story emphasized the benefits of the attention that has been brought on by PANDAS/PANS but also noted that there is a dire need for more specialists and treating physicians. Teresa C. shared that it was difficult to receive follow-up care and find available appointments, and that a notable level of growth and expansion is needed in this area. Teresa C. also shared that it is important to educate more doctors about issues related to PANDAS/PANS.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Dr. Khan shared updates from the Education Subcommittee meeting that occurred prior to Advisory Council meeting. Updates included the development of a PANDAS/PANS module, finding a nurse consultant, gaining funding, and the implementation process. Dr. Khan noted the current focus areas of the education committee as (1) increasing PANDAS/PANS awareness among target audiences, including parents, clinicians, schools, etc., (2) creating content for education of stakeholders including school nurses, providers, etc. (3) increasing knowledge of providers and families regarding mandated insurance coverage updates for PANDAS/PANS testing and treatment. Delegate Hope suggested that the Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP) could be consulted once CMEs have been established.

Allen and Gottstein shared updates from the Communication Subcommittee meeting that occurred prior to Advisory Council meeting. These updates included (1) promoting what is accomplished by the Education Subcommittee, (2) communicating with appropriate parties to retrieve a status update on the PANDAS/PANS promotional logo, and (3) setting clear deadlines for future communications projects.

New advisory council members, Erin Reid and Delegate Phillip A. Scott, were given the opportunity to choose their subcommittee appointment. Delegate Scott requested to attend meetings of both committees prior to committing to either of them permanently. This request was granted. Reid demonstrated preference for the Education subcommittee.

It was determined that the Education Subcommittee and Provision of Care Subcommittee will be merged due to overlapping content. Communications Subcommittee will remain as an individual, unmerged committee.

### **Annual Report Recommendations**

The annual report is due in December 2026. Drafts are due internal to VDH by September 2026. A total of 6 recommendations were made last year. These included: (1) Establishing an outreach program to assess the baseline knowledge of healthcare providers for the pediatric population, (2) Creating a pilot Center of Excellence similar to VDH Sickle Cell Program, (3) Identifying and survey existing CEU/CMU modules and develop new if needed, (4) Proposing mandating continuing education training for providers interacting with pediatric population, (5) Advocating for increased knowledge through request for Governor's proclamation to recognized PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day, social media campaign, specialized awareness campaign, and (6) Enhancing Existing VDH website to include improved accessibility and expand content.

Committee chairs are to attend the next meeting with ideas and recommendations to add to annual report and add possible budget amendments. Joint Education/Provision of Care and Communications committees are to meet to discuss items in June 2026.

### **Open Discussion**

Dr. Jaffe noted that the Committee should identify an entity to compare definitions, diagnostic, and treatment protocols, such as the National Mental Health Institute. Dr. Jaffe also noted that the PANS Consortium is

discussing how to move forward and improve recommendations and diagnoses. The Consortium is in works to have PANS 31 – questions to determine PANS/PANDAS status – become standardized.

The next Education/Provision of Care Subcommittee has determined the following question to be a topic of the next meeting: There are a few sources of reputable diagnostic protocols, like Neuroimmune for instance, and determine whether committee physicians pick which diagnostic protocol is to be used.

### **Council Business**

The Council discussed action items for the next meeting. These include initiating communication with DHP to have a representative attend the next PANDAS/PANS Advisory Council meeting, and inviting a representative of Light House to attend the next PANDAS/PANS Advisory Council meeting, which will be coordinated by Flippin and Teresa C.

Allen noted that there will be communication incoming to schedule the conjoined subcommittee meeting in June 2026 to discuss the six annual report recommendations.

Members were reminded of the next full council meeting occurring virtually on July 16, 2026, from 1 - 2:30 PM.

Council meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.