

**State Health Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity  
(ACHDHE)**

**July 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

**Hosted In-person & WebEx – 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

**Attendance:** B. Cameron Webb, MD, JD; David C. Rose, MD, MBA, FAAP; Breanne Forbes-Hubbard, MPH; Sandra Serna, MPH; Antonio Villa, MD, MPH; Ryan M. Crowder, BS; Nia Harris, MPP; Patti Kiger, M. Ed; Kathryn Zapach, MSW; Carolyn C. Turner, MS; Linda Lee Redmond, PhD.; Kate S. K. Bradshaw, Ph.D., FACHE, CPHQ; Karen A. Legato, MSW; Kimberly Dyke-Harsley; Linnaya Graf, PhD, MCHES, CPH; El Hadji Djibril Niang; George Worthington, MS; Karen O'Brien, BS; Melody Armstrong, DNP, MPA, BSN; Maceo E. Freeman, D.MIN; Gordon Walker, MS.

**Did Not Attend:**

Stephanie Dunkel, MA; Barbara Board, PhD; Amy Christine Hodge, M. Div.; Mary T. O'Conner, B.A;  
VDH Staff: Augustine Doe, MS, MPA; Tim Perkins, BS, Brian C. Little, Sr.; Janet Harris, AA.

**Opening and Introductions**

Dr. Rose called the meeting to order, provided members with a brief update on the ACHDHE's new direction, and then turned the meeting over to State Health Commissioner Dr. B. Cameron Webb.

**New Business**

**State Health Commissioner Vision for VDH and ACHDHE**

Dr. Webb thanked ACHDHE members for their dedication to addressing public health challenges across Virginia. He reaffirmed the Council's mission to eliminate health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations and emphasized that continued engagement between quarterly meetings is essential to advancing the statewide Health Equity Agenda. Dr. Webb also discussed the importance of incorporating community voices and lived experiences into recommendations and identifying gaps in Council representation and expertise.

Following a presentation on Virginia's disaggregated health data by Mr. Rexford Anson-Dwamena of the Office of Health Equity, members emphasized the need for comprehensive and standardized data collection. This included data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, disability, income, primary language, geography, and other relevant characteristics. Members also recognized qualitative research as essential for complementing quantitative data and improving understanding of community experiences, particularly those of people with disabilities.

The Council discussed maternal mortality disparities between urban and rural communities, hospital closures, increased travel distances, transportation barriers, and changes in birth-location preferences. Members stressed the importance of using demographic and geographic data to develop targeted interventions and improve healthcare access.

Members also examined social and structural drivers of health, noting that data collection and resource availability vary across Virginia's communities and service systems. Concerns included anticipated Medicaid changes, veterans' isolation from broader healthcare and social-service systems, and limited public awareness of resources available to address unmet social needs. Community health workers were recognized as one of the trusted partners who can strengthen outreach, support data collection, and

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connect residents with services. Members concluded that effective communication, cross-sector partnerships, transparency, accountability, and meaningful community engagement will be essential to developing equitable and actionable recommendations.

**Breakout Discussions for the Workgroups:**

Following the presentation, ACHDHE members convened in their assigned workgroups to discuss the information presented and share feedback. A link to the breakout session summaries will be available soon.

**Action Items**

- Identify what is known, unknown, and still needs to be learned within each priority area.
- Secure staff, technical, and external support for data analysis, recommendation development, and implementation.
- Ensure recommendations reflect community voices, lived experiences, and perspectives beyond Medicaid.
- Identify gaps in Council and workgroup expertise, representation, and stakeholder participation.
- Improve health-data collection, aggregation, and disaggregation by race, ethnicity, disability, language, income, housing, and geography.
- Identify data and system gaps and develop related standards and policy recommendations.
- Examine maternal mortality, birth-center access, transportation barriers, provider accessibility, and maternal care deserts.
- Monitor Medicaid changes and their effects on coverage, outcomes, disparities, and provider access.
- Strengthen collaboration with community health workers, doulas, and other trusted partners.
- Submit workgroup discussion summaries to Augustine.

**Old Business**

- The April 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

**Announcements:**

**Dr. B. Cameron Webb, State Health Commissioner**

VDH is recruiting a Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs to oversee and align the Offices of Communications, Community Relations, and Health Equity. More than 60 qualified candidates applied, and VDH anticipates filling the position by September. The selected Deputy Commissioner is expected to participate in the next ACHDHE meeting.

**Public comments:**

No public comments.

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**Adjournment**

The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.

**Next ACHDHE meeting: October 13, 2026.**

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Host Site: FeedMore**, 8020 Villa Park Drive, Richmond, VA 23228.

Kindly send your questions to [augustine.doe@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:augustine.doe@vdh.virginia.gov)

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Augustine **Doe**, Office of Health Equity

**Minutes Reviewed By:**

David C. **Rose**, MD, FAAP, ACHDHE Chair