

**Advisory Council ACHDHE on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)  
July 11, 2017 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: **State Health Commissioner: Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP; M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA; Patti Kiger, M. Ed (PhD); Luisa F. Soaterna-Castaneda, BS, MPH; Linda Redmond, PhD ; Kate S. K. Lim, MT, (ASCP), FACHE, CPHQ; Keisha L. Smith, MPA; Nia Harrison, MPP; Karen Reed, MA, CDE; Augustine Doe, MS, MPA**

Attended Via Polycom/Phone: Nia Harrison, **MPP and Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN, CPHRM**

Did Not Attend: **Elizabeth Locke, PhD, PT; Maia McCuiston Jackson, MD, FAAP; Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH; Kathryn E. MacCormick, MSc.; J. Elisha Burke, M.Div., D. Min. and Emmanuel Eugenio, MD, FAAP.**

### **WELCOME**

ACHDHE Chair, Ms. Luisa Soaterna, introduced herself and requested the participants introduce themselves prior to calling the meeting to order at 11:07 am.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda for the July 11, 2017 meeting was approved as submitted.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the April 7, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER**

ACHDHE Vice-Chair, Ms. Patti Kiger read ACHDHE's recommendations and submitted them to the State Health Commissioner.

### **STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S UPDATES**

*Dr. Marissa J. Levine*

Dr. Levine thanked the ACHDHE for their recommendation and shared that the recommendations help VDH staff think through the kind of outcomes VDH wants to accomplish.

Dr. Levine introduced Dr. Norman Oliver who joined VDH on July 10, 2017 as the Deputy Commissioner for Population Health. Dr. Oliver will oversee the Office of Health Equity, Office of Family Health Services, and Office of Epidemiology. Dr. Levine shared that Dr. Oliver is a nationally recognized researcher with a focus on health equity. Dr. Oliver has been a University of Virginia Department of Family Medicine faculty member since 1998, becoming chair in 2011. Prior to joining the University of Virginia (UVA), Dr. Oliver served as a family physician for the Indian Health Service in an Eskimo village in rural Alaska. Dr. Oliver has extensive experience in the area of racial and ethnic

## Advisory Council ACHDHE on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)

### July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

disparities in health and hopes to work toward improved population health through a health equity lens. He is one of the founders and former director of the UVA Center on Health Disparities, which was established to coordinate research, education, and community outreach in the University's efforts to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. As Chair of the UVA Department of Family Medicine, Dr. Oliver organized the transformation of the Department's clinic sites into patient-centered practices focused on population health management.

Over the last several years, Dr. Oliver has worked closely with local health departments in developing community health improvement plans. His work in the UVA Health System and in the surrounding community in Central Virginia, demonstrates Dr. Oliver's ability to convene diverse groups of stakeholders and create high-performing teams, which will be instrumental in VDH's continued efforts to implement [Virginia's Plan for Well-Being](#)

Further, Dr. Levine shared that the Opioid issue is not getting better and continues to be a public health concern. Dr. Levine informed the ACHDHE that there are signs of improvement including the reduction in the number of opioid prescriptions, better provider education, and the fact that a new Board of Medicine regulation for the prescription of opioids for pain is in effect. VDH is also collaborating with the Medical Society of Virginia and the Board of Pharmacy. However, the underlining issue of pain management remains a situation we need to address Dr. Levine shared. In finding solutions to the opioid crisis, Dr. Levine called for a collaborative learning approach that includes the state legislatures and community partners, as well as the ACHDHE. She emphasized building relationships with communities and collectively working on the stigma associated with opioid use which includes, keeping people from it in the first place, helping patients to not become addicts, and other approaches to pain management. She reiterated the importance of pain management and societal expectations of dealing with pain. Dr. Levine asked ACHDHE members to help get the word out that people remain entitled to appropriate pain management and noted that the new standing order and Virginia General Assembly legislation that expands naloxone access and availability does not preclude this.

Dr. Levine continued to emphasize that community efforts within local and state jurisdictions foster better partnerships, and as a result create learning environments and in turn yield community specific models to address addiction, support those in need, as well as care providers and yield improvements with infrastructure.

Dr. Levine expressed concerns about federal budget cuts that may adversely impact funding for many of the VDH's programs.

- Dr. Levine discussed critical public health infrastructure that needs to be in place to further the work of the agency.

**Advisory Council ACHDHE on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)**  
**July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

- ACHDHE Member: shared information that communities are hesitant to conduct drug take-back programs for a variety of reasons. What is VDH doing to address the situation?
  - Dr. Levine: will look into the matter and get back with the ACHDHE. However, there is an opportunity to add the concern to the agenda of the upcoming meeting that will include the Board of Pharmacy, VDH, and pharmacy leaders.
- ACHDHE Member: has Dr. Oliver researched age biases?
  - Dr. Norman: he has not personally researched age bias, however, it is one of the major biases several researchers have identified including gender, racial, and obesity.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **“Radiological Health Overview”**

*Matt Ettinger, Office of Radiological Health, VDH*

Mr. Ettinger shared information about the Office of Radiological Health’s (ORH) three primary program areas: radioactive materials, X-ray, and emergency response & environmental monitoring. The environmental monitoring program includes the Radon Program. The program’s mission is to protect the public from unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation. Statutory authority resides in codes 32.1-227 through 32.1-238 while radiation regulations reside in 12VAC5-481. These codes are fundamental to ORH Radioactive Materials Program (RMP). ORH is responsible for licensing and inspecting approximately 400 “specific” licensees in the Commonwealth and tracks over 2,900 general licensees, possessing over 34,000 general licensed devices. Some of the devices are Imaging, Therapy equipment in hospitals, portable gauges for asphalt testing, radiography equipment (Weld inspections), Gamma Knives, and Irradiators..

Mr. Ettinger said that the X-ray program manager is responsible for x-ray tube registration and inspections, including approximately 7,000 registrants with about 22,300 x-ray tubes. The program staff inspects about 1,000 facilities and 2,100 machines per year, including MQSA inspections (about 190 per year).

Emergency Response and Environmental Monitoring (EREM) program performs environmental sampling and monitoring at North Anna and Surry Nuclear Power Stations, Newport News Shipbuilding, Norfolk Naval Ship Yard and control stations. The EREM program manager creates and maintains an environmental monitoring report which is available on our website, and manages the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) State Indoor Radon Grant Control Stations.

## Advisory Council ACHDHE on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)

### July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ettinger concluded his presentation outlining some ORH roles in emergency preparedness which include Staff Emergency Support Function (ESF-8), support Joint Information Center (JIC) in VA Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), and environmental sampling.

- ACHDHE member asked for clarification on who is a private inspector and what that entails?
  - A facility like a hospital or a private business with equipment may have its own inspector. These are private inspectors.
- ACHDHE member asked if it is possible that the Surry Nuclear plant could be impacted by a tsunami since it is on the James River.
  - Though not possible, safeguards are in place to mitigate any potential hazards. Also, training, including drills and exercises across multiple agencies occurs with the communities and private sector to effectively respond before, during and after a disaster.

#### **“Environmental Health Services Program Overview”**

*Lance Gregory, Office of Environmental Health Services, VDH*

Mr. Gregory introduced programs within the Office of Environmental Health Services: onsite sewage and water services, environmental engineering and marina programs, food and general including shellfish sanitation, data management and process improvement. He shared information about regulations, policies, procedures, guidance the office provides to enforce laws and encourage compliance to diminish potential public health outbreaks and environmental risk. He also highlighted trainings and technical assistances the office provides to support local health departments (LHD).

- An ACHDHE member asked if programs exist within the agency that collaborate with parents letting them know when to get children tested for lead?
  - Mr. Gregory said that the department works with the parents to identify the source and care for the child.

#### **UPDATES**

##### **Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates**

Karen Reed shared the following updates:

##### **ACHDHE members request for input:**

A federal Office of Minority Health Region III (covering VA, WVA, MD, DC, PA) meeting is scheduled for August 2-3<sup>rd</sup> in Philadelphia, PA. The meeting’s goal is to understand new priority areas: health equity and health disparities and to look for emerging opportunities and redirect its focus. Seneca Bock, RHEC co-chair, planned to attend and request input from committee on their view of priority areas in VA. – Info can be sent to Seneca directly at: [skbock@yahoo.com](mailto:skbock@yahoo.com) or provided to Karen Reed -

[Karen.reed@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Karen.reed@vdh.virginia.gov)

**Advisory Council ACHDHE on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)**  
**July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Public Comment for Healthy People 2030**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is soliciting written comments on the proposed framework for Healthy People 2030 developed by the [Secretary's Advisory Committee](#) on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030 (Committee). The framework refers to the Healthy People 2030 vision, mission, foundational principles, plan of action, and overarching goals that will guide the selection and prioritization of objectives for Healthy People 2030. The [full Committee report is found here \[PDF - 628.8 KB\]](#).

Public comment is an essential part of developing Healthy People. Members of the public—including individuals, stakeholders, and organizations—are invited to provide comments on the Healthy People 2030 framework for consideration by HHS. This round of public comment will be open until September 29, 2017 at 5:00p.m. ET.

**Upcoming Event:**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic in Wise County, VA, on July 21-23.

- The free clinic usually sees nearly 2,000 patients in two and a half days, and many of them spend the night in their cars at the clinic site to get in line early for services. Mr. Stan Brock, Founder and President, was presented the prestigious Lions Humanitarian Award on Tuesday, July 4 in Chicago, Illinois at the 100<sup>th</sup> Lions Clubs International Convention.
- The award is the highest honor bestowed by the Lions Club, which has a membership of 1.4 million and includes a \$250,000 grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation for the continuation and furthering of humanitarian endeavors by Remote Area Medical.
- Previous recipients of this award include Mother Teresa and former US President Jimmy Carter. VDH has supported this clinic each year since its inception. <http://ramusa.org>
- A number of VDH staff, including some from OHE, will participate again this year.

**VDH OHE Presentations:**

Health Opportunity Index (HOI) presentations were held at the following meetings:

1. Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Health Workforce Research Conference
2. ACS (American Community Survey) Data Users Conference
3. The ACS Data Users Conference was especially productive and connected to several people working on related issues in Virginia, including analysts from the Virginia Better Housing Coalition and Bridging the Nutritional Divide.
4. SORH (State Office of Rural Health) Region A Meeting
5. National Association City Council Health Officials (NACCHO) - One on the **HOI** and a new presentation on **Health Spending Inequities**, which highlights research using the All-Payer Claims Database to examine inequities in health spending by income at the zip code level. The

**Advisory Council ACHDHE on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)**  
**July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

initial findings suggest that, on a risk-adjusted basis, commercial payers spend more per member per month on those from higher income areas than from lower income areas.

Informational Resources:

- VDH website has links to current and emerging health issues: [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov)

Congratulations:

- Congratulations to ACHDHE member, Dr. Elizabeth Locke, on her appointment to the Board of Physical Therapy.

**ACHDHE MEMBER ACTION ITEMS**

ACHDHE members were requested to provide their feedback on the presentations and the draft meeting minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- No public comments were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

**Next ACHDHE MEETING:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

**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:**

**Ms. Luisa Soaterna-Castañeda, Chair**

**Ms. Patti Kiger, Vice Chair**