

Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)
January 14, 2020 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: **M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA; Sable K. Nelson, JD; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN; MPA; Linda Lee Redmond, PhD; Nia Harrison, MPP; J. Elisha Burke, M. Div., D. Min.; Kate S. K. Bradshaw, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHQ; JohnJason Cecil, BA; Antonio Villa, MD, MPH; Eleanor Woodson, BSN, RN; Augustine Doe, MS, MPA**

Attended via Polycom/Phone: **Bonny K. Dillon, PhD, BCPC, LPC; Lauren James, MD; Luisa F. Soaterna-Castaneda, BS, MPH;**

Did Not Attend: **Lauren Powell, Ph.D, MPA; Radhika Thirunagari, MS; Maceo E. Freeman, D. Min; Keisha L. Smith, MPA; Patti Kiger, M. Ed; Elvira De La Cruz, BS; Jene' Carter, MA. MPP; Lean Abdelaziz, BA; Daud Mohamed; Gordon Walker, MS;**

WELCOME

Ms. Melody Armstrong, ACHDHE Chair, introduced herself and asked the attendees to introduce themselves before calling the meeting to order.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The January 14, 2020 meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

Meeting Agenda: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2020/01/ACHDHE-January-2020-Meeting-Agenda-1.pdf>

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The ACHDHE October 8, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Meeting Minutes: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2020/01/Minutes1.pdf>

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

Dr. J. Elisha Burke, ACHDHE Vice Chair, read the ACHDHE's recommendations from the October 2019 meeting presentation and delivered the document to the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Norman Oliver.

Recommendations: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2020/01/October-2019-ACHDHE-Recommendations-SK-1.pdf>

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATES

The State Health Commissioner, Dr. Norm Oliver, thanked the ACHDHE members for the recommendations and shared the following updates.

VDH Updates:

- In materializing **Governor Ralph Northam's** dedicated and committed pursuit to address maternal mortality in Virginia, a bill to increase the budget in support of the reduction of Virginia's maternal mortality was submitted to the 2020 General Assembly. The budget submitted will extend the postpartum period of care to one year after birth.
- In 2019, the Governor's office and VDH conducted multiple community listening sessions on maternal mortality. Several engaged participants from Virginia's communities attended the events across the state.

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- VDH and its local health departments have expanded their inter-agency collaborations with the Department of Social Services, several community-based organizations and other state entities to collectively address the root causes of health disparities.
- Currently, the State Rural Health Plan listening sessions are in progress. ACHDHE members are encouraged to spread the word and engage the participation of the communities at the sessions. Dr. Oliver encouraged all ACHDHE members to particularly engage the active involvement of minority under-resourced and challenged community members in Virginia.

PRESENTATION:

- **Topic: “Virginia’s Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion”**

Presenter: Dr. Janice **Underwood**, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Governor’s Office

Presentation summary:

- Dr. Underwood’s newly established cabinet level position; Virginia’s Chief Diversity Officer (Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) is the first of its kind in the nation, as she shared with the ACHDHE. Her focus includes the development of a dedicated team that uses an equity lens to evaluate government leaders, legislators, and policies in Virginia. She shared that the issues of disparity are issues that speak to humanity and are significant to economic return on investment. Dr. Underwood indicated that her vision is to tackle issues head-on and try things that have never been accomplished in Virginia. The issues to be addressed in Virginia are categorized into two groups, the short and long-term diversity wins, she explained. In conclusion, Dr. Underwood provided to the ACHDHE three questions she considers while in her role and she shares with state leaders she meets. The questions are:
 - How do you know you are making a difference in your sphere of influence for the most marginalized communities in Virginia?
 - How are you measuring your success?
 - How can we transform colonized or phantom manifestations of diversity, equity, and inclusion work in our agencies that are only intended to make the status quo comfortable?

- **Topic: “Virginia’s 2020 General Assembly Updates”**

Presenter: Joe **Hilbert**, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH

Presentation link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2020/01/ACHDHE-2020-GA-Update.pdf>

NEW BUSINESS:

Prior to the commencement of the regular ACHDHE meeting at 11:00 am, an orientation meeting was held for five newly appointed ACHDHE members, Eleanor Woodson, Dr. Lauren Powell, Lean Abdelaziz, Gordon Walker, and Doud Mohamed.

UPDATES:

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates

Sable K. Nelson, Acting Director, Office of Health Equity (OHE) shared the following updates including updates from two members on her team.

- OHE Acting Director, Sable K. Nelson’s updates:
 - Ms. Sable K. **Nelson** announced her recent appointment as the Acting Director of OHE.

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- She also shared information about the divisions within OHE and work of the staff within the Division of Multicultural Health and Community Engagement. (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/division-of-multicultural-health-and-community-engagement/>). She briefly discussed these program areas:
 - State Health Commissioner’s Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE):
 - ACHDHE: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/division-of-multicultural-health-and-community-engagement/commissioners-advisory-council-on-health-disparity-and-health-equity/>
 - ACHDHE Meetings: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/division-of-multicultural-health-and-community-engagement/commissioners-advisory-council-on-health-disparity-and-health-equity/committee-meetings/>
 - Virginia’s Partners in Prayer and Prevention Initiative (P3):
 - P3 link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/partners-in-prayer-and-prevention-p3/>
 - Danville Youth Health Equity Leadership Institute (YHELI):
 - YHELI link: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-equity/division-of-multicultural-health-and-community-engagement/youth-health-equity-leadership-institute-yheli-project-in-danville-va/>
- OHE Divisional Updates:
- Social Epidemiology & Data:
 - Presented by: Justin **Crow**, Director:
 - Presentation: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2020/01/SRHP-Slides-01.10.2020-1.pdf>
- Division of Primary Care:
 - Presented by: Olivette **Burroughs**, Statewide Health Workforce Manager.
 - Presentation: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2020/01/VA-SLRP-Tobacco-Collaboration-2019-Updated-2020-Council-1.pdf>

OTHER UPDATES:

- The ACHDHE members shared the following updates:
 - Nia **Harrison** – Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD)
 - The VBPD Executive Director, Ms. Heidi Lawyer recently retired. Mr. John Paul Cimino is serving as Acting Executive Director until the organization hires for the position.

Public Comment

- Public comments were delivered:
 - Carolyn **Turner** - Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
 - Ms. Turner thanked VDH and ACHDHE members for conducting an informative meeting. She plans on attending future meetings of the ACHDHE.

The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

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Next ACHDHE MEETING: Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

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:

Melody **Armstrong**, Chair

Dr. J. Elisha **Burke**, Vice Chair

Luisa **Soaterna-Castaneda**, Chair Emeritus