

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

Education Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Meeting Location

Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association

Jefferson Meeting Room

4200 Innslake Dr, Glen Allen, VA 23060

Draft Meeting Minutes

Council Member Attendance
<i>Italicized = Absent</i>
Members
Dr. Galam Khan, Education Chair
<i>Dr. Bela Sood</i>
Erin Reid
<i>Dr. David Jaffe</i>
Brian Gottstein
<i>Senator Barbara Favola</i>
<i>Terry Woody</i>
Ex-Officio
Dr. Vanessa Walker-Harris

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

Council Business

Education Subcommittee Meeting called to order by Dr. Khan at 11:11 AM. Roll call was initiated and agenda was reviewed. Quorum was not achieved. Review/approval of the meeting minutes from September 30th, 2025, was not voted upon.

Due to limited attendance for both scheduled Education and Communications Subcommittee meetings, members collaborated for both meetings. The meeting focused on Education Subcommittee agenda first and later shifted to Communications Subcommittee agenda.

Public Comment Period

No public comment.

Workplan Review – Action Item Updates

Dr. Walker-Harris provided an overview of how ECHO programs are administered. It was noted that VDH has experience in patient-centered medical home, transition, and breastfeeding initiatives. The need for dedicated resources to support ECHO programs was highlighted as a potential recommendation for the annual report.

The committee discussed the financial and logistical considerations that are associated with creating and implementing a CME certified module. Committee reviewed existing resources, including work from the Neuroimmune Foundation, the PANDAS Physician Network, as well as the ASPIRE program experience in North Carolina, which already offers established training modules.

Dr. Khan proposed that learning modules be hosted on the VDH website for education credit. This would require partnership with an academic institution. Clarification was provided that CME-certified content would not be hosted directly on VDH's website; instead, the site would embed links to external courses and modules.

The Committee discussed the necessity of developing new training modules or leveraging already existing ones. It was noted that increasing awareness and using current resources would be a key opportunity. Broader awareness strategies were noted, including engagement through additional committees, large-scale communications, conferences, and potential legislative action.

Dr. Khan also suggested creating a pilot program to test modules, potentially involving students and school nurses at the Summer Institute for School Nurses (SISN) or quarterly Nurse Coordinator meetings.

Committee members emphasized the importance of solidifying educational selections and determining a process for professional recommendation or required training modules.

The Education Subcommittee's action items include: (1) affiliated physicians identifying and selecting the most appropriate training course, which will then be presented to the full Advisory Council for approval, and linked on the VDH website after notifying course owners, and (2) conducting outreach to health professions after modules are listed to explore opportunities for collaboration and support for the PANDAS/PANS initiatives.

Key considerations of this subcommittee meeting: (1) primary areas of concern being CME certification, school engagement, and potential funding through a formal VDH budget request, and (2) the need for standardized, universal guidelines for PANDAS diagnosis to ensure all other conditions are ruled out prior to diagnosis.

Adjournment

Due to it being a joint committee meeting, there was no formal adjournment for the Education Subcommittee. The meeting topic shifted to the Communications Subcommittee at 12:10 PM.