

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

**July 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**James Madison Building  
109 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219**

**Main Conference Room (In-person and Televised Meeting) – 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**In person attendance:** Karen Shelton, MD; David C. Rose, MD, MBA, FAAP; Nia Harrison, MPP; Sandra Serna, MPH; Maceo E. Freeman, D.MIN; JohnJason Cecil, BA; Ryan M. Crowder, BS; Kimberly Dyke-Harsley; Linda Lee Redmond, PhD; Olugbenga O. Obasanjo, MBBS, Ph.D., MPH, MBA; Antonio Villa, MD, MPH; Mary T. Brandenburg, B.A; El Hadji Djibril Niang; Karen A. Legato, MSW; Kathryn Zapach, MSW.  
**Virtual Attendees:** Kate S. K. Bradshaw, Ph.D., FACHE, CPHQ; George Worthington, MS; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN; Amy Christine Hodge, M. Div.; Carolyn C. Turner, MS; Barbara Board, PhD.  
**Did Not Attend:**  
Patti Kiger, M. Ed; Gordon Walker, MS; Linnaya Graf, PhD, MCHES, CPH; Eleanor Woodson, BSN, RN; Karen O’Brien, BS.  
**VDH Staff:** Breanne Forbes-Hubbard, MPH, Augustine Doe, MS, MPA; Janet Harris, AA

**WELCOME**

Dr. David Rose, ACHDHE Chair, welcomed the attendees and called for introductions after calling the meeting to order.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Dr. Rose delivered a summary of the meeting capturing the items outlined in the agenda. There were no amendments or modifications to the proposed agenda which was adopted as presented.

Meeting Agenda: [Agenda](#)

Link: [ACHDHE-July-2024-Meeting-Agenda.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The April 9, 2024, meeting minutes were approved. A member abstained because the member didn’t attend the previous meeting. [Minutes](#)

Link: [https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2024/04/January-2024-Minutes-ACHDHE\\_svsEdits-1.pdf](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2024/04/January-2024-Minutes-ACHDHE_svsEdits-1.pdf)

**ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER**

Dr. Bradshaw read the ACHDHE recommendations from the April 9, 2024, meeting presentations, which was shared with the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Karen Shelton, in advance of the meeting.

[Recommendations](#)

Link: [1.-ACHDHE-July-9-2024-Recommendations.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#)

**STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATES:**

In her introductory remarks, Dr. Karen Shelton, State Health Commissioner, expressed her pleasure at rejoining the meeting of the Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE) following her absence from the previous two sessions. She conveyed gratitude to the council for their steadfast dedication to advancing the objectives of the ACHDHE, which aim to advocate for the diverse communities of Virginia.

**State Health Commissioner’s Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity  
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**July 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

- **ACHDHE Recommendations:**

Dr. Shelton underscored her dedication to advancing population health and health equity in Virginia by introducing a new protocol for addressing recommendations from ACHDHE meetings. She highlighted that following each council session, the recommendations would be reviewed and deliberated upon at the Virginia Department of Health's senior leadership team meetings on a quarterly basis, aligning with the ACHDHE meeting schedule. This systematic approach aims to bolster oversight from VDH leadership and facilitate potential actions on the recommendations. Regarding recommendations primarily directed at non-VDH speakers/presenters in the last session, Dr. Shelton stressed the importance of sharing insights from the VDH senior leadership meetings with the stakeholders during future engagements.

- **Community engagement:**

Dr. Shelton reviewed the recommendations put forth by the ACHDHE over the past few months, addressing various disparities across health determinants. She expressed gratitude to the council for their diligent consideration of the thoughtful recommendations and urged them to continue their leadership roles as advocates within their communities.

Note: At the most recent Virginia Department of Health senior leadership meeting, Dr. David Rose, Chair of the ACHDHE, participated and provided an overview of the ACHDHE's activities, focusing on key recommendations put forward by the council.

- **Health Equity:**

Dr. Shelton emphasized the critical need to apply a health equity lens when addressing disparities in population health, stressing the importance of considering the unique needs of diverse communities and cultural groups. She underscored the significance of ensuring representation from various cultural backgrounds in healthcare. In conclusion, Dr. Shelton called upon the council members, who serve as external advocates and leaders in promoting health equity, to assist in outreach efforts, a key responsibility of ACHDHE members.

**July 9, 2024, Presentations:**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- Presentation: [“Virginia Cardiovascular Health \(Heart Disease & Stroke\) Program Overview”](#) by Patrick **Wiggins**, Cardiovascular Health Supervisor, Office of Family Health Services, VDH  
Link: [CVH-and-Stroke-July-9-2024.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#)
- Presentation: [“Virginia Tobacco Control Program”](#) by Mark **Boldt**, Tobacco Control Program Manager, & Rita **Miller**, Tobacco Use and Dependence Treatment Coordinator Office of Family Health Services, VDH  
Link: [TCP-updated-ACHDHE-7-24-TCP.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#)
- Presentation: [“Virginia Dental Health Program”](#) by Pamela **Blankenship**, Oral Health Programs & Grant Consultant, Office of Family Health Services, VDH  
Link: [CVH-and-Stroke-July-9-2024.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#)

**New Business:**

Dr. David **Rose**, ACHDHE Chair, provided insights about the upcoming ACHDHE leadership elections outlining the timeline. He encouraged members to seek leadership within the ACHDHE. An orientation

**State Health Commissioner’s Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity  
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**July 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

session for five new members took place prior to the ACHDHE general membership meeting, scheduled for 11:00 a.m. The new ACHDHE members who participated in the orientation were Mary T. **Brandenburg**, Sgt. Ryan **Crowder**, Kimber **Dyke-Harsley**, Karen **Legato**, and Kathryn **Zapach**.

**UPDATES:**

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

Ms. Sandra Serna, Director, Office of Health Equity ceded her time so that member updates could occur within the last remaining minutes of the meeting. Ms. Serna will provide a written update of OHE business to council members by the end of July 2024.

**ACHDHE Members’ Updates:**

Ms. Nia Harrison distributed copies of a research document about dental care for individuals with disabilities. The document includes insights gathered from interviews with 40 stakeholders. She encouraged all interested parties to access the document online through the link:

<https://vbpd.virginia.gov/policy/assessments/>.

Dr. Antonio Villa provided insights regarding dental health under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. For further details, please refer to this link:

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/HRSA-22-050>.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM.

**Next ACHDHE meeting: October 8, 2024.**

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Host Site: James Madison Building**, 109 Governor Street, 23219.

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

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Augustine **Doe**, Division of Multicultural Health and Community Engagement (DMHCE)

**Minutes Reviewed By:**

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

Kate **Bradshaw**, Ph.D., FACHE, CPHQ, ACHDHE Vice Chair