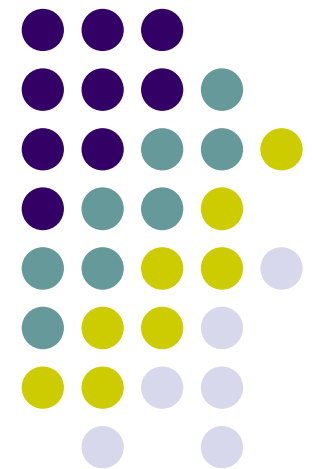


# Virginia BRFSS Work Group

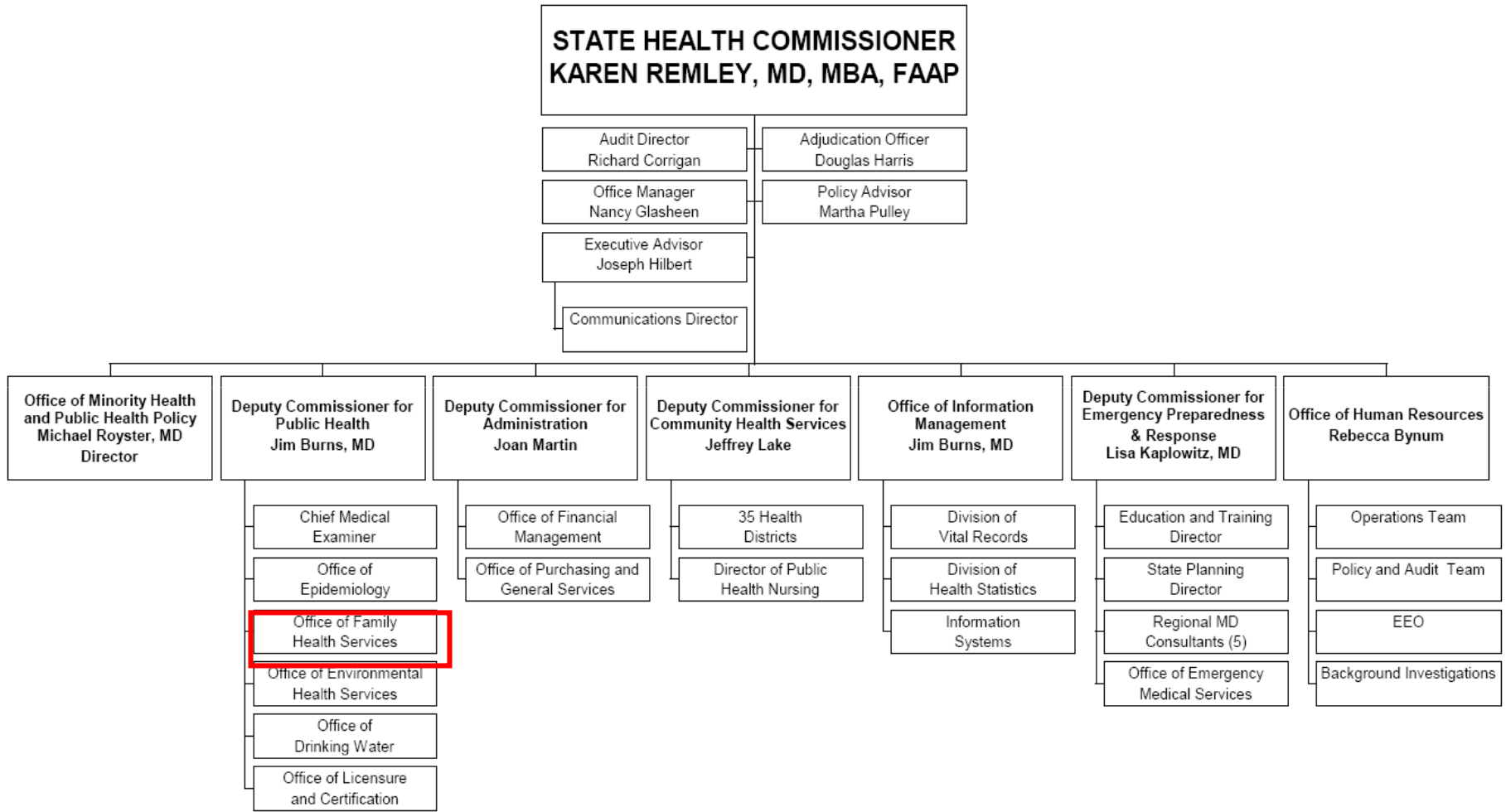
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## Creation and challenges of the Virginia BRFSS Work Group

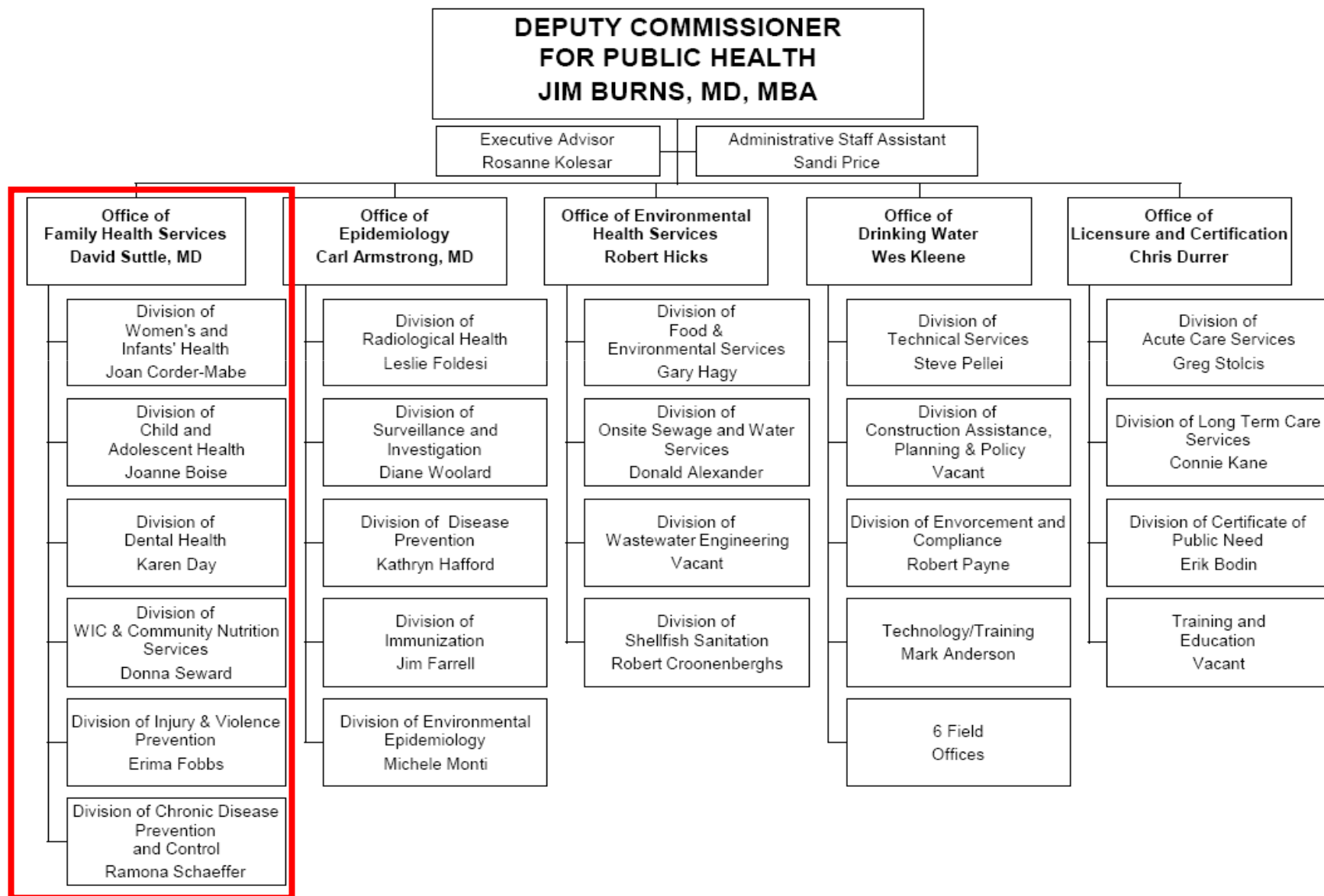
Susan Kennedy Spain, MS  
Virginia Department of Health  
Policy and Assessment Unit  
Office of Family Health Services



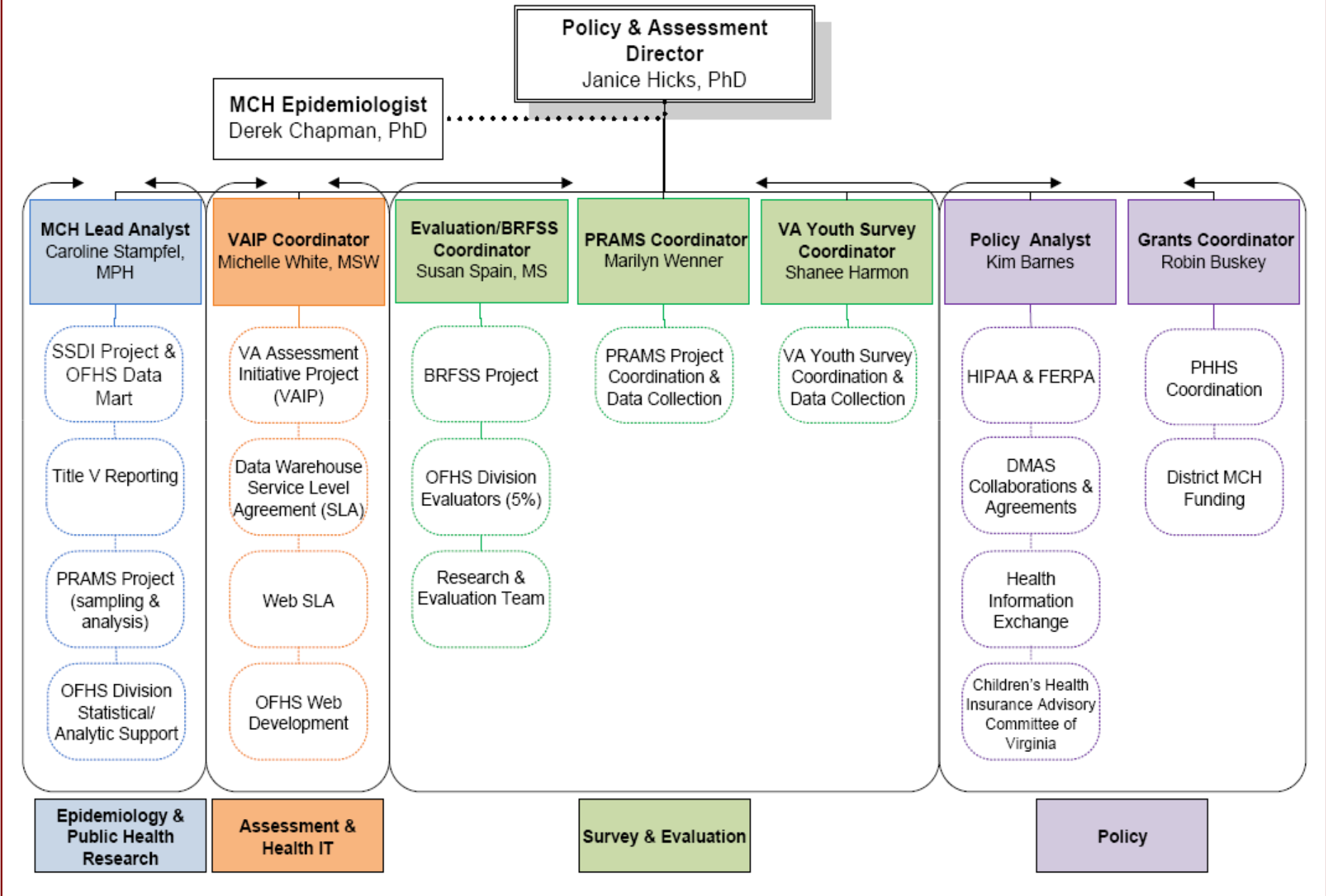
**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
APRIL 2008**



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
JANUARY 2008**



# VDH/OFHS Policy & Assessment Unit Functional Organizational Chart (7.02.09)



**Policy & Assessment Director**  
Janice Hicks, PhD

**MCH Epidemiologist**  
Derek Chapman, PhD

**MCH Lead Analyst**  
Caroline Stampfel, MPH

**VAIP Coordinator**  
Michelle White, MSW

**Evaluation/BRFSS Coordinator**  
Susan Spain, MS

**PRAMS Coordinator**  
Marilyn Wenner

**VA Youth Survey Coordinator**  
Shanee Harmon

**Policy Analyst**  
Kim Barnes

**Grants Coordinator**  
Robin Buskey

SSDI Project & OFHS Data Mart

Title V Reporting

PRAMS Project (sampling & analysis)

OFHS Division Statistical/ Analytic Support

VA Assessment Initiative Project (VAIP)

Data Warehouse Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Web SLA

OFHS Web Development

BRFSS Project

OFHS Division Evaluators (5%)

Research & Evaluation Team

PRAMS Project Coordination & Data Collection

VA Youth Survey Coordination & Data Collection

HIPAA & FERPA

DMAS Collaborations & Agreements

Health Information Exchange

Children's Health Insurance Advisory Committee of Virginia

PHHS Coordination

District MCH Funding

**Epidemiology & Public Health Research**

**Assessment & Health IT**

**Survey & Evaluation**

**Policy**

## BRFSS Project Prior to 2005



- No formal project structure;
- Project managed/directed from within Office of Health Promotions (1990's);
- Limited participation from OFHS programs/divisions;
- No priority setting or long term goals;
- Project decisions made solely by staff in Policy and Assessment Unit (Early 2000's);
- No collaboration with OFHS division epidemiologists on data use and dissemination.

# Virginia BRFSS 2005 to present



## Virginia BRFSS Work Group

- ♣ Representation from each OFHS division, except one;
- ♣ Monthly meetings;
- ♣ Call for Proposal process for annual questionnaire development;
- ♣ Oversight of RFP process and selection of data contractor to implement the Virginia BRFSS;
- ♣ Discuss issues and develop plans for participation in pilot studies, oversampling methodologies, requests for specific regional studies, etc..

# Virginia BRFSS 2005 to present



## Developed formal data request mechanism

- Small data requests
- Full file access to researchers or programs with appropriate skills
- Internal Review Board

## Development of Epi Work Group

**Developed web-page with all Virginia BRFSS related information accessible**

## Instant Atlas

# Virginia BRFSS 2005 to present



## Call for Proposal

- Occurs annually to select state-added questions and optional modules;
- OFHS programs/divisions and external agencies/programs submit proposal requesting questions for inclusion;
- Virginia BRFSS Work Group members review each submitted proposal and provide recommendations;
- Programs provide financial support to the BRFSS for approved state-added questions or modules.



# Virginia BRFSS Call for Proposal



## Request pertain to an important public health issue

- ♣ Important emergent public health issue
- ♣ High priority for health department and programs

## Is data needed for prevalence estimates and monitoring

- ♣ Data not readily available from other sources
- ♣ Benchmark for local health assessments
- ♣ Healthy Virginians objective
- ♣ Grant requirement

## Data utilization

- ♣ Develop intervention, monitor program impact, publications, health promotion, grant submission)

# Other Work Group Functions



## Data contract monitoring

- Review CDC quality assurance reports;
- Review monthly data contractor reports;
- Review monitoring session notes and discuss any issues or barriers.

## Data Dissemination

- Review outside requests to obtain data for research and publications;
- Review requests for local level stratification or oversampling methodologies.

## Web-page

# Challenges



- Balance between state priorities and collaboration with external agencies/programs;
- Collaboration with all OFHS programs;
- Decision-making often influenced by funding gaps;
- Lack of representation of all OFHS divisions.