



Henrietta Lacks Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2023 | 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES

Dr. Betty Adams
 William Claiborne
 Danyell Duncan
 Kristy Johnson
 Jeri Lacks-Whye
 Dr. Adele Newson-Horst
 Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens
 Veronica Cosby
 Sandra Serna
 Sharmeka Williams
 Shirley Lacks
 Brian Zowyer

AFFILIATION

Executive Director of Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
 Designee of Chair of the Board, Halifax County Board of Supervisors
 Designee of Mayor of South Boston, Town of South Boston, Clerk
 Executive Director of Halifax Industrial Development Authority
 Member of Henrietta Lacks Family
 Board Member of Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group
 Member of Halifax County Industrial Development Authority
 Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity
 Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity
 Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity
 Member of Henrietta Lacks Family
 President, Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital

Not In Attendance

Senator William Stanley Member of Virginia Senate

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order & Welcome	The Chair, Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, called the meeting of the Henrietta Lacks Commission, hereafter, “Commission”, to order at 12:06 PM EST. A quorum was confirmed with seven of eight members present.	
Roll Call	Sharmeka Williams	
Opening Comments	Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens recapped the swearing in, having taken place prior to the start of the meeting, of Mrs. Jeri Lack-Whye, Dr. Adele Newson-Horst and herself, Dr. Nettie Owens-Simon, by Mrs. Cathy Cosby, Clerk of Circuit Court, Halifax County, VA.	
Introductions	Virginia Department of Health representatives, Sandra Serna, Veronica Cosby, and Sharmeka Williams, introduced themselves, including their roles at VDH.	

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Old Business:	Review of Meeting Minutes Bylaws Revisions Reports Facilitated by: Dr. Simon-Owens, Sandra Serna, and Veronica Cosby.	
Review of Meeting Minutes	Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens requested a motion for approval of the draft minutes from the March 10, 2023, meeting. It was properly moved by Dr. Betty Adams, seconded by Mrs. Danyell Duncan, and unanimously approved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2023, meeting.	The motion to approve the March 10, 2023, minutes passed unanimously. VDH will post final minutes to Commonwealth Calendar and the VDH Commissioner's Meetings Calendar within three days of the May 5, 2023, meeting.
Bylaws Feedback	Dr. Simon-Owens opened the floor for any further feedback regarding the updated Bylaws. No further feedback was provided.	The updated Bylaws were accepted by the Henrietta Lacks Commission.
Report: Updates from the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity - <i>Staffing</i> Report: Updates Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity - <i>Annual Reports</i>	Virginia Department of Health Changes: Sandra Serna informed the Henrietta Lacks Commission of Governor Younkin's selection of Dr. Karen Shelton as Health Commissioner, who has a long-standing background in OB/GYN rural health. Sandra Serna reported that there was no new information from the Speaker regarding the vacant House of Delegate position. Sandra Serna briefed the Henrietta Lacks Commission on the updated appendices made by VDH to the Henrietta Lacks Commission 2019 Annual Report. <i>Note: The Henrietta Lacks Commission 2019 Annual Report was sent to the General Assembly in 2020.</i> No further Virginia Department of Health Updates	
Town Hall Updates	Veronica Cosby briefed the Henrietta Lacks Commission on the public meeting requirements.	VDH will include the Town Hall publication in meeting invitations to the Commission members moving forward.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
New Business	<p>Henrietta Lacks Commission Updates</p> <p>Process to move forward</p> <p>Commissioner's Comments</p>	
Process to move forward	<p>Dr. Simon-Owens made remarks of encouragement regarding the rejuvenation of the commission's ability to move forward. Dr. Simon-Owens opened the floor to any commission member to share information on any tasks they worked on since the previous meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Betty Adams presented the board with a summation of guidance received from Mr. Bryan Price, Outreach and Engagement Specialist of the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Betty Adams also discussed a potential partnership opportunity with Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital (SHRH). She introduced Mr. Brian Zwoyer, the CEO of SHRH.</p> <p>Mr. Brian Zwoyer briefed the Henrietta Lacks Commission on the vision for the development of a healthcare campus focus for Halifax Sentara Regional Hospital.</p> <p>Dr. Adele Newson-Horst notified the Henrietta Lacks Commission of the passing of Dr. Roland Pattillo, Professor Emeritus at the Morehouse School of Medicine-distinguished researcher, who worked alongside John Hopkins University and the Henrietta Lacks family to keep the Henrietta Lacks legacy and contribution alive.</p> <p>Ms. Shirley Lacks, the daughter-in-law of the late Henrietta Lacks, was introduced and echoed the importance of Dr. Roland Pattillo's impact on the Henrietta Lack's Family.</p> <p>Dr. Adele Newson-Horst and Ms. Jeri Lacks-Why presented highlights of various efforts domestically and internationally to honor Henrietta Lacks.</p> <p>Dr. Betty Adams highlighted a contribution made by Halifax Sentara Regional Hospital towards the Halifax Hometown Initiative to have a statue of Henrietta Lacks located in downtown South Boston, VA.</p> <p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens directed the commission to a Cancer Research Center report created by Danyell Duncan.</p> <p>Mrs. Danyell Duncan presented findings on the various types of cancer facilities, services, and approaches</p>	<p>VDH will send a copy of the Henrietta Lacks Commission</p>

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	<p>including Comprehensive, Community, and Specialty Centers.</p> <p>Mrs. Kristy Johnson updated the Henrietta Lacks Commission on ongoing efforts to work with VEDP to vet any potential partnerships.</p> <p>It was properly moved by Dr. Betty Adams, seconded by Dr. Adele Newson-Horst and approved unanimously for the Commission to initiate steps to develop a partnership with Sentara Regional Hospital.</p> <p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens opened the floor for any further questions, comments or insight.</p> <p>No further discussion occurred.</p>	<p>members the comprehensive report written by Danyell Duncan.</p> <p>Dr. Betty Adams will formulate a quantifiable plan to recommend to the Henrietta Lacks Commission in conjunction with Mr. Zwoyer who will continue discussions with the Sentara organization.</p>
Election of Officers & Election Committee Appointments	Election of Officers shall be conducted at the Annual Meeting which is the regular meeting held in the third quarter of the calendar year. The Commission has two officers, the Chair and Vice-Chair.	Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens appointed commission members, Mr. William Claiborne, Mrs. Jeri Lacks-Whye, and Mrs. Danyell Duncan to serve on the Nominating Committee. Mr. Claiborne will serve as the committee chair. The committee will report at the next Commission meeting.
Commissioner's Comments	Henrietta Lacks Commission leadership expressed the importance of looking forward. Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens encouraged the Commission to consider the fresh start that took place Fall 2022 for the Henrietta Lacks Commission. Further, Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens reinforced the accomplishments of the Henrietta Lacks Commission since then.	
Public Comments	No public comments were made.	
Next Meeting Date	The Commission is scheduled to meet virtually on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, 10AM-1PM.	VDH will send calendar holds for all upcoming meetings and will register the meetings as public meetings. VDH and Commission Leadership will identify August 2023 meeting agenda.
Adjournment	All Commissioners, guests and VDH staff were provided the opportunity to make a comment prior to the meeting adjournment. The Chair, Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting. She requested a motion for an adjournment of the Henrietta Lacks Commission Meeting at 2:41 PM EST. It was properly moved by Dr. Adele Newson-Horst, seconded by Mrs. Kristy Johnson, and unanimously approved to adjourn.	Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

