

**State Board of Health -- Annual Report
Pursuant to §32.1-14 of the Code of Virginia
November 2013**

The State Board of Health has addressed many significant public health policy and regulatory issues during the past year. The Board, supported by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), is responsible for 59 separate regulatory titles contained in the Virginia Administrative Code. From December 2012 - September 2013, the Board approved the following thirteen regulatory actions:

- Certificate of Public Need Regulations (12VAC5-220) - Fast Track Action to Amend
- State Medical Facilities Plan (12VAC5-230) - Fast Track Action to Amend
- Regulations for Licensure of Abortion Facilities (12VAC5-412) - Final Regulations
- Regulations for the Virginia Immunization Information System (12VAC5-115) - Final Regulations
- Regulations Governing Virginia Newborn Screening Services (12VAC5-71) – Proposed Amendments
- Regulations for the Conduct of Human Research (12VAC5-20) – Proposed Amendments
- Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations (12VAC5-610) - Emergency Regulations
- Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control (12VAC5-90) - Proposed Amendments
- Regulations Prohibiting the Taking of Fish for Human Consumption from the North Fork of the Holston River (12VAC5-170) - Exempt Action to Repeal
- Regulations for the Licensure of Nursing Facilities (12VAC5-371) - Fast Track Action to Amend
- Regulations for the Licensure of Hospitals in Virginia (12VAC5-410) - Notice of Intended Regulatory Action
- Regulations for the Licensure of Nursing Facilities (12VAC5-371) - Notice of Intended Regulatory Action
- Rules and Regulations for Identification of Medically Underserved Areas in Virginia (12VAC5-540) - Final Amendments

The Board also approved the following plans, policies and actions during that time period:

- Designation of Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Councils

- Statewide Trauma Registry Minimum Data Set
- Guidelines for Cleanup of Residential Property Used to Manufacture Methamphetamine
- A letter to the President of the State Board of Education requesting that it consider requiring schools to collect and submit body composition data to the Department of Education.
- State Rural Health Plan

The Board meets four times each year, in March, June, September and December. This year the Board's March meeting was postponed to April. The State Health Commissioner is vested, pursuant to §32.1-20 of the Code of Virginia, with all of the authority of the Board while the Board is not in Session. From December 2012- November 2013 the Commissioner approved the following regulatory actions on behalf of the Board, while the Board was not in session:

- Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control (12VAC5-90) - Notice of Intended Regulatory Action
- Regulations Governing Vital Records (12VAC5-550) - Notice of Intended Regulatory Action
- Regulations for Authorized Onsite Soil Evaluators (12VAC5-615) - Fast Track- Repeal
- Emergency Medical Services Regulations (12VAC5-31) - Fast Track Action to Amend
- Regulations of the Patient Level Data System (12VAC5-217) - Fast Track Action to Amend
- Rules and Regulations Governing Outpatient Data Reporting (12VAC5-218) - Fast Track Action to Amend
- Virginia Health Planning Board - Guidelines for Public Participation in Developing Regulations (12 VAC20-10) - Fast Track Action to Repeal
- Virginia Health Planning Board - Regulations for Designating Health Planning Regions (12 VAC20-20) - Fast Track Action to Repeal
- Virginia Health Planning Board - Regulations Governing Regional Health Planning Boards (12 VAC20-30) - Fast Track Action to Repeal
- Virginia Health Planning Board - Regulations for Designating Regional Health Planning Agencies (12 VAC20-40) - Fast Track Action to Repeal

- Virginia Health Planning Board - Administration of State Funding for Regional Health Planning (12 VAC20-50) - Fast Track Action to Repeal

Additional Public Health Issues Reviewed by the Board

The Board of Health Reviewed and discussed a wide range of public health issues during the time period of December 2012 - September 2013, including the following:

- VDH's preparation and response to Hurricane Sandy
- VDH's participation in the Uranium Working Group and the Uranium Working Group's final report to the Governor and the General Assembly
- VDH's response to an outbreak of fungal meningitis
- Status of the Abortion Facility Licensure program including the status and outcomes of facility surveys
- VDH's Sexual Violence Prevention Activities
- VDH's revised Strategic Plan
- VDH's Performance Improvement Efforts
- Virginia Stroke Systems Task Force
- Healthcare associated infections
- Development and implementation of a health benefit exchange in Virginia
- VDH's participation in the State Public Health Law Program sponsored by the Aspen Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Public health preparedness update, including the development of emergency response "playbooks" for use by VDH staff.
- VDH's investigation and response to the mumps outbreak at the University of Richmond.
- Update on the Department's onsite sewage program, including VDH's examination of the Department's appropriate role in designing and regulating onsite sewage systems and stakeholder meetings to be convened to develop policy recommendations.
- VDH's obesity prevention efforts
- Initiatives of the Interagency Task Force on Obesity and Nutrition

- Development of the All Payer Claims Database

VDH Performance Improvement System

Utilizing the National Public Health Infrastructure Improvement (NPHII) grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, VDH has established a strong foundation for agency wide performance improvement. This includes:

- Hiring a full time performance improvement manager and performance improvement analyst,
- Development of a performance improvement dashboard for monitoring agency-wide operations, which has helped the districts and the state as a whole to rapidly improve on numerous health outcome and process metrics. This dashboard system was also adopted by the Secretary of HHS as a model for all agencies under his purview.
- Initiation of multiple performance improvement projects (PIPs), which have identified significant potential fiscal savings, improved administrative capacity and positively impacted public health.

Performance improvement highlights include the following:

- Increased enrollment in Plan First (a Medicaid Family planning program) from 6,209 enrollees statewide as of January 1, 2011 to over 40,514 as of September 2013, which has also yielded the districts an additional \$1.5 million in billable services.
- Automation of the Request for Approval of Procurement (RAP) process, decreasing time to completion of review by over 51%.
- Annual decrease in VITA data storage costs through consolidation of data stored on VDH systems and migration to more modern storage systems resulting in over \$800K in annual savings.
- Establishment of a revenue reconciliation process to maximize efficiency in local health district billing, identifying over \$250K in potential unbilled services.
- Automation of a statewide legislative tracking system.
- Statewide increase in the immunization rates for children 2 years old by 2.8%.
- Statewide increase in the percent of children age 11-17 adequately immunized with Tdap vaccine by 12.2%.
- Statewide increase in the number of active organizations enrolled in the Virginia Immunization Information System by 871 new organizations.
- Statewide increase the percent of eligible women of childbearing age receiving multivitamins with Folic Acid counseling by 12.85%.
- Statewide increase in the percent of eligible women of childbearing age receiving a 100 days' supply of multivitamins with Folic Acid by 5.98%.
- Statewide increase in the percent of risk factors discovered during a restaurant inspection that are corrected at the time of inspection by 15.6%.
- Statewide increase in the percent of risk factors discovered at a restaurant inspection that corrected within 10 days after inspection by 16.7%.
- Statewide increase in the percent of restaurant inspections that are conducted within the required time frames by 15.31%.

In addition to these efforts, VDH has made significant strides in preparing for statewide accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, and continues to make strides in automating and improving the efficiency of many of its administrative processes.

VDH Performance Improvement System Planned Activities for 2013-2014

- **Expanded Dashboard System** - Over the course of the next year, VDH will expand its current dashboard system to include operational and program performance metrics for each office at a much more detailed level.
- **Restructuring of the Governance Process** – VDH will utilize the expanded dashboard system to streamline and improve its current governance process to ensure better oversight of programmatic outcomes, financial analysis, human resources, and general operations. This will also include a modified and streamlined grant review and approval process.
- **Automation** - VDH will also continue in its efforts to automate manual forms and processes. Specially, VDH will finalize automation of the Bedding & Upholstery application and payment process, the payment processes for the offices of Environmental Health, Radiological Health and the Office of Licensure and Certification.
- **Accreditation** – VDH will finalize its documentation requirements and apply for Public Health Accreditation in 2013. Specific activities include finalizing the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

Additional Issues Addressed by VDH on Behalf of the Board of Health

Over the course of the past year, VDH has completed a wide range of studies and reports in response to legislative mandates and statutory requirements. These reports have addressed topics including, but not limited to eating disorders, Shaken Baby syndrome prevention, and childhood immunization requirements. Links to these studies are found below:

Eating Disorders Awareness in the Public School Setting:

<http://www.vahealth.org/childdolescenthealth/schoolhealth/documents/2013/pdf/Eating%20Disorders%20Awareness%20in%20the%20Public%20School%20Setting.Final.pdf>

Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention:

[http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD1532013/\\$file/RD153.pdf](http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD1532013/$file/RD153.pdf)

Annual Review of Childhood Immunization Requirements

[http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD2072013/\\$file/RD207.pdf](http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD2072013/$file/RD207.pdf)

AIDS Drug Assistance Program Annual Report

[http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD2682013/\\$file/RD268.pdf](http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD2682013/$file/RD268.pdf)