

**State Health Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)
October 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Central Office Madison Building
109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Mezzanine Conference Room (Televised Meeting) – 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

Attended via Zoom/Phone: **Jeff Stover**, MPH; **Henry Murdaugh**, MPH; **Linda Lee Redmond**, PhD; **Nia Harrison**, MPP; **J. Elisha Burke**, M. Div., D. Min.; **Kate S. K. Bradshaw**, Ph.D., FACHE, CPHQ; **JohnJason Cecil**, BA; **Antonio Villa**, MD, MPH; **Eleanor Woodson**, BSN, RN; **Bonny K. Dillon**, PhD, BCPC, LPC; **Lauren James**, MD; **Maceo E. Freeman**, D. Min; **Keisha L. Smith**, MPA; **Carolyn C. Turner**, MS; **Gordon Walker**, MS; **Elvira De La Cruz**, BS; **Radhika Thirunagari**, MS; **Melody Armstrong**, MPA, BSN; **Patti Kiger**, M. Ed;

Did Not Attend: **M. Norman Oliver**, MD, MA; **Barbara Board**, PhD; **Daud Mohamed**; **Lauren Powell**, Ph.D, MPA; **Lean Abdelaziz**, BA; **Melissa Neu**, DSL;

VDH Staff: **Augustine Doe**, MS, MPA; **Veronica Cosby**, MAHS, MS; **Kandi Chamberlain**, MPH;

WELCOME

Ms. Nia Harrison, ACHDHE Chair, introduced herself and welcomed the attendees before calling the meeting to order. It was decided the ACHDHE members' roll call be conducted later during the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Harrison provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

Meeting Agenda: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/10/ACHDHE-October-2021-Meeting-Agenda-1.pdf>

ACHDHE October Meeting Update:

Ms. Harrison shared that some changes are required to this meeting because the public health emergency, which allowed the workgroup to meet virtually, has expired. The Appropriations Act of the Virginia General Assembly's 2021 Special Session allows the workgroup to continue meeting virtually as long as no formal votes are taken and no formal recommendations are presented. However, members can provide recommendations on a post-meeting survey for presentation during the next in-person meeting. The ACHDHE leadership team decided to hold the meeting virtually, despite these restrictions, due to the high number of COVID-19 cases at the time.

Ms. Harrison asked for members' thoughts on this approach and on future meeting formats. She noted that a quorum of the ACHDHE members would have to be in physical attendance for the group to take votes or make recommendations during the meeting. A few members spoke in favor of meeting in-person. The ACHDHE leadership team will decide on the nature of participation at the upcoming meetings in 2022, and will make every effort to include hybrid and/or in-person meetings if it is safe to do so. Ms. Harrison noted that members might be asked to take a survey before the next meeting about their ability to attend in person.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the ACHDHE July 13, 2021 meeting minutes were postponed to the next ACHDHE in-person meeting, which will potentially be in January 2022.

ACHDHE draft October 2021 meeting minutes:

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<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/10/ACHDHE-October-12-2021-Draft-Minutes-NH-Feedback-10.21.21-REV.docx>

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The submission of the ACHDHE presentation recommendations from the July 13, 2021 meeting was postponed to the next ACHDHE in-person meeting.

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Dr. Norman Oliver, State Health Commissioner, could not attend today's ACHDHE meeting. However, Mr. Jeff Stover, the agency Chief of Staff, attended and shared the State Health Commissioner's updates:

- VDH Funding:
 - VDH received \$27 million and the Virginia Beach Health District received an additional five million dollars in grant funding. The funds are geared towards health equity and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Some of the funds are intended for programs at Virginia's Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), rural health, Partners in Prayer and Prevention, and workforce development.
 - An additional \$290 million from the federal ARPA State Fiscal Fund was received for 10 projects to address: drinking water infrastructure, septic systems, substance abuse, Local Health Dept. maintenance, public oral health, targeted community outreach, administrative IT systems and electronic health records initiatives.
- Administrative Updates at VDH:
 - VDH recently hired Ms. Kathryn Crosby as the agency's newly established Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer. She starts October 25, 2021 and she will report directly to the State Health Commissioner. The Office of Health Equity will report to the DEI officer, Ms. Crosby.
 - Mr. Henry C. Murdaugh is now the Acting Director for the Office of Health Equity while hiring for the position of office director is in effect.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Topic: "VDH Data COVID-19 Data Pool Review"**
Presenters: Kim Dennis, Center for Public Health Informatics, VDH
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/10/VDH-Surveillance-Deck-10.11.2021-v2.pdf>
- **Topic: "Understanding Latin American Heritage and Health: Opportunities to Advance Health Equity"**
Presenters: Dr. Antonio Villa, Adjunct Professor, Virginia Commonwealth
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/10/Hispanic-Heritage-Month-LCS-2021.pdf>
- **Topic: "VA General Assembly Special Session Updates"**

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Presenter: *Joe Hilbert, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH*
Presentation link:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/10/ARPA-Funds-Presentation-to-ACHDHE.pdf>

UPDATES:

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates

Mr. Henry C. Murdaugh, Acting Director of the Office of Health Equity, could not attend the portion of the meeting that was available for his update. However, Mr. Augustine Doe said that he would share written updates with members following the meeting. The written updates are below:

- OHE is in receipt of grant funding to cover several of its divisions' program areas:
 - Division of Multicultural Health and Community Engagement (DMHCE)
 - DMHCE received funding for its Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) programs. Several new positions will be filled in OHE at the central office including one CLAS position in each health district statewide.
 - The Partners in Prayer and Prevention program also received funding to increase current and innovative initiatives across Virginia.
 - Division of Primary Care & Rural Health Division:
 - Received funding for rural health initiatives and workforce programs. The workforce program funding is geared towards addressing mental health disparities.
 - Division of Social Epidemiology:
 - Received funding to increase research initiatives and epidemiological work in Virginia's communities
- Administrative updates:
 - OHE has a new Acting Director, Henry Murdaugh.
 - Augustine Doe will serve as the Acting Director for DMHCE.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment

ADJOURNMENT:

The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 1:06 PM.

Next ACHDHE meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Host Site: The Office of Health Equity, Virginia Department of Health Central Office, 109 Governor Street, 23219 (potentially via zoom video conference, to be determined). Non-ACHDHE members may request participation by sending an email to augustine.doe@vdh.virginia.gov.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Augustine Doe, CLAS Program Manager & Acting Director, DMHCE

Minutes Reviewed By:

Nia Harrison, Chair

JohnJason Cecil, Vice Chair