

Virginia African American Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2020
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Virginia African American Advisory Board Members Present

Gilbert T. Bland, Chair, Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair, Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary, Hope Cupit, Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant, Precious Rasheedda Muhammad, Teri Helenese, Rev. Cozy Bailey, Keren Charles Dongo, Dr. Monica Motley, Xavier Beale, Zyahna Bryant, Gaylene Kanoyton, Yvonne Lewis, Cameron D. Patterson, Cheryl Green, Larry Boone, Monica Reid, Dr. Van Wilson, Yvette Robinson, Robert Barnette Jr., Dr. Wes J. Bellamy, Shirley Ginwright

Absent

Governor's Office Staff Present

*Traci DeShazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth & Director of African American Outreach
Dr. Janice Underwood, Chief Diversity Equity & Inclusion Officer
Marvin Figueroa, Legislative Director, Governor's Office of Policy & Legislative Affairs
Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Brian Ball, Secretary of Commerce and Trade
Jae K. Davenport, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education*

Additional Guest

Danielle Campbell, Office of the Secretary for the Commonwealth
Justin Bell, Office of the Attorney General

Welcome and Call to Order

Gil welcomed and got the meeting underway at 10:05 pm. He offered a welcome to the committee and some thoughts regarding our work and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairman Bland asked for a motion related to the minutes.

Daniel Campbell mentioned that the incorrect minutes were shared. As a result she will send out via email the February minutes later this week and we can take action at our upcoming meeting.

Public Comment

Justin Bell offered some words regarding the new changes related to the public comment process. He mentioned that the public has the ability to comment but we have the right to corral their comments. Can't cut people off but for the declared amount of time. We have to get public comments right.

Cameron Patterson, Secretary mentioned that there were no public comments at this moment. He mentioned that there are two ways that individuals can offer public comments. They can do so via the Virginia African American Advisory Board email address or by joining the meeting. Cameron mentioned that there were no comments offered via email. He also asked if any individuals on the call had public comment to offer. After making that offer on three occasions nobody offered comment. As result Cameron concluded the public comment portion and turned the meeting back over to Chairman Bland.

Gilbert Bland Chairman's Report:

Chairman Bland offered the following report to the VAAAB. He mentioned that in our last meeting we were preparing to host a two day meeting in Hampton Roads and it was to be the start of a process to collect community input via public meeting. Instead we will shift focus towards creating a survey. The survey process is underway and now will be the primary process for collecting feedback. The survey process will be led by Dr. Monica Motley. We will also utilize the committee structure to receive feedback and conduct our work related to Education, Small Black Owned Business, Public Safety, and Health & Environment. We will ask that committees pursue major goals and report back to the full committee.

Chairman Bland mentioned that he and the Vice Chairperson Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green meets with Secretary DeShazor and Daniel Campbell regularly. It is a two way exchange to provide feedback on the type of items that we would like to be exchanged. It is also an opportunity to help shape the Administration's agenda and initiatives related to COVID-19 and other items. There have also been meetings with Chairs of the Asian and Latino Advisory Boards. There is ample opportunity to share and listen to issues.

Chairman Bland mentioned that he, Dr. Monica Motley, Dr. Wes Bellamy, Dr. Cozy Bailey, Gailyn Kanoyton, partnered with Sentara to create a partnership that develops a targeted approach for African American Residents to provide transportation and access to testing in various communities. In putting this initiative together there was concern about dense housing areas, transportation, and now we can take comfort that the VAAAB has made a difference regarding testing in our community.

Rev. Cozy Bailey commended that Sentara has been a good partner. He says that now we are working to take the COVID-19 test to the people instead of the people coming to us. Navant has come on board as well and helped to increase the partnership and outreach. Chairman Bland asked Rev. Bailey to talk about the coalition he has put together. Rev. Bailey talked about all of the various folks that came together to make this initiative work. It is a collaboration between health, nonprofits, and elected officials. Moving forward the coalition will continue to help with contact tracing.

Gaylene Kanoyton thanked Chairman Bland for bringing this to the forefront. She shared that they were able to do testing in almost all of the seven cities in the Hampton Roads area. They have worked with Urban League, Sentara, Local Government, Latin X Community, and others. They are doing between 100-200 testing per day. They are doing this right in the middle of neighborhoods and are doing it in the areas where the most vulnerable are. They will continue to do what is needed to make sure that people get tested. They are bringing in clergy and community leaders to establish trust.

Sec. Deshazor asked how efforts are being captured. How can the actions be used to make recommendations to the Governor. Also how are we capturing via social media and websites? And how can the administration be helpful moving forward.

Gaylene Kanoyton says that they have been strategic regarding use of social media. They want to ensure that they get folks to the sights. But the media has covered and the word is getting out. They are being strategic to meet individuals where they are. Intentionally suppressed information initially because they didn't want to overwhelm the supply that was available.

Shirley Ginwright offered that in Northern Virginia she is being asked how the VAAAB is impacting. It's good to share that information with other Board members so that we can share out. She asked if anything is being done in the Northern Virginia area as it has been hard hit. She also asked what is being done to distribute masks in addition to testing. Nova and Navant

Secretary DeShazor said that later in the meeting we will talk about testing. Marvin Figuro, the Governor's Policy Director will also talk about testing along with staff from the Office of the Secretary of Health. Regarding PPE the administration has been giving out items in targeted communities. Dr. Underwood will speak regarding the work of the Health Equity Groups.

Chairman Bland said that the model can be shared by those who worked on the Sentara Initiative. Dr. Monica Motley has worked in her area regarding the Halifax and Mecklenburg area. One of the first initiatives rolled out in a rural area. She said that there were five locations with 110 people tested. Phase II is being developed and the collaborations are making folks feel comfortable to come to the table. Dr. Motley asked for clarification regarding Deputy Secretary DeShazors questions related to how we are sharing the work that we are doing. Dr. Motley mentioned that we are using traditional communication channels. We can also compile member's notes and data to put together a summary and lessons learned related to this effort to share. This can be shared with the administration and fellow Advisory Board members. Dr. Motley said that they put together a press release that was shared with partners.

Chairman Bland asked if these items could be shared on the website and social media. Deputy Secretary DeShazor wants to be able to fold community expertise into real time conversations related to COVID-19 at the administration level. Rev. Bailey talked about the need to summarize the work that is being done. Deputy Secretary DeShazor reiterated a desire to be supportive as she communicates the work of the VAAAB and the value that our members can offer in different conversations within the administration. .

Precious Muhammad thanked everyone for their work. She also posed the following questions. When things are done on behalf of (or in the name of) the VAAAB, how do we stay updated as members of the boards as these efforts are happening in real time? How are decisions made on partnerships in terms of how the board decides? How do we participate in this as the rest of the board?

Personal goal of the Chairman is to involve the entire Board in what we are doing. This was different because we were dealing with site specific locations related to the Sentara footprint.

Dr. Wes Bellamy worked to get Charlottesville engaged and has conducted 76 tests. The next round of testing was done in partnership with UVA and UVA Medical and it has targeted public housing sites and privatized public housing sites. Provided 308 tests over 3 locations. Leveraging relationships to provide testing results and wrap around services.

Monica Reid echoed Precious sentiments. Wants to make sure that we have a process for offering projects in the name of the board. Cameron Patterson mentioned that maybe we could get in the habit of sending

out regular communications that update the Board regarding the work underway and conversations that are taking place with Administration officials. There is a desire for members to be involved.

Deputy Secretary DeShazor mentioned that we will be speaking to standard operating procedures towards the end of the meeting. She mentioned that there is a desire to standardize what communication looks like. We will also see what her role is along with Danielle Campbell's responsibilities related to work with the Board. The Latino Advisory Chairman sends out regular updates weekly regarding decisions. Example was shared related to how the administration is related to DACA concerns.

Deputy Secretary DeShazor on behalf of the Administration shared some updates. They related to her work as Director of African American Outreach. She is working in her role as Director of African American Outreach to provide updates to more than 2,000 community members related to administration information related to COVID-19. She also has worked to bring in individuals to conversations related to needs related to covid-19. She also worked regarding clemency issues and has dedicated time to going through petitions including those currently incarcerated. In regards to COVID-19 response the Deputy Secretary mentioned that the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Emergency Management is taking the lead as part of the Unified Command Structure with other Cabinet areas lending support. The administration has created a Health Equity Group led by VDH. Health Equity was something that immediately came up including answering the question of how our vulnerable and marginalized are cared for. Included in this work group for Health Equity is the Secretary of the Commonwealth. We have a list of testing sites across the Commonwealth by local health districts. Deputy Secretary DeShazor mentioned data that was pulled as of yesterday. The Health Equity group is working to make sure that data is pulled for additional underrepresented populations.

Dr. Underwood, Chief Diversity Equity & Inclusion Officer for the Commonwealth offered a report on behalf of her work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Unified Command Health Equity Task Force in Dr. Underwood's opinion is most important because we have to be a part of every other group and task force to make equity and diversity a priority throughout this process. Dr. Underwood provided an overview of the work of the Task Force and how it has become a model for other states. VA is the only state with an operational task force. The Health Equity Task Force is powered by Data. They use the Health 360 platform. This platform helps leadership identify who is at risk based on comorbidity, economics, etc. They are then able to partner with neighborhoods and localities. The work of the Task Force is bucketed into three areas. Equity Education, Community Engagement, and Internal Collaborations. Collaborations with areas and groups are being built in different parts of the Commonwealth. These collaborations have helped to gain an understanding on how the PPE has been distributed. This is also a focus on the need for culturally appropriate communications. For example communications about the need to wear a mask. Continuing to give thought to equity education efforts, community engagement, and internal collaborations. Examples include lunch and learn series for the Cabinet, continued distribution of PPE for various constituents and state government staff.

Chairman Bland commented on how proud he is of how certain VAAAB members have built coalitions. One member asked earlier how we can expand that in the hot bed of Northern Virginia. The second question is about the distribution of PPE materials and might the VAAAB partner with other groups to be a face particularly in rural communities that are often overlooked.

Dr. Underwood challenged the VAAAB that if there is something we want to do in collaboration with Dr. Underwood and her office then we need to reach out. Can't assume that information is being shared. She also wants to be a resource to help spread the work that is being done in various neighborhoods

Keren Dongo mentioned that masks are already falling down partisan lines and could potentially fall down race lines. How are we working to combat this and work to make this a non-wedge issue? Dr. Underwood said that they are absolutely working from a communications effort to get at this. It includes a strategic evaluation of a mask campaign. Dr. Underwood looks forward to sharing the efforts soon.

Deputy Secretary DeShazor worked on a stand-alone update from the Chief Diversity Equity & Inclusion Officer to the Advisory Boards related to the work being done by the Health Equity Task Force. Dr. Underwood thanked everyone for their hard work and everything that is being done in that regard.

Board Resetting: Annual Report Guidelines and Next Steps

Danielle Campbell will send out a document to the full board outlining where we are with our annual reporting obligations to the Governor and the timeline related to it. We are at the point where committees should be meeting to discuss potential recommendations that they will put forward. Committee meetings will be during the month of June to continue formulating ideas and recommendations.

Justin Bell went over the document related to public comment. Because of COVID 19 and the State of Emergency we have been able to change rules related to meetings. Public Bodies can now meet electronically. All meetings have to be recorded or transcribed. The public has the right to ask for recording or transcript. Can't have impromptu meetings. Have to give staff notice. The public has a write to listen in and we have to make sure that it is provided to them in a timely manner. Votes conducted have to be done in role call fashion. It was suggested that this document be distributed to the members so that they can review it and offer additional suggestions related to our operating procedures.

Legislative Update & Reports from Cabinet Secretariats

Marvin Figueroa, Legislative Director, Governor's Office of Policy & Legislative Affairs.

Suspensions of Driver's License related to unpaid fines.

Marijuana Decriminalization

Passed bills on background checks

Work related to red flag laws.

Children not accessing firearms

Work done on the budget related to tuition moderation. Pay raises for public employees. G3 Community College Initiative. COVID-19 has changed the budget outlook. Waiting for a budget forecast to see what the COVID-19 impact will be on the budget. Thought is mid to late June to redo forecast and see what revenues are available. COVID-19 cast a shadow on what was otherwise a strong legislative session.

Gaylene Kanoyton asked a question about the State taking over ACA. Marvin said it's important to have a state based marketplace and the Governor has signed a bill related to that. They are trying to hire a Director, that person would hire their team, and there will be an Advisory Board.

Chairman Bland asked about funding related to Early Childhood Education and HBCUs. Marvin mentioned that with budget outlook we don't know what funding will look like related to these initiatives.

Teri Halenese said that the last CARES Act included funding for HBCU's. Marvin confirmed that and said that recommendations are being offered to the Governor regarding how to utilize that funding.

Chairman Bland asked about resources for those that are having trouble to pay rent and if there was anything the state could continue to do on that front. Marvin mentioned that a bill was amended to allow for a 60 day grace period related to rent based on your COVID-19 impact whether loss of job or reduced hrs./pay. Proposals are being developed to help with rent assistance. State is thinking through these issues.

Chief Boone wanted us to be mindful that Virginia is an Open Carry State. He saw an individual wearing a firearm on his hip with a bandana. Ultimately he wants to request a suspension of open carry. Gaylene Kanoyton mentioned that bandanas represent gangs and it will only add to the concern.

Chairman Bland asked Chief Boone to clarify his request. Chief Boone reiterated that one cannot open carry while they are in a mask. He says it puts police in a tough predicament.

Monica Reid reiterated that we need a formal process for the way in which things are recommended.

Dr. Walker Harris, Deputy Secretary for Health & Human Resources provided an update regarding the latest statistics. She reminded us that we are in Phase I. That is, we are safer at home, limited social gatherings, and restrictions for non-essential businesses. We were able to move in Phase I based on data. Key measures are available on the Department of Health website. We are monitoring the number of cases, the number of tests, and the number of test positivity. We continue to measure hospital capacity along with access to personal protective equipment for the hospital. She gave updates on testing statistics and reiterated the organizations leading these efforts related to the Unified Command Structure. She mentioned that we are looking to test at least 2% of the population annually. She says that is based on international safe guidelines for reopening. She says in order to ramp up testing they are working to minimize access barriers related to testing. The ultimate goal is 10,000 test per day to get a good understanding and to link with contact tracing. The team is working to address mental health, food insecurity and through grant resources they are working to expand these resources.

Vice Chair Dr. Ivey Green asked about the continued containment with the possibility of a second phase. Secretary Harris said they are utilizing models from the University of Virginia. Based on the data can adjust strategies and modify behavior as needed. Continue to work on the supply chain and strengthen that. Working with partners in the education sector to keep students and staff safe regarding a reopening.

Secretary Brian Ball offered an update. He apologized for jumping in and not being muted. Everyone is working around the clock related to the COVID-19 crisis. Working to shack up the tree to get PPE. He believes that we are in a much better place related to that. Businesses have been impacted and small businesses particularly have been impacted. The unemployment rate has gone up. He says the Governor is data driven and safety continues to be a top priority. Mindful of the economic issues, but health will continue to be the guiding principle. Continues to feel good about the phase approach. Have prepared sector specific guidelines that tackle cleaning, distancing, etc. A few areas delayed going into Phase I initially. Those communities will head into Phase I tomorrow. Agencies are working with the local government regarding procurement of supplies. Governor continues to give thought related to how we will move into Phase II. Will continue to be a data drive and be smart about what we are doing.

Chairman Bland asked about businesses who have not responded to PPE Funding. Secretary Ball said that there is still funding in the second round. Only 50% of small and micro businesses have accessed that funding. He said some businesses don't have established banking relationships. Banks put new customers to the side as they dealt with existing customers in the midst of being swamped. Access to banking is a challenge. The State continues to ask banks to be more supportive of new customers. Some businesses are waiting to bring employees back to try to obtain PPE loans. Chairman Bland said he continues to be

concerned about the impact to small businesses particularly our African American businesses moving forward. He asked the Secretary to keep the VAAAB updated if we can be helpful moving forward.

A question was asked about a high number of complaints from employees concerning businesses not in compliance with guidelines set before employees return to work. Secretary Ball said that individuals should utilize their normal processes for reporting concerns within their business. The Health Department has jurisdiction. Secretary Deshazor shared the following resources.

<https://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh-programs/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>
<https://www.osha.gov/pls/osha7/eComplaintForm.html>

If an employee feels unsafe they can call Dolli and they can investigate. Also looking to create some regulations that have teaching that keeps them from being retaliated against. More to come on that. Chairman Bland said that he was happy to hear about the poultry industry. Secretary Ball said it is a problem in all parts of a state and we must continue to work at it.

Secretary Devenport, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety offered an update. There are 541 offenders that have active COVID-19 cases across 10 facilities. There are a total of 41 facilities with 30,000 individuals. There are currently 115 staff and a total of 101 that have recovered. There has been work to increase testing at DOC facilities. DOC has tested over a third of the population and will continue to test as much as possible. There are concerns around sanitation and supplies. They are currently working through that.

DOC has the authority to release offenders with less than 1yr to serve. DOC is prioritizing non-violent offenders. So far 252 individuals have been released. All of this information can be found on the DOC website. The point prevalence survey, testing to see who is positive. DOC has partnered with the National Guard to test individuals on a grand scale. This has to be done in various facilities. Have to continue to flush out the positive individuals as they look to flush out the virus.

The Department of Juvenile Justice has one facility. Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. There was an outbreak there in April. Since May no new positive cases and no active cases.

Monica Reid asked about the release of individuals under the Budget Amendment. Secretary Davenport indicated that the review is happening around the clock the release plan is on the DOC website that outlines the criteria that is being looked at as related to the reopening.

Based on a question from Shirley Ginwright, Secretary Davenport spoke on mask for DOC. There has been some work from the Chief Diversity Officer related to this. DOC is providing masks. Monica Reid asked about criminalization related to masks. Secretary Davenport explained the law related to it and the Governor has said that it is not his intent to lock folks up.

Secretary Atif Qarni offered an update on behalf of the Education sector. This Friday at 5pm, we are doing a Virginia Graduates segment organized by the First Lady. The Governor about a week and a half ago announced a work group that focuses on long-term strategies that cut across all sectors of Education. He says that strategy sessions are also being organized to engage as many constituents as possible. Asking two big questions of how distance learning has impacted role and function, how will role and function be impacted with potential guidelines that might be and place? What should be considered at the state level? Working on a plan related to Phase I, II, and III for K-12 and institutions of Higher Education. Don't know when we will go to in-person settings yet.

Gaylene Kanoyton spoke about the Digital Divide. Secretary Qarni spoke about the need to increase Broadband access, making sure that students have access to Chrome Books, making sure that educators have access to technology needed to facilitate distance learning. He mentioned that there could be a use of some Cares funding to get at some of these needs and issues.

Dr. Ingrid Grant asked what additional dollars districts will get to comply with CDC guidelines. Secretary Qarni said numerous questions have come up. Testing capacity continues to be worked at, providing support for health screenings is important, there are costs for minimum standards. States must consider added cost as they put forward directives and minimum standards. Must find a good balance.

Keren Charles Dongo asked about Standardized Testing and what will be the impact in terms of Distance Learning? Secretary Qarni said the requirement was waived for this academic year. Will have the same conversations for next year. Won't automatically open up schools and start testing right away. One thing to emphasize is that there has been a disruption to learning, but as school gets going we must recognize the importance of social emotional support (counseling, etc.). We have to lead with social emotional support first. Lost-Learning is important, but you have to get children accustomed to this new normal.

Dr. Ingrid Grant asked about looking at requirements related to teacher certification? Are there ways we can lessen requirements or extend more provisional certification? Secretary Qarni says we have pushed back licensure and provided waivers at least for the next year.

Based on a question asked, Secretary Qarni mentioned that the lack of Broadband access was brutal.

Committee Reports

Dr. Ingrid Grant offered a report on behalf of the Education subcommittee. Education Subcommittee members include Dr. Ingrid Grant, Zyahna Bryant, Xavier Beale, and Dr. Wes Bellamy. The committee is focusing on the following items. Increase African American Educators. The committee is calling to increase the number of African American teachers has intensified over the past decade. Research has shown for some time that African American students benefit in a variety of ways when they have African American teachers. African American students with African American teachers are less likely to be expelled or suspended, are more likely to graduate, and are more likely to be recommended for participation in "gifted" programs. African American students are also less likely to be mistakenly referred to special education programs for those with "behavioral disorders." The committee says that additional areas of focus to assist with this include Tuition Assistance, Student Loan Assistance, Praxis Preparation, and Quality of Life Resources. The committee also would like to see a focus on the Reduction of suspension rates for marginalized groups along with a focus on Career Pathways. Dr. Grant mentioned that we must make sure that we examine all of these items through the lens of COVID. The committee would also like to make a data request to help further inform their work. That includes the percentage of African American K-12 educators in Virginia, percentage of African American education undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in Virginia Colleges and Universities, African American K-12, Post-Secondary/Credentialing Program completion rates, and a better understanding of the Achievement Gap.

Chairman Bland asked for a report related to Small & Black Owned Businesses. The Chairman offered a report on behalf of committee chair Dr. Wes Bellamy. Chairman Bland mentioned that he hoped it would be an opportunity to present and introduce constituencies across the state to our black owned businesses. Chairman Bland mentioned that Dr. Bellamy would be exiting the Virginia African American Advisory

Board. Dr. Bellamy did have interest in potentially staying on as a citizen member according to Chairman Bland. Chairman Bland mentioned that the need to support our Black Owned Businesses moving forward would be important in our post COVID-19 environment. Secretary DeShazor mentioned that individuals are not allowed to serve as citizen members. But we can certainly continue to reach out and consult individuals like Dr. Bellamy as needed. Secretary DeShazor mentioned that Dr. Bellamy is stepping away to attend to family and personal obligations and will continue to support the work of the Board.

Gaylene Kanoyton offered a report on behalf of the Health & Environment Committee. The committee discussed concerns related to transportation and individual's lack of ability to access health services in vulnerable areas. Food deserts continue to be an issue. Environmental concerns and impacts to various health issues such as maternal health. The committee also talked about mental health and the need to identify those issues at a younger age. The committee would like to ask the Governor for a review of healthcare in our rural areas. We need to explore how to help our rural citizens receive quality care. Increase funding for the Virginia African American American Advisory Board. The committee would also like to see us get better at data collection for underrepresented communities. Want to see the use of FEMA and other Cares funds to support African American Communities. Need to also continue to improve testing and other wrap around services related to COVID-19. There also continues to be a shortage of African American Health Care providers. Maybe we could look at collaboration with our HBCUs to get more health care providers into our communities across the state.

Chairman Bland mentioned that maybe there could be some cross conversations with the Education Committee as we look to provide financial incentive related to supporting minority students. Chairman Bland asked about having outside involvement from community members related to some of the committee topics that are being discussed. Hope Culpit spoke about the quality of food within our communities and the impact that it has on the health of communities of color. She says that it also impacts how children learn. She would like to see us push that as an educational tool to our communities with the goal of reducing some of the health care challenges. Gaylene also mentioned environmental concerns from buses as they travel into communities to provide children with resources.

Chief Larry Boone offered a report on behalf of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. There concerns related to urban violence and gun reduction. This includes prevention, intervention, and reentry. The chief concern is gun violence and the impact on the African American community. Chief Boone presented some statistics to amplify the focus areas of the committee. The concern is that we need to make gun violence a health crisis related to African Americans. The committee would like to request that there be a requirement for law enforcement to report homicides demographics due to gun violence. To have local hospitals do the same thing to report demographics surrounding gun violence in terms of homicides, but to also capture those shot. Require police agencies to conduct a comprehensive yearly report on all guns that have been recovered. Implement an early alert system in which law enforcement notifies a school about an event that impacts a child, particularly for K-8. Chairman Bland asked about hospital reporting and the partnership of Norfolk with Sentara on this effort. He asked if this could be accelerated to become a state model. Chief Boone said good strides were being made until COVID-19. Yvonne Lewis asked about Chief Boone referring Board members to the Norfolk PD website.

Discussion of Standard Operating Procedures:

The Standard Operating Procedures were released following the February meeting. The Chairman of the Advisory Boards have been working collaboratively on this effort. The goal is to have a collective operating procedures policy that extends across the various Boards. The Chairman asked that the document be shared so that members have the opportunity to review. Danielle Campbell mentioned that

comments and suggestions should be shared through the Chairman. Deputy Secretary DeShazor wants to make sure that in this conversation we have the opportunity to talk about process. Keren Charles Dongo asked about the procedure of what the Board adopts. She asked would this document be the place where that is outlined. Deputy Secretary DeShazor said that yes that is where it would be outlined. Dr. Ivey Green shared that we were slowed down by COVID-19 in our efforts to engage the full Board. Monica Reid said that her concerns relate to recommendations and projects taking on in the name of the Board. How do we get Board input in between meetings? She says even if we send out an email asking for member input. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned that if we have recommendations on how to increase communication then please share it with her. Monica Reid mentioned that she wants to make sure that we're getting feedback in this moment about how we get Board feedback on initiatives that we want to do in the name of the Board. Dr. Ivey Green thinks it's important that we also highlight the work of the Board members and the great work they are doing. Some things will capture the Board and other things worth highlighting might be individual efforts. Chairman Bland wanted to emphasize that to date there is no project that has been done in the name of the Board that has been announced publicly. Secretary DeShazor said that when the Chairman reached out about the partnership with Sentara she cautioned him that we had not had the opportunity to discuss the effort collectively, so he would be reaching out to members in the role of their individual capacity. It is a powerful thing to be able to say that members would be working on these initiatives. Dr. Monica Motley mentioned that there needed to be some designated time to flush out these formal responses for rapid response initiatives to do certain things in an expedited way, then we can use traditional response when we are operating under a normal set of circumstances related to board specific initiatives. She said we can use the Sentara initiative as a way to inform our rapid response protocol to get board supported / verified approval. She mentioned that she doesn't want to see us lose momentum on this. Dr. Ivey Green said she thinks we are all saying the same things. Justin Bell, Assistant Attorney General says he wants to get us on a track where he thinks we need to go. He shared links to the Code related to our work as an Advisory Board. The first link lays out our role to offer recommendations to analyze and make suggestions on policy. The second link are the specific power and duties of this Board in particular. If there are other powers and functions we want to take on we have to look at it on a case by case. Highlighting the efforts of the Board members is an easy thing, we just need to consider a media policy and who will handle it. When it comes to supporting projects that might not be something on the table for us. Oftentimes if we want to support a particular initiative as a Board then it has to go to the Governor for approval. Daniel Campbell mentioned that we shouldn't worry about the logistics when it comes to meeting, her team will help with that. Daniel Campbell also mentioned that if someone wanted to help with gathering social media content, then someone could be assigned to work with staff, but Board members can't post themselves via social media on behalf of the VAAB that responsibility must reside with staff.

Chairman Bland asked about the other Advisory Boards and their work. Daniel Campbell explained initiatives of the other Boards. Justin Bell clarified that Advisory Board initiatives had to go in front of the full board, be done in advance, and in coordination with the staff. Chairman Bland asked about an Op-Ed process considering a recent Op-Ed put out by members of the Latino Advisory Board. Daniel Campbell mentioned that the op-ed aligned with the initiatives of the Board based on their report to the Governor and the Secretary of Education asked them. They didn't have enough time to bring it before the full Board so they only signed in their capacity as subcommittee chairs.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title2.2/chapter21/section2.2-2100/>

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title2.2/chapter24/section2.2-2494/>

Monica Reid said we still don't have a process to distinguish between what is an individual recommendation versus what is a recommendation of the Board. Gaylene said that we all are experts in our fields and that recommendations will come forward to be considered for our report to the Governor.

Black Table Talk Conversations

Keren Charles Dongo mentioned that Black Table Talks would be an opportunity to go into the community, have them in a place that is accessible to the community. She said that it was envisioned that we would have some black tables to set up the atmosphere. The committee wanted to allow a 20 minute discussion for three topics that we came prepared to talk about. Wanted to allow time at the end for folks to share topics and thoughts we might not have been prepared about. Keren Charles Dongo opened it up to the full committee. The hope was to have the first one down in Hampton Roads before COVID-19 broke out. Chairman Bland asked since we have the report due to the Governor in September will we rely mainly on the survey for feedback or will there be other opportunities. Keren Charles Dongo said that we should try to find ways to be in the community. Dr. Monica Motley said we should have an option A and option B strategy. She said we need to first talk about if we can even do something in person then we can consider a virtual option. Yvonne Lewis mentioned that her sorority was planning digital conversations and that could be an option for us so that we don't have to wait till the fall. She said those conversations were being set up for different regions of the state. Dr. Monica Motley asked if we have the technology to do a virtual meeting? Danielle Campbell said it depends on the platform that we would be looking to use. Keren Charles Dongo said that her worry is that we don't exclude those that do not have the capacity to participate virtually. She is not as worried as much about the technology or the particular platform that we might use, those items will more easily come together. But not everyone has the ability to switch to a virtual space. Dr. Motley agrees with concerns about access.

Closing Conversations & Board Engagement

Dr. Ivey Green closed out the business portion of our meeting by asking the board if there is anything they would like to add to the conversation related to Board engagement. She said that members could continue to engage offline with her and continue to share thoughts regarding that topic.

Chairman Bland shared his appreciation for what everyone is bringing to the Board. He offered his excitement to be on this journey with us. We have noted the suggestions of the reports to the Boards, the need for strengthened communication, and wants to make sure that we all are fully engaged to the level that we desire to be which is hopefully 100%.