

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

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Meeting Location

[Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 165 542 4112

Passcode: 099404

Draft Meeting Minutes

Member Attendance			
<i>Italicized</i> = Absent Bold = Present	Approval of 9/8 and 4/29 Meeting Minutes	Adopt Concept Funding Request Letter	Confirmation of Upcoming Meeting Plans
Members			
Senator Barbara Favola		M1	M2
<i>Ann Flippin</i>			
Brian Gottstein, Communications Chair	M1		
<i>Dr. David Jaffe</i>			
Dr. Galam Khan, Education Chair			
Erin Reid			
Dr. Bela Sood	M2	M2	
Senator David Suetterlein			
<i>Terry Woody</i>			
Advisory Committee Members			
Delegate Kacey Carnegie			
Delegate Patrick A. Hope, Chair			M1
Delegate Debra Gardner, Vice Chair			
Dr. Sue Swedo			
Ex-Officio			
<i>Dr. Vanessa Walker-Harris</i>			

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Staff Attending: Marcus Allen, Jayla Dickens

Subcommittee Business

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM. A quorum was reached. The agenda was reviewed and approved. Meeting minutes from September 8, 2025, and April 29, 2026, were approved by Gottstein and seconded by Sood.

Public Comment Period

No public comment.

Action Items – Logo Discussion

The subcommittee reviewed multiple logo options and provided feedback on design elements and design direction. Members noted that the panda imagery in Option 1 appeared too cuddly for the seriousness and severity of the conditions it represents, while the brain-based logo design was viewed more favorably. The neuron overlay concept in Option 2 was also not very well received. The consensus leaned toward Option 3 as the preferred direction.

Regarding Option 3, members requested that the brain design be more stylized than realistic, with concern that the current version does not sufficiently resemble a brain to the average viewer. There was agreement that the heart element should remain incorporated within the brain design. Typography was described as too harsh, with a recommendation that it be revised to a softer, more childlike, and colorful style. It was also noted that PANDAS/PANS could be written out in full using a childlike handwriting style for advocacy purposes.

Design Option 1 had a dual-color approach, which was noted as well-liked. Full color was preferred overall, with the understanding that black-and-white and two-tone versions should be developed afterward for printed marketing purposes. Members stressed the importance of ensuring the logo does not copy existing designs and suggested that AI tools, such as Gemini, could be used to assess similarity.

The subcommittee reached a consensus to move forward with a revised version of Option 3 featuring a stylized brain with a heart, softer lettering, and multiple color variations. The goal is to have revised options prepared to present at the July committee meeting, with the Communications team potentially selecting a single option to bring forward to committee. This timeline is noted to be dependent on the turnaround time of the VDH graphic designer.

Action Items – Module/Diagnostic Protocols Discussion

The subcommittee discussed education and training strategies related to PANDAS/PANS, including Continuing Medical Education (CME) opportunities and public awareness efforts. Members discussed the possibility of using existing hospital grand rounds, VDH-supported training, and external partnerships with institutions like Mary Washington Hospital to develop a one-hour lecture in the next year. It was noted that CME structures vary by institution and that some programs may involve cost, like those through the University of Virginia. It was also noted that national PANDAS/PANS organizations might offer educational materials, but not all are CME-accredited.

There was agreement that coordination with the Communications Department would be essential for outreach and dissemination of information. Members also discussed the idea of developing a small petition for health awareness and noted that funding might be required to support more expanded educational efforts.

Allen noted he communicated with the Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP) to identify a potential speaker for the July meeting and to explore how they could support the council's education goals. Someone plans to attend. Additional discussion focused on engaging family practice organizations and emergency room physician groups to encourage the inclusion of PANDAS/PANS in CME programming and general clinical awareness.

The subcommittee discussed the importance of defining a clear process for CME approval and identifying which program would be recommended to the larger committee. Sood and Khan agreed to meet within the coming days to review CME options and bring forth a recommendation.

Funding considerations were discussed. This included comparisons to existing state-funded programs such as Sickle Cell Trait education. Members reviewed how state funding flows through VDH and noted that budget requests can be submitted through leadership channels or included in annual reports. It was acknowledged that elected officials also play a role in advancing budget priorities, and that letters to the Governor could be considered.

Action Items - Annual Report Recommendations

The subcommittee discussed the development of annual report recommendations and how to categorize them based on their fiscal impact. The subcommittee agreed that recommendations with fiscal impact should be identified and supported with cost estimates. Members emphasized the importance of developing financial impact statements (FIS) and using existing models, such as the Sickle Cell funding frameworks, to guide estimates. It was also noted that non-fiscal recommendations should stay within the standard annual reporting structure, but higher-cost initiatives should be elevated for potential gubernatorial considerations/edits.

The possibility of drafting a formal letter requesting funding for a PANDAS/PANS education campaign was discussed, with an emphasis on targeting healthcare providers and the public.

A motion was made by Favola and seconded by Sood to take the idea of a letter to the Governor to the full committee for consideration.

Subcommittee Operations

The next full council meeting is scheduled for July 16, from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM and will be held virtually. The VDH graphic designer may attend this meeting if schedule allows. The subcommittee discussed whether future meetings should continue to be combined or separated, but no final decision was made at this time.

It was noted that the logo revisions would be coordinated by Allen, who will gather individual feedback from members prior to finalization. Regardless of whether the revisions are completed in time, a status update on the logos will be a point of discussion within the July meeting agenda.

A request was made to reconsider the November 17 meeting date due to potential scheduling conflicts with the Senate Finance Committee retreat period. This will be added to the July meeting agenda and revisited then.

A motion related to confirming discussed plans for these upcoming meetings was made by Hope and seconded by Favola.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 PM.