

Healthy Living/Health Services Subcommittee

August 3, 2016 @ 1:00 PM

House Room D- General Assembly Building

Members Present

Delegate David L. Bulova

Delegate T. Scott Garrett

Delegate Patrick A. Hope

Delegate Riley E. Ingram

Delegate Kaye Kory

Delegate John M. O'Bannon, III

Delegate Christopher P. Stolle

Senator Charles W. Carrico, Sr.

Senator Siobhan S. Dunnavant

Senator David R. Suetterlein

Members Absent

Delegate Roslyn C. Tyler

Senator Rosalyn R. Dance

Senator John S. Edwards

Staff Present

Michele L. Chesser

Paul Margolis

Andrew Mitchell

Steven Weiss

Agnes Dymora

CALL TO ORDER

Senator Barker called the meeting to order and Paula Margolis presented the overview of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Mike Royster presented information on the Community Health Workforce in Virginia. He explained that community health workers are charged with identifying and discussing social obstacles with patients and promoting health and quality of life. He spoke about several pilot projects that used community health workers and successfully decreased rates of re-admission to hospitals. He also mentioned the CHW advisory work groups and their tasks. Lastly, he discussed the legislative issues the CHW advisory group faces such as official recognition and identification in the Code.

Barbara Lowe-Fisher from National Vaccine Information Center, spoke about the legal right of parents to not vaccinate based on religious beliefs and how one-size-fits-all laws are not good for citizens. She described her own family experiences with adverse reactions to vaccines and asked that no change to be made to the current vaccine laws.

Karrie Delaney from Voices for Vaccines stated that parents who choose to vaccinate have science behind them. She then summarized concerns associated with a reduction in vaccination rates in the U.S. The loss of herd immunity can result in outbreaks in communities which may result in at-risk individuals, such as infants and the ill who cannot be vaccinated, getting vaccine-preventable diseases.

Finally, Stephen Weiss presented findings from his staff study on vaccination exemptions in Virginia. He discussed the history of vaccines, impact of vaccines and the content and creation of vaccines. He also spoke about the controversies and adverse reactions to vaccinations. Lastly, he reported the numbers relating to schools and how many students are vaccinated. He received many questions from members on his presentation which generated discussion on what the process for approval to not vaccinate is, if schools are required to provide vaccination data to parents and what other states' vaccination forms look like. The report concluded that while no vaccine is 100 percent safe, the preponderance of evidence is that vaccines are safer than the diseases they are intended to protect against.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Prepared by: Agnes Dymora