

**To:** M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA, State Health Commissioner  
**From:** Melody Armstrong, MPA, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparity & Health Equity (ACHDHE)  
**Date:** July 9, 2019  
**Subject:** ACHDHE Recommendation for Program Enhancement:

In response to the April 16, 2019 presentation on the “Virginia’s 2019 Legislative Update,” presented to the ACHDHE by Mr. Joe Hilbert, we respectfully make the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) facilitate a closer collaborative partnership with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates and the inclusion of dental services in statewide Medicaid coverage.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) increase collaborations with the Oral Health Coalition and partners to develop a budget proposal for the establishment of at least three mobile dental facilities to provide services in vulnerable communities.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) prioritizes collaborative efforts across the continuum of stakeholders and essentially the medical community on Virginia’s 2019 General Assembly House Bill (HB) 2750 (<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB2750>) to include communications in other languages and support for people with disabilities.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) increase initiatives that positively lend to include diverse community representatives on the Community Health Workers (CHW) Advisory Group and prioritizes the CHW certification process.

In response to the April 16, 2019 presentation on the “Overview of the Opioid Outreach Coordination Efforts & Virginia Partners in Prayers & Prevention (P3),” presented to the ACHDHE by Mr. Jonathan Kiser and Ms. Veronica Cosby, we respectfully make the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) collects and analyzes data on prevalence of opioid use by disability status to check community opioid disproportionality within the population.
- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) increase initiatives that measure the impact of its opioid outreach programs, utilize social media, and other platforms to raise more awareness of the Virginia’s Partners in Prayer and Prevention (P3) opioid efforts in communities.