

**State Health Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)
October 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

**James Monroe Building
101 N. 14 Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Main Conference Room (In-person and Televised Meeting) – 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

Attended In-person: **Colin Greene, MD, MPH; Kathryn Crosby, MBA; Sandra Serna, MPH, Nia Harrison, MPP; Linda Lee Redmond, PhD; Elvira De La Cruz, BS; Patti Kiger, M. Ed; Bonny K. Dillon, PhD, BCPC, LPC; El Hadji Djibril Niang; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN; Karen O'Brien, BS;**
Virtual Attendance (Local Health Dept.):
Gordon Walker, MS;
Virtual Attendance (non-Local Health Dept.):
Antonio Villa, MD, MPH; J. Elisha Burke, M. Div., D. Min.; Kate S. K. Bradshaw, Ph.D., FACHE, CPHQ; Olugbenga O. Obasanjo, MBBS, Ph.D., MPH, MBA; David C. Rose, MD, MBA, FAAP; George Worthington, MS; Carolyn C. Turner, MS;
Did Not Attend:
Maceo E. Freeman, D. Min; Radhika Thirunagari, MS; Daud Mohamed; Lauren Powell, Ph.D, MPA; Zakia McKensy; Barbara Board, PhD; JohnJason Cecil, BA; Lauren James, MD; Eleanor Woodson, BSN, RN; VDH Staff: Augustine Doe, MS, MPA; Alvin Perlas, OHE Intern

WELCOME

Ms. Nia Harrison, ACHDHE Chair, introduced herself and welcomed the attendees. She then called the meeting to order asking the State Health Commissioner and ACHDHE members to introduce themselves.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Harrison provided an overview of the meeting agenda and asked if members had any suggested changes. She noted some changes to the order of the agenda items.

Meeting Agenda:

[Agenda](#)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 12, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as presented. Members who not present at the last meeting abstained.

[Minutes](#)

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

Ms. Nia Harrison, ACHDHE Chair presented the ACHDHE recommendation document from the July 12, 2022 meeting presentations to the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Colin Greene.

[Recommendations:](#)

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATES:

- Prior to sharing his updates, Dr. Greene announced his inability to stay for the duration of the meeting, which was due to a scheduling conflict. He thanked the members and shared that VDH has been addressing COVID-19 for some time and, relatively recently, Monkeypox. Both indicate the need for equity geographically. COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations remained high, and immunizations were low within specific population groups, which included African Americans, other communities of color, Native Americans and, to some

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extent Hispanic groups in rural and suburban areas. People in rural Virginia were no exception with COVID-19 impact, regardless of color or ethnic background. COVID-19 impacted other marginalized groups, particularly new immigrants regardless of their country of origin. Outreach to the groups was a challenge, Dr. Greene shared.

- Dr. Colin Greene stated that Monkeypox disease most often appear in a very specific and marginalized population group, men who have sex with men. He said providing vaccination outreach and treatment information within this group is a challenge. The State Health Commissioner shared that, as with COVID-19, Monkeypox is again disproportionately affecting the same populations. These populations are primarily African American and Hispanic. This makes the agency's mission of protecting health and promoting wellbeing of all people in Virginia critical in addressing the disparities and burden of disease across diverse population groups. The mission ensures no one is excluded, regardless of geographic location or who they are, Dr. Greene concluded.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Presentation:** "[VA New Electronic Meeting Policy](#)"
Presenter: Joe **Hilbert**, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental & Regulatory Affairs, VDH,
- **Presentation:** "[An Overview of Monkeypox Infection in Virginia](#)"
Presenter: Jenny **Calhoun**, Nurse Consultant HIV/STI/Viral Hepatitis, VDH
- **Presentation:** "[LGBTQ+ Health Challenges](#)"
Presenter: Ted **Heck**, HIV Prevention Contract Monitor and Transgender Health Services Specialist, VDH
- **Presentation:** "[COVID-19 Children Vaccination Update](#)"
Presenter: Christy **Gray**, Director, Division of Immunization, VDH

ACHDHE Leadership Elections:

Nia Harrison, ACHDHE Chair, asked members to email Chair and Vice Chair nominees to [Augustine Doe](#) no later than 4:00 pm, October 18, 2022.

UPDATES:

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates

Ms. Sandra Serna, Director, Office of Health Equity shared the following updates:

- OHE is deeply involved with VDH's Monkeypox response. OHE has been collaborating with the Office of Epidemiology on the Vaccine Equity Plan and created the application process for community based organizations and Federal Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHCs) and others to apply to participate in CDC's Monkeypox Vaccine Equity Pilot program. Council members interested in the program can contact Ms. Serna at OHE or mpxquestions@vdh.virginia.gov.
- OHE is working on a time-limited request to VDH from the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to develop a series of fact sheets/ talking points on pertinent issues impacting Virginian's health and well-being. The request presents an opportunity to highlight a variety of social determinants

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of health that affect health equity across Virginia’s diverse communities. OHE’s first fact sheet regarding the relationship between health and housing. Future fact sheets may address veterans’ health, how poverty impacts life expectancy, and rural health needs. Given the truncated timeline, they were unable to incorporate community input.

ACHDHE Members’ Updates:

Dr. Bonny Dillon, ACHDHE member

- Dr. Dillon told the members that the information presented at the ACHDHE July meeting on VDH Septic and Well Assistance initiatives was significantly beneficial to her community residents. She was able to connect a community resident to the program as a result of the presentation. She emphasized the role of the council members regarding information dissemination.

Patti Kiger, ACHDHE member

- Ms. Kiger called attention to the lack of resources for people with sickle cell disease in Virginia, especially for adults. She would like the ACDHE to learn more about this topic and what the ACHDE can recommend to the Health Commissioner to address this issue.

El Hadji Djibril Niang

- Shared his excitement for being on the council and that he will disseminate the meeting information to Virginia’s diverse immigrant groups through his networks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A member of the public noted the health barriers and challenges with incarcerated groups, including untimely care and inconsistent monitoring. She asked that the ACHDHE consider advocating for [Virginia Department of Corrections Report, May 2022](#)

ADJOURNMENT:

The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Next ACHDHE meeting: January 10, 2023.

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

October 11, 2022 meeting link: Coming soon

Host Site: James Monroe Building, 101 North 14 Street, 23219.

Kindly send your questions to augustine.doe@vdh.virginia.gov.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Augustine **Doe**, Division of Multicultural Health and Community Engagement (DMHCE)

Minutes Reviewed By:

Nia **Harrison**, Chair

JohnJason **Cecil**, Vice Chair