

**State Board of Health Subcommittee Meeting  
July 17, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting – WebEx**

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was conducted in an all-virtual environment.

**Members Present:** Faye Prichard; Gary Critzer; Jim Edmondson; Linda Hines, RN; Anna Jeng, ScD; Mary Margaret Whipple.

**VDH Staff Present:** M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA, State Health Commissioner; Joe Hilbert, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs; Parham Jaberri, Chief Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and Preparedness; Bob Hicks, Deputy Commissioner for Community Health Services; Michael McMahon, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Administration; Mylam Ly, Policy Analyst; Alex Jansson, Policy Analyst; John Ringer, Director of Public Health Planning and Evaluation; Lilian Peake, Director, Office of Epidemiology; Heather Board, Acting Director, Office of Family Health Services; Bob Mauskapf, Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response; William Gormley, Director, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Julie Henderson, Director, Office of Environmental Health Services; Gary Brown, Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services; Sable K. Nelson Dyer, JD, Acting Director, Office of Health Equity; Kristin Collins, Policy Analyst, Office of Epidemiology; Christy Gray, Director, Division of Immunization; Robin Buskey, Policy Analyst, Office of Family Health Services; Nelson Daniel, Office of Drinking Water; Brenden Rivenbark, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Commissioner; Tammie Smith, Public Relations Coordinator; Richard Watson, Video Conference Engineer; Brad Bradley, Public Health Preparedness Systems Manager.

**Call to Order**

Ms. Prichard called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**Introductions**

Ms. Prichard welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

**Review of Agenda**

Mr. Hilbert reviewed the agenda.

**Approval of June 29, 2020 Minutes**

Ms. Prichard reviewed The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Commissioner's Remarks**

Dr. Oliver described the process of budget amendment submission and cycles. He thanked the subcommittee for their hard work and expressed that he feels that the result of this letter will be an increased understanding and support for the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in the upcoming legislative assemblies.

### **Public Comment Period**

Ms. Prichard invited members of the public to provide comments. One person was signed up, but was not in attendance in the meeting. No comments were provided.

### **Discussion of Potential Policy Recommendations**

Mr. Hilbert reviewed the draft letter and matrix of recommendations. A discussion of the specific recommendations followed.

Overall, there was a great deal of support for the recommendations. There were suggestions made to consolidate and group the recommendations. The subcommittee members suggested that several recommendations, including one related to immunization reporting, be submitted as legislative proposals to the 2021 General Assembly session.

A total of 15 of the suggested 37 recommendations were removed due to being outside of the scope of the subcommittee and VDH's work. The remaining 22 recommendations were consolidated into 18 recommendation categories that included the following:

- Appropriate funding to VDH for a vaccine public health communications campaign.
- Require DMAS to Adjust Vaccines for Children (VFC) Reimbursement Practices
- Appropriate funding to bolster local health districts staff, resources and equipment needed to increase vaccination services in the community, including outreach to vulnerable populations.
- Establish and appropriate funding for five epidemiologists at both Central
- Expand testing to include post-mortem testing.
- Appropriate funding to VDH for informatics and server infrastructure.
- Establish a State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT).
- Appropriate State General Funds to VDH for EP&R staffing and initiatives.
- Stockpile Emergency Mass Medical Countermeasures (MCM).
- Establish Equity Officer positions in each Office.
- Appropriate funding for use in targeted communities that have been disproportionately affected due to structural and societal inequities.
- Appropriate funding for efforts to address proven community risk and protective factors known to impact the co-occurrence of multiple forms of violence (i.e. sexual assault, domestic violence, youth violence, child maltreatment) in high-risk communities.
- Establish and appropriate funding for relief funds.
- Appropriate funding for the existing, unfunded Dental Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program in order to augment care in underserved areas of the state.
- Appropriate funding to support a registered nurse in every school district, with a focus on the 4 districts with no school nurse.
- Promote telehealth and mobile integrated healthcare through schools and school based healthcare centers.
- Increase provision of subsidized transportation services to WIC clinic appointments to address barrier to participation.
- Expand resources for the Virginia Walkability Action Institute to increase localities with implemented walkability improvement action plans supporting increased physical activity

and safe modes of transportation to increase access to healthcare services through a coordinated infrastructure.

The discussion next turned to the draft letter to the Governor. The remaining recommendations were grouped into seven overarching categories for the Governor's consideration.

**Other Business**

Mr. Hilbert stated that as next steps, the edits from the subcommittee would be incorporated and the recommendations and letter finalized in the next two weeks.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

A recording of the full meeting can be found at this link: [https://youtu.be/QTw\\_R0i2Jig](https://youtu.be/QTw_R0i2Jig)