



Virginia Public Health Association 2022 Impact Report

Designed by: Brita Allen, MPH

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Thank you. VPHA's impact grew tremendously in 2022, and it is because of supporters like you. I am so pleased to share some of our successes in this report, but the truth is that none of them would be possible without our members and partners. So once again, thank you.

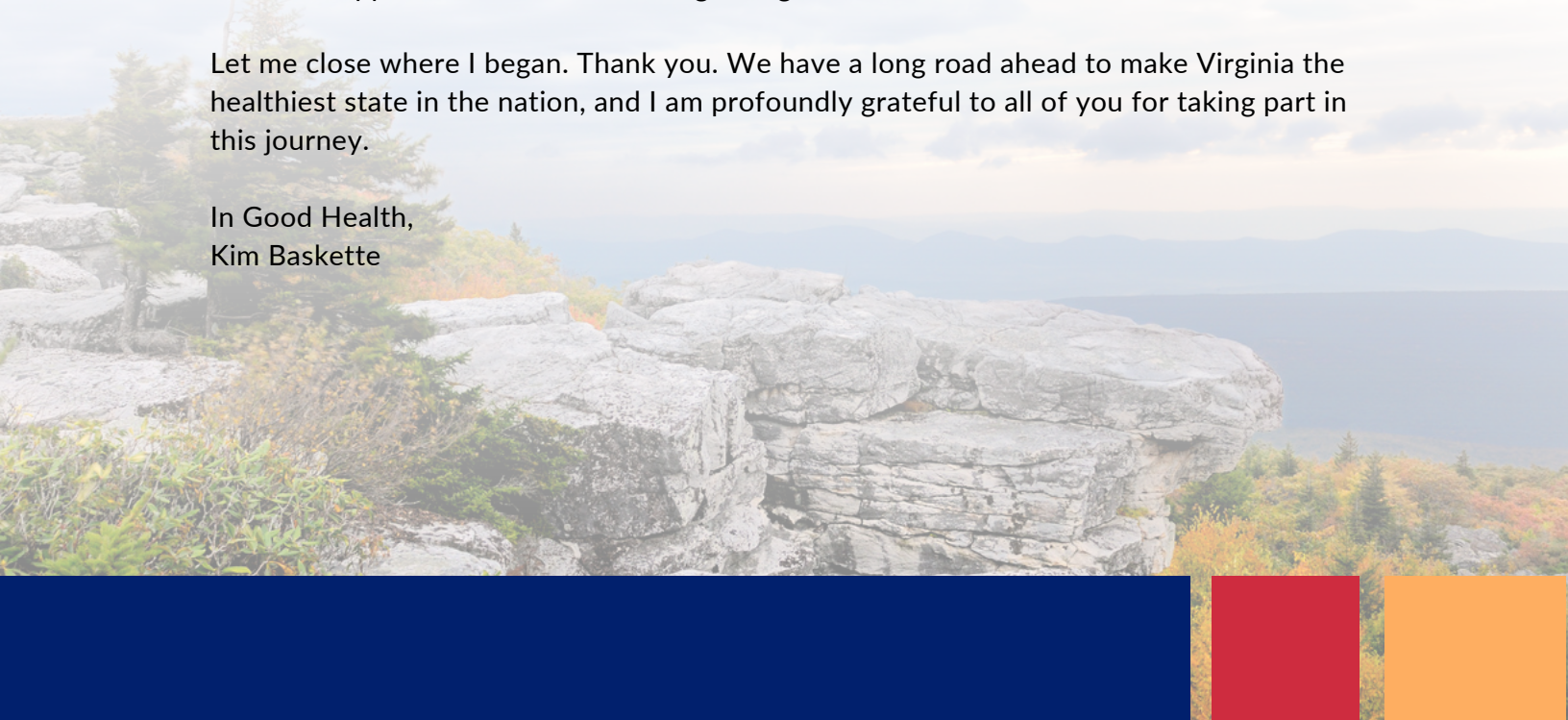
Our mission is to strengthen public health practice, foster health equity, and promote sound public health policy. We made big strides in 2022 to meet that charge. We achieved important policy victories and published two policy reports. We made equity central to our mission and conducted our first equity, diversity, inclusion, and access survey. We modernized our bylaws and recruited several extraordinary public health champions to our Board. Finally, we brought our members together through member meetings, professional development webinars, and the Annual Conference - our largest one yet!

We have big plans for 2023. We will launch a mentoring program, complete our strategic plan, build on our policy wins, host our annual conference in the fall, and grow and diversify our membership, both at the individual and organizational levels. We also look forward to offering more opportunities for our members to connect.

We must also sustain our work in addition to growing our impact. As you may know, VPHA is an all-volunteer organization. We aim to change that, and your continued financial support is crucial to achieving that goal.

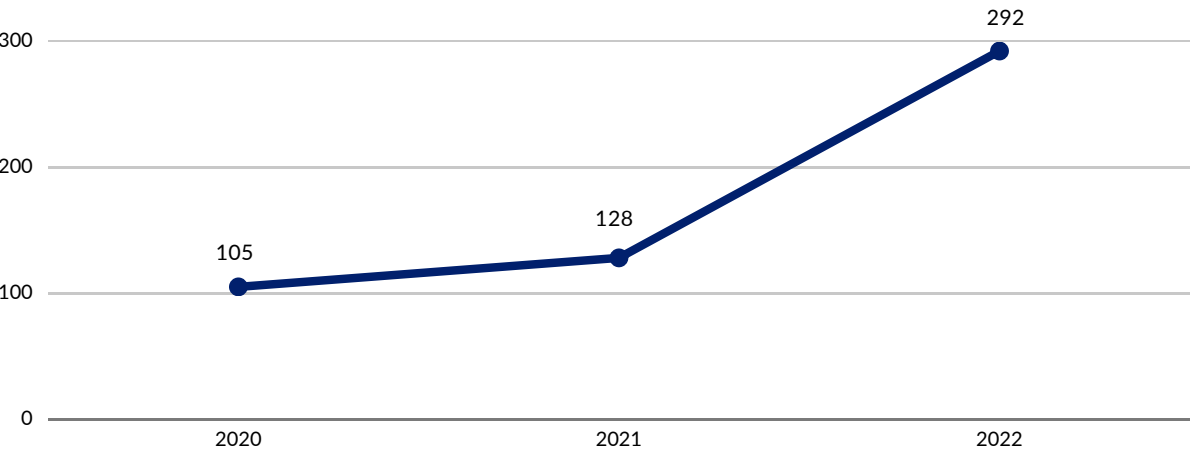
Let me close where I began. Thank you. We have a long road ahead to make Virginia the healthiest state in the nation, and I am profoundly grateful to all of you for taking part in this journey.

In Good Health,
Kim Baskette

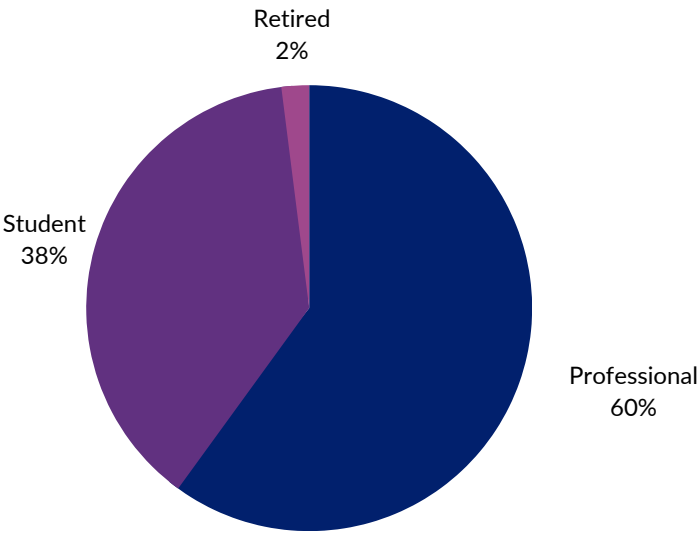


MEMBERSHIP REPORT

VPHA's members are central to our work. We are thrilled to share that our membership has nearly tripled since 2020:



Our members include active and retired public health professionals and students from across Virginia. We look forward to growing our membership in 2023!



MEET THE 2023 BOARD

VPHA is thrilled to introduce the 2023 Board of Directors, including eight new members. These public health champions bring a wealth of skills and experience that help grow VPHA's membership and impact.



Kim Baskette, PhD, CHES

President

*Assistant Professor, Department
of Public Health & Healthcare
Leadership
Radford University Carilion*



Ben Barber, MPP

Vice President

*Policy Director
Virginia Health Catalyst*



Gilbert Gimm, PhD, MBA

Treasurer

*Associate Professor
George Mason University*



Aaron Pannone, PhD, MS

Secretary

*Assistant Professor, Department
of Public Health Sciences
Eastern Virginia Medical School*



**Ashley Tharpe, EdD, MPH,
MA, MS, CHES**

Past President

*Online Dean, School of Health
Sciences
Liberty University*



**Jennifer L. Hall, EdD,
MCHES**

*Associate Professor, Public Health
& Health Promotion Studies
University of Lynchburg*



Katrina Forrest, JD

*Co-Executive Director
CityHealth*



Kerry Redican, PhD, MSPH, MPH, CHES

*Professor and Director, Undergraduate
Program in Public Health
Department of Population Health Sciences,
College of Veterinary Medicine
Virginia Tech*

MEET THE 2023 BOARD



Maurice Johnson, Jr., MPH*
Social Scientist
Food and Drug Administration



Melissa Meadows, MPH, MAT
Vice President of Education
The Virginia League for Planned Parenthood



Natalie Pennywell, MPH, CHES
Outreach & Community Engagement Manager
Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services



Shannon Latkin Anderson, PhD
Associate Professor of Sociology
Coordinator, Public Health Studies,
Roanoke College



Sue Ann Sarpy, PhD, MS
Principal & Founder
Sarpy and Associates, LLC



Syril Pettit, DrPH, MEM
Executive Director
Health and Environmental Sciences Institute



Vanessa Walker Harris, MD
Director
Office of Family Health Services,
Virginia Department of Health

*Views and opinions shared do not represent or endorse FDA/CTP's positions or policies.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING ON THE BOARD

Finally, we owe a large debt of gratitude to our departing Board members. VPHA's success would not be possible without their service, in some cases lasting over six years! We will miss working with them and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Lisa Anderson, MPH

*Director of Educational Programs, Division of Epidemiology
Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
VCU School of Medicine*

Maria Gilpin daValpine, PhD, RN, MSN

*Professor, School of Nursing
James Madison University*

Brian C. Martin, PhD, MBA

Outgoing Treasurer
*Senior Associate Dean
Professor and Director, Graduate Program in Public Health
Eastern Virginia Medical School*

Bob Weiler, PhD, MPH

*Professor & Chair, Department of Global and Community Health
George Mason University*

Callie Yakubisin, RDN

*Assistant Director, Community Wellness
The Dairy Alliance*



OUR IMPACT

Advocating for Public Health Professionals - SB 192

VPHA's top legislative priority in 2022 was allowing qualified public health professionals to lead local public health departments (LHDs). The General Assembly and Governor Youngkin approved SB 192, opening up tremendous professional opportunities for Virginia's public health workforce.

Meaghan Helmick, Southwest Virginia Regional Jr. Epidemiology at Virginia Department of Health, summed it up best: "By expanding the qualifications, VDH has taken a step towards reducing health inequities across the Commonwealth, especially in rural areas. This change is another step that moves local health districts toward Public Health 3.0, where the health director can serve as a Chief Health Strategist for their community."

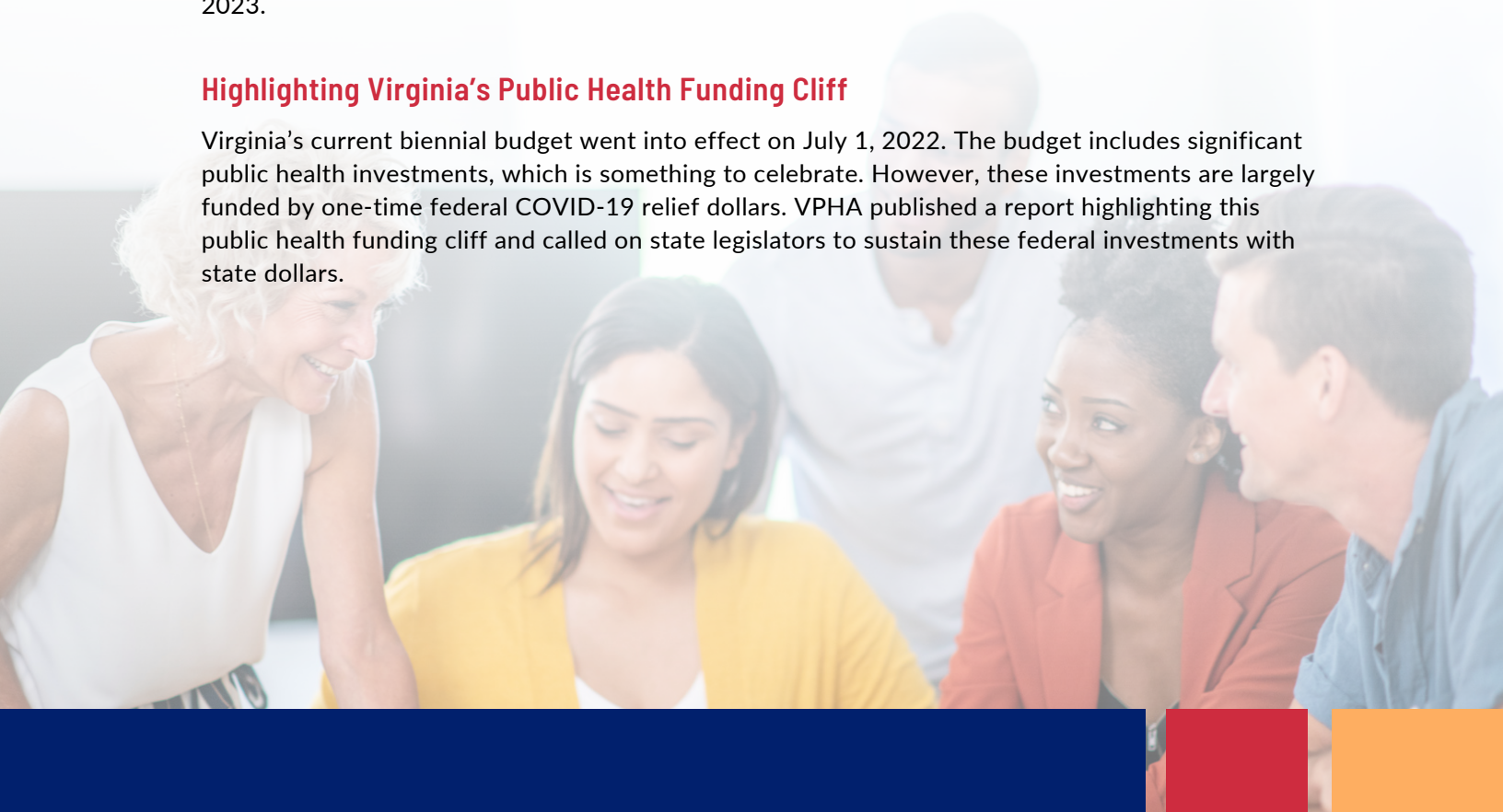
VDH has begun posting LHD director positions that are open to qualified public health professionals. We encourage those interested to apply!

Studying How to Strengthen Virginia's Local Health Departments

In 2021, VPHA successfully advocated for the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) to study the structure and financing of Virginia's local health departments. JCHC staff published a detailed report with 11 policy options to strengthen LHDs. While these options are thoughtful, we believe they require further scrutiny. The JCHC agreed, directing the Virginia Department of Health to establish a workgroup to study the issue in more detail. We look forward to participating in this workgroup in 2023.

Highlighting Virginia's Public Health Funding Cliff

Virginia's current biennial budget went into effect on July 1, 2022. The budget includes significant public health investments, which is something to celebrate. However, these investments are largely funded by one-time federal COVID-19 relief dollars. VPHA published a report highlighting this public health funding cliff and called on state legislators to sustain these federal investments with state dollars.



OUR IMPACT

All of Us Research Grant

VPHA received a grant from the American Public Health Association (APHA) Affiliates to publish a special section on the All of Us Research program in the Virginia Journal of Public Health. The section explored the policy implications of the All of Us Research program, which seeks to learn more about what prevention and treatments work best for people of different backgrounds, based on environment, lifestyle, family history, and genetic makeup. The section also includes a case study of the All of Us Program at VCU Health System and statements from All of Us research leaders at VCU Health and the University of Virginia. Kim Baskette and Ben Barber received additional funding from APHA Affiliates to share this work via poster presentation at APHA's Annual Conference in Boston.

Bringing Virginia's Public Health Community Together

VPHA hosted its Annual Conference in Blacksburg in March 2022. Over 150 public health professionals, scholars, and students joined in person and virtually. Our conference speakers energized our members, and it was refreshing to spend the day together after two years of being apart.



Engaging the Members

VPHA hosted three quarterly membership meetings as well as several professional development webinars. Through our meetings and webinars, we have been able to reach hundreds of members.

LOOKING AHEAD

VPHA is continuing to grow its impact in 2023. We are hard at work planning our 2023 Annual Conference, which will take place in Richmond from September 21-22. We are also completing a strategic plan that will guide our work this year and beyond. We will do this while building on our policy wins, growing and diversifying our membership, and providing them with professional development opportunities.

2023 also brings an inflection point for VPHA. Everything the association has achieved over the past few years has been done without paid staff. It has only been possible through the dedication of our members and a handful of volunteer leaders.

Sustaining this work is a top priority this year. Our chief goal for 2023 is to raise enough funds to hire a part-time Executive Director. We will raise these funds by recruiting individual and organizational members, pursuing grant funding, and seeking donations. Achieving this goal will require significant behind-the-scenes work. This is necessary to continue our work to meet our mission.

You can begin helping us reach that goal today. Please join us if you are not already a member. Please also consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our work. Your support is crucial to helping VPHA improve the health of all Virginians!

[Become a VPHA Member >](#)[Donate to VPHA >](#)

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