



The Alumni Development Program TRAINING ALUMNI

Invites You To Attend VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Unit Statewide Continuing Education Workshop

Friday, December 12, 2025 • 12 PM – 2 PM

Join us for this educational and engaging session.

This workshop will introduce participants to the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Unit at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Participants will learn about the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant that funds most of the unit's programs and gain an understanding of the resources and support available. The workshop will also explore birth defects awareness, prevention, and surveillance in Virginia.



Marcus Allen, MPH, has been with VDH for almost 18 years. He currently serves as the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program Director. Before that, he worked as the state sickle cell coordinator within the same unit. His tenure with VDH has also included work in two different health districts where he was in leadership. Some of his recent accomplishments with his team include the establishment of an Adult Sickle Cell Disease Clinic Network and the creation of the legislatively required Sickle Cell Registry. Marcus is married with two daughters and follows the Philadelphia Eagles and Notre Dame Fighting Irish football teams. He earned an undergraduate degree in Biology from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and a Master's of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Christen Crews, MSN, RN, has provided programmatic leadership within VDH since 2014. She currently manages the Birth Defects Surveillance Program and also serves as the Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) Advisory Council Coordinator. She has an established passion for public health as evidenced by past dedication to program development, education, and management of the Virginia Newborn Screening Programs and the Virginia Rare Disease Council. Christen is a leader of change with nationally recognized successful outcomes of data-driven quality improvements by designing, integrating, troubleshooting, and providing education to stakeholders across Virginia.



Register to Attend
Meeting will be held virtually on Zoom.

For more information about this event, you can contact us at training@vbpd.virginia.gov.