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Minutes
State Board of Health Meeting
April 29-30, 2004
The Place at Innsbrook
Glen Allen, Virginia

Thursday, April 29

Members Present: Jean Donovan, Fred Hannett, Julie Beales, Hunter Gaunt, Barry Griffin, Jack Lanier, Chairman; Kandy Elliott, Dick Grinnan, Sheila Elliott, Craig Reed, Cora Gray

Members Absent: Doug Johnson (resigned), Shirely Kelly (resigned)

I. Call to Order

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of January 30, 2004, were approved.

II. Chairman's and Members' Reports

The reports of the members and the Chairman addressed the new vaccine for West Nile Virus; the state budget, particularly in regard to education and local budgets; the resignation from the Board of Health of Douglas Johnson and Shirley Kelly; the capacity of the Board of Health to affect state health policy with respect to the latitude granted to the Board by the Governor; the annual conference of Virginians for Improving Patient Care and Safety (VIPC&S) on May 26; the Second Annual Governor's Conference on Covering the Uninsured on June 6 and 7; the new Medicare prescription drug card; Board of Health interaction with the General Assembly; childhood nutrition and fitness; church lay health advisor programs, and the upcoming VCU conference on health disparities. The Board formally recognized the service to Virginia of the late Dr. Mack Shanholtz, former State Health Commissioner. Dr. Shanholtz became Virginia's fifth health commissioner in 1951 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1976. He served under seven Virginia Governors.

III. Commissioner's Report

Dr. Stroube reflected on Dr. Shanholtz's career in public health and recalled that when Dr. Shanholtz became commissioner, tuberculosis was the number one public health problem and there were four TB hospitals in Virginia. Dr. Stroube indicated that the priority of homeland security requires him to work extensively with public safety

agencies and reported that Virginia has received national recognition for best practices in emergency preparedness and response.

Dr. Jim Burns discussed the issue of lead in drinking water, particularly in the recent problem in Washington, D.C. that prompted Northern Virginia health departments to test 669 homes in 9 localities. No significant problem with lead in the drinking water has been detected. Plans have been made to test drinking water in schools statewide.

Dr. David Suttle, Director of the VDH Office of Family Health Services (OFHS), briefed the Board on a grant from the federal Bureau of Maternal and Child Health recently awarded to OFHS for planning and implementation of an early childhood comprehensive healthcare system. A total of \$650,000 was awarded. Five focal areas of the project are access to a medical home, especially for children with special healthcare needs; mental and social development; early childhood care; parent education, and family support services. The Virginia Department of Education is a partner for this grant that will involve 55 other agencies and organizations.

Allen Knapp, in the VDH Office of Environmental Health Services, made a presentation on an innovative low-cost sewage disposal system piloted in Charles City County that will be expanded to 200 homes in Caroline County.

IV. Election of Board Officers

Dr. Hunter Gaunt, current Vice Chairman of the Board, presented the slate of officers for 2004-2005, as follows:

Chairman:	Jack Lanier
Vice Chairman:	Dick Grinnan
Executive Committee:	Julie Beales and Craig Reed

The Board approved the nominations unanimously. Following the elections, the Board discussed their public participation policy. Members of the Board expressed their sympathy for citizens' concerns about health issues, particularly in regard to the issue of land application of biosolids, but also expressed their concerns that citizens did not understand the authority of the State Board of Health and the fact that only elected legislators can change existing laws or propose new legislation. The Board voted unanimously to prepare a document summarizing the history of legislation and regulation concerning land application of biosolids in Virginia and the role of the Board and VDH in regard to this issue.

V. Virginia Action for Healthy Kids

Carol Pollock, a VDH School Age and Adolescent Health Nurse Consultant, made a presentation to the Board on Virginia Action for Healthy Kids, a consortium of more than 50 volunteers representing government, the private sector, and local school districts. First Lady Lisa Collis is the Honorary Chairperson of Virginia Action for Healthy Kids.

The purpose of the organization is to address the goals articulated in the Surgeon General's *Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity*.

Following the presentation, Joe Hilbert, Executive Advisor to the Commissioner, gave the Board an update on the work of the Joint Committee of the Board of Health and the Board of Education. The Joint Committee's recommendations address curriculum development for proper nutrition and exercise; the establishment of statewide nutrition and fitness guidelines for school divisions; the establishment of a mechanism for state-level evaluation and technical assistance; and continued collaboration between the Department of Education and the Department of Health. The Joint Committee will continue to meet monthly to finalize the recommendations, develop guidelines and strategies, and implement plans. Dr. Grinnan and Dr. Reed will replace Dr. Gaunt and Dr. Elliott on the Joint Committee.

VI. Legislative Update

Joe Hilbert, Executive Advisor to the Commissioner, reported on the 2004 session of the Virginia General Assembly and legislation of interest to VDH.

VII. Budget Update

Steve Sullivan, Director of the VDH Office of Budget Services, discussed the budget for the 2004-2006 biennium. The agency budget is \$476 million. The state general fund contribution to the budget will be \$135 million.

VIII. APA Audit Report for June 30, 2003

Richard Corrigan, Director of the VDH Office of Internal Audit, discussed the findings reported in the 2003 Audit Report. VDH demonstrates an improving trend, which he attributed to agency leadership. VDH had only three audit points.

IX. Regulations Governing Eligibility Standards and Charges for Health Care Services to Individuals (12 VAC 5-200-10)

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Jim Burns presented the proposed amendments to the Regulations Governing Eligibility Standards and Charges for Health Care Services to Individuals. The Board approved the proposed changes unanimously.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Secretary Jane Woods spoke to the Board at dinner following the meeting.

Friday, April 30

Members Present: Jean Donovan, Julie Beales, Hunter Gaunt, Barry Griffin, Jack Lanier, Chairman; Kandy Elliott, Dick Grinnan, Sheila Elliott, Craig Reed, Cora Gray

Members Absent: Fred Hannett

I. State Planning Grant

Kathy Wibberly, Office of Health Policy and Planning, updated the Board on the State Planning Grant and the Governor's Conference on Covering the Uninsured, to be held June 6 and 7 in Landsdowne, Virginia. The Federal Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) State Planning Grants Program provides grants to states to collect and analyze data on their healthcare systems and uninsured populations and develop strategies to provide access to health care insurance for all citizens.

II. Report on the Office of Minority Health

Rene Cabral-Daniels, Director of the VDH Office of Health Policy and Planning, gave a presentation on the mission and activities of the Office of Minority Health.

III. Retreat Planning

The Board agreed to have a retreat in the Richmond area on August 22 and 23.

IV. Public Comment

Seven citizens expressed their opposition to the land application of biosolids.

V. Adjournment

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot K. Fritts
Senior Policy Analyst