

**State Health Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE)
April 13, 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: **M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA; Sable K. Nelson, JD; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN; 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; Maceo E. Freeman, D. Min; Keisha L. Smith, MPA; Gordon Walker, MS; Patti Kiger, M. Ed; MS; Augustine Doe, MS, MPA, Jasmine Smith, BS; Veronica Cosby, MAHS, MS.**
Did Not Attend: **Daud Mohamed; Lauren James, MD; Lauren Powell, Ph.D, MPA; Radhika Thirunagari, MS; Elvira De La Cruz, BS; Lean Abdelaziz, BA; Melissa Neu, DSL;**

WELCOME

Ms. Nia Harrison, ACHDHE Chair, introduced herself and welcomed the attendees before calling the meeting to order. She requested that the ACHDHE members' roll call be conducted later at the meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The April 13, 2021 meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

Meeting Agenda:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/04/ACHDHE-April-13-2021-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The ACHDHE October 13 2020 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Meeting Minutes: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/04/ACHDHE-January-12-2021-Minutes1.pdf>

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

Mr JohnJason Cecil, ACHDHE Vice Chair, read the ACHDHE's recommendations from the January 2021 meeting presentations.

Recommendations: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/04/January-Meeting-Recommendations-for-4-13-2021.pdf>

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Dr. Norman Oliver thanked the ACHDHE for their continued support of health equity initiatives in Virginia and shared the following updates.

- The Agency COVID-19 Response:

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- As a major element of the State's Emergency Support Function IIIV COVID-19 vaccination initiative, the agency has been making efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of the vaccine.
- Other Agency Functions:
 - The agency is continuing to ensure the public health with its pre-pandemic activities roles like the environmental health duties, restaurant inspections, the delivery of safe drinking water, and food supply.
 - VDH is revamping the state's Health Improvement Plan and is gearing towards the completion of another health assessment. A critical element of this initiative manifests the collaborative work of a number of health departments, the healthcare systems, the academic and nonacademic institutions and several state agencies (Department of Medical Assistance Services, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services).

PRESENTATION:

- **Topic: "Virginia's 2021 General Assembly COVID-19 Related Updates"**
Presenter: Joe Hilbert, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/04/ACHDHE-2021-GA-Updates.pdf>
- **Topic: "Virginia's COVID-19 Statewide Updates"**
Presenter: Dr. Danny Avula, Director, Richmond City Health Department, VDH
Presentation link:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/76/2021/04/ACHDHE-Presentation2-4-13-21.pdf>

UPDATES:

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates

The Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates:

Ms. Sable K. Nelson, Acting Director, Office of Health Equity shared the following updates.

- To ensure vulnerable and marginalized populations' needs are met this pandemic; OHE has leveraged various Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grants. They are;
 - OHE has secure a seventy-seven million dollars (\$77,000,000.00) immunization grant that is being administered by the Office of Immunization, VDH (Ms. Christy Gray).
 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3222325/>

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- CARES grant ensures adequate data collection.
 - Link: http://www.arts.virginia.gov/grants_cares.html

OTHER UPDATES:

- **ACHDHE Members' updates:**
- ACHDHE members commended the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Oliver and the State Vaccine Coordinator, Dr. Danny Avula for being the face of the vaccine efforts in Virginia during the pandemic when some of the information was uncomfortable news. The leadership at VDH remained calmed and dedicated to the mission and vision of the agency while providing credible information about the COVID-19 virus.
 - Dr. Oliver thanked the members for the thoughts and comments and also thanked the ACHDHE members for their support this pandemic. He also expressed appreciation for the agency frontline staff and the workforce efforts and sacrifices made this pandemic.
- ACHDHE member requested to provide feedback/recommendation specific to the upcoming budget process by June 1, 2021.
- ACHDHE member requested that edits be made within the procedural guidelines with specific language for membership enrolment process.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Non-ACHDHE Members:
 - Dr. Cecilia E. Barbosa, Chair of the Virginia Advisory Board Health Committee recommended the Council collaborate with the Governor-appointed advisory boards. She really liked the meetings.
 - Ms. Beatriz Amberman, Chair of Virginia Commission of Latino Organization requested more vaccine outreach efforts specifically through the Latino media outlets.

ADJOURNMENT:

The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Next ACHDHE meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Augustine **Doe**, Health Equity Specialist

Minutes reviewed by:

Nia **Harrison**, Chair

JohnJason **Cecil**, Vice Chair