

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

January 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: Sandra Serna, MPH; David C. Rose, MD, MBA, FAAP; Nia Harrison, MPP; Linda Lee Redmond, PhD; El Hadji Djibril Niang; Maceo E. Freeman, D.MIN; Carolyn C. Turner, MS; JohnJason Cecil, BA. Antonio Villa, MD, MPH; George Worthington, MS; Melody Armstrong, MPA, BSN; Olugbenga O. Obasanjo, MBBS, Ph.D., MPH, MBA; Amy Christine Hodge, M. Div.

Virtual Attendees: Patti Kiger, M. Ed; Eleanor Woodson, BSN, RN; Kate S. K. Bradshaw, Ph.D., FACHE, CPHQ; Barbara Board, PhD.

Did Not Attend:

Zakia McKensey; Gordon Walker, MS; Linnaya Graf, PhD, MCHES, CPH.

VDH Staff: Augustine Doe, MS, MPA; Janet Harris, AA

WELCOME

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. Rose provided an overview of the meeting agenda and requested for amendments if members had any suggested changes. The agenda was adopted.

Meeting Agenda:

[Agenda](#)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 10, 2023, meeting minutes were approved as presented.

[Minutes](#)

ACHDHE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

Dr. Bradshaw read the ACHDHE recommendation document from the October 10, 2023, meeting presentations. The recommendations document was shared with the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Karen Shelton in advance of the meeting.

[Recommendations](#)

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER UPDATES:

Dr. Karen Shelton, State Health Commissioner who was unable to attend the meeting, yet she conveyed her warm greetings to the members of the ACHDHE.

January 2024 Presentations:

PRESENTATIONS:

- Presentation: “[24.01.08-ACHDHE-PHPA-Presentation.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#)” by Michael Capps, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH

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- Presentation: “[Overview-2024-GA-Expected-and-Introduced-Bills.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#),” by Alexandra Janssen, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Governmental and Regulatory Affairs, VDH

New Business:

Dr. David Rose, ACHDHE Chair, provided insights into the ACHDHE onboarding work plan which aims to recommend new and members whose tenures expire. He emphasized the necessity of assembling a dedicated team to facilitate and support the onboarding process.

UPDATES:

Office of Health Equity (OHE) Updates

Ms. Sandra Serna, Director Office of Health Equity, shared the following updates:

- Presently at the General Assembly, the Office of Health Equity (OHE) is actively monitoring two legislative bills. The first, HB570, pertains to the establishment of a prescription drug affordability board and is typically under the purview of the Office of Health Equity, as well as the Division of Pharmacy Services in the Office of Epidemiology. The second bill, HB37, focuses on creating loan repayment programs for mental health professionals, involving amendments and additions to the Code of Virginia.
- Additionally, the OHE is keeping a close eye on HB382, which addresses broadband access in farmland and rural areas. During discussions, Ms. Serna highlighted the challenges faced by the Office of Health Equity and underscored the importance of potentially hiring a policy analyst to oversee key aspects of their work at the General Assembly. She emphasized the significance of addressing policy matters, characterizing it as the point "where the rubber hits the road." Ms. Serna expressed appreciation for Mr. Capps' enlightening presentation, noting its positive effort to advance policy issues within VDH.
- In conclusion, Ms. Serna extended gratitude to the ACHDHE, emphasizing the critical importance of continuing to advocate and speak up. She expressed confidence in the advocacy efforts both within and outside the room, acknowledging the members engagement in matters of health equity.

ACHDHE Members’ Updates:

- Nia Harrison highlighted the assessment of dental care accessibility for people with disabilities “[Disability Assessment - Virginia Board for People with Disabilities.](#)”
- Mr. Cecil reminded all in attendance of the meeting to encourage Medicaid recipients to update their information to retain coverage.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

The ACHDHE meeting was adjourned at 1:52 PM.

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Next ACHDHE meeting: April 9, 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.

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

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