

From: **David C. Rose, MD, MBA, FAAP, Chair, State Health Commissioner’s Advisory Council on Health Disparity & Health Equity (ACHDHE), Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**

Date: October 8, 2024:

Subject: **ACHDHE Recommendations for Program Enhancement:**

In response to the July 9, 2024, presentation on “Virginia Cardiovascular Health (Heart Disease & Stroke Program Overview)” presented to the ACHDHE by **Patrick Wiggins**, Cardiovascular Health Supervisor, Office of Family Health Services, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health enhance program sustainability through additional funding for comprehensive data collection and partnerships with local governments, sororities and fraternities, fraternal organizations (such as Moose Lodge and Freemasons), and nonprofits. These partnerships are crucial for expanding the program and disseminating successful outcomes to foster statewide program replication.
- The Virginia Department of Health continue to enhance its data collection efforts related to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and stroke. Additionally, it should offer incentives to hospitals to improve healthcare data coding and analysis.

In response to the July 9, 2024, presentation on “Virginia Tobacco Control Program” presented to the ACHDHE by **Mark Boldt**, Tobacco Control Program Manager and **Rita Miller**, Tobacco Use and Dependence Treatment Coordinator, Office of Family Health Services, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health conduct data collection and analysis to identify people by types of disabilities that are disproportionately affected by tobacco products. Using this information, VDH should develop tailored materials, such as plain language, large print, and American Sign Language (ASL), to effectively communicate health risks and engage the community.
- The Virginia Department of Health collaborate with local organizations, including initiatives like the Black Men’s Stroke Health, to organize community events focused on tobacco health risks. These efforts will enhance information dissemination and education on healthy lifestyles within the communities.

In response to the July 9, 2024, presentation on “Virginia Dental Health Program” presented to the ACHDHE by **Pamela Blankenship**, Oral Health Programs and Grant Consultant, Office of Family Health Services, VDH, we respectfully present the following recommendations:

- The Virginia Department of Health create awareness of dental health challenges and collaborate with Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services and the Virginia Dental Association to augment funding for dental care, offering incentives to providers willing to practice in historically underserved communities. These initiatives should encompass the expansion of scholarships and review of loan repayment options aimed at dental professionals, trainees, and students committed to serving impoverished areas.
- The Virginia Department of Health be the primary provider of dental care for underserved communities where access is limited.

Signed: David C. Rose

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