

**Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS)
and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) Advisory Council Meeting**

Thursday, July 16, 2026

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Meeting Location

Virtual

Virtual Access Link for Public:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/228766491607809?p=nYGz6C42WyvTRAPgpi>

Draft Meeting Minutes

Council Member Attendance	Voting Record
	Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain, M1= Motion, M2= Second
<i>Italicized</i> = Absent	4/29/2026 Meeting Minutes
Voting Members	
<u>Legislative</u>	
Delegate Karen Robins Carnegie	Y
Senator Barbara Favola	Y
Delegate Debra Gardner	Y
Delegate Patrick Hope	M1
<i>Delegate Phillip A. Scott</i>	-
<i>Senator David Suetterlein</i>	-
<u>Non-Legislative</u>	
Ann Flippin	Y
<i>Brian Gottstein</i>	-
<i>Dr. David Jaffe</i>	-
Dr. Galam Khan	Y
Erin Reid	Y
Dr. Aradhana Sood	M2
Dr. Susan Swedo	Y
Terry Woody	Y
Ex Officio Members	
Dr. Vanessa Walker-Harris (VDH)	-
Vacant Seat	
<i>Immunologist</i>	-

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Staff Attending: Marcus Allen, Jennifer Macdonald, Artasia Thomas, Amanda Porcella

Virginia Department of Health Professions: Matthew Novak

Council Business

Advisory Council Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM. Roll call was conducted twice, before quorum and after quorum was achieved, followed by introductions for members, guests, and agency staff. Once a quorum was achieved later in the meeting, the April 29, 2026 minutes were officially approved.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were offered.

Presentation From VDHP – Matthew Novak

Matthew Novak from the Virginia Department of Health Professions provided a detailed briefing on how continuing medical education (CME) requirements are established, modified, and communicated across health regulatory boards. He explained the regulatory process, noting the challenges of implementing new CME mandates and highlighting the successful autism education letter used previously to raise awareness without imposing new requirements. He recommended a similar approach for PANDAS/PANS, developing a non-mandated statewide communication supported by CME resources. Dr. Vanessa Walker-Harris clarified the drafting process for the autism letter and offered that VDH could repurpose the Council's educational content for monthly Health Care Professionals newsletters, as well as work with the Department of Education to adapt materials for providers. Ann Flippin added insight from her organization's experience with the autism letter, noting high provider engagement and the importance of having ready-to-distribute materials.

Advisory Council Logo – Amanda Porcella/Marcus Allen

Amanda Porcella presented draft design options and sought feedback. The group expressed a preference for a side-view brain imagery as it is more recognizable, a pronounced brain shape, and the inclusion of a small heart motif. Committee members also asked to consider a green element and a labeled text option so the meaning of the acronym is clear. Council members recommended providing multiple logo variants, including a compact version consisting of an icon and short label, and a detailed version that is larger with the spelled-out term for different uses. The council will continue to iterate on these designs, using a sample sickle-cell logo as a model.

CME Options for Consideration – Dr. Khan and Dr. Sood

Dr. Khan and Dr. Sood led discussion on CME options, noting that earlier discussion with Matthew Novak (VDHP) had covered most needs. They emphasized making optional CME opportunities available through existing medical education platforms. Dr. Sood discussed the importance of establishing a Center of Excellence (COE) at an academic institution to anchor a statewide network of trained clinicians, push research efforts, and serve as the core from which provider networks could grow.

PANDAS/PANS Letter to Governor – Senator Favola

Senator Favola reported on the Communications and Education Subcommittee's recommendation to draft a letter to Governor Spanberger by mid-September requesting funding in the 2027 budget for a statewide educational campaign aimed at both healthcare providers and the general public. She explained that while a provider-focused letter through VDHP requires no additional funds, a broader public education initiative, similar to a large-scale health campaign, would require additional funding and legislative support. The letter may also include a recommendation for funding a Center of Excellence.

November 17 – Meeting Date/Structure

The next full council meeting will occur in person on November 17, 2026.

Open Discussion

The Council held an open discussion regarding practical CME and outreach tactics, as well as the funding implications of a statewide network versus a COE model. Target audiences identified for outreach included pediatricians, family medicine providers, behavioral health professionals, day-care and early care providers, and other community stakeholders. Endorsed delivery channels included professional association platforms, conference speaker slots and panels to award 1-hour CME credits, and DHP letters pointing to approved resources. The group agreed to favor targeted, short materials of 15 to 60 minutes and panel formats over long presentations, that better suit adult learning and clinical engagement.

Regarding operational models, the Council compared a Virginia-wide provider network, similar to the sickle-cell model, to a centralized COE hub. While a network offers faster, broad access, a COE provides specialized multi-disciplinary expertise but requires dedicated staffing and sustained funding. The group also asked about sickle cell education and the funding they received. VDH staff shared that campaigns like that have a considerable cost. The funding for sickle cell education is over \$300,000.

Council Business

The Council discussed action items for the next meeting. Members agreed that the Communications and Education Subcommittee would move forward with drafting a letter to Governor Spanberger by mid-September, outlining the need for funding to support statewide PANDAS/PANS education initiatives/COE. The group will also compile the Council's recommendations for inclusion in the annual report to the General Assembly, ensuring that decisions made regarding CME development, public education strategies, and the exploration of a Center of Excellence are included. This will be coordinated by Christen Crews. Work will need to be done to decide on language for outreach materials through various avenues, as well (DHP, VDH Newsletter, etc.). Report recommendations need to be shared with Senator Favola and Delegate Hope for the letter. Delegate Hope may take the lead on the letter as chairman of the Council.

Next full council meeting will occur in person on November 17, 2026. Meeting location will be confirmed.

Council meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM.