

DELAWARE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 5, 2006  
DELAWARE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CONFERENCE CENTER, ROOM 400 A  
DOVER

MINUTES

**Commission Members Present:** John C. Carney, Jr., Chair; Theodore W. Becker, Jr.; Matthew Denn, Insurance Commissioner; Carol Ann DeSantis, Secretary, Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families; Jacquelyne W. Gorum, DSW; Joseph A. Lieberman, III, MD; Vincent Meconi, Secretary, Delaware Health and Social Services, and Lois Studte, R.N.

**Members Absent:** Richard Cordrey, Secretary of Finance; Dennis Rochford, President, Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

**Staff Attending:** Paula Roy, Executive Director; Sarah McCloskey, Director of Planning and Policy; Marlyn Marvel, Community Relations Officer; and Linda G. Johnson, Administrative Specialist III.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman John Carney called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2006 MEETING**

Ted Becker made a motion that the minutes of the November 2, 2006, meeting be approved. Dr. Jacquelyne Gorum seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

**UNINSURED ACTION PLAN**

**PRESENTATION**

A presentation of the *Uninsured Delawareans Report* was given by Ed Ratledge of the University of Delaware, Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research.

The following information was highlighted in the presentation:

- The population in Delaware has increased by 70,000 people since the last census in 2000.
- In comparison, the percentages of uninsured are 15.9 percent in the U.S.; 13.1 percent in the region and 12.7 percent in Delaware.
- There are 105,000 uninsured people in Delaware.
- Since 2003, there has been an upward move in Sussex and Kent Counties of uninsured.
- The number of people 100 to 200 percent of the federal poverty level receiving Medicaid in Delaware is 16.63 percent, or 17,348. The percentage of children receiving CHIP is 7.65 per cent, or 7,978.
- Roughly 25,000 people in Delaware are qualified for public programs, but not enrolled.

***Action:***

The minutes of the November 2, 2006, meeting were approved.

A presentation of the *Uninsured Delawareans Report* was given by Ed Ratledge of the University of Delaware, Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research.

## **Who are the 105,000 Uninsured?**

- 22% are under the age of 19
- 55% are male
- 70% are white
- 16% are Hispanic
- 62% own or are buying their home
- 19% live alone
- 83% are above the poverty line
- 32% with household income over \$50,000
- 68% are working adults
- 7% are self-employed
- 15% are non-citizens

## **Community Healthcare Access Program (CHAP) Oversight Committee**

Volunteers were requested to participate as members of an oversight committee for the Community Healthcare Access Program (CHAP). Vince Meconi will appoint a representative from Medicaid.

## **INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY**

A Clinical Information Exchange Utility Project progress report was distributed to the Commissioners. The project manager, Gina Perez, gave an update of accomplishments and the timeline for DHIN to meet its goals.

System implementation is underway and is currently on target for the planned March 30, 2007 go-live.

Marketing students from the University of Delaware have been working on designing a logo and public internet site for the DHIN project, which will be presented to the Consumer Advisory Committee on Thursday, December 7, 2006. Certificates of Appreciation will be given to the students who worked on the project.

## **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Lucille Gambardella, of Wesley College, gave a presentation on *The Status of Registered Nurses in Delaware*.

A survey of licensed nurses in Delaware was conducted in partnership with the Delaware Health Care Commission, Delaware Board of Nursing, and Wesley College Department of Nursing.

Approximately 10,100 surveys were mailed. Of those, 7,029 were returned; a return rate of 70 percent. Of the 7,029 surveys returned, 5,854 of the nurses practice in Delaware.

The Clinical Information Exchange Utility System implementation is underway and is currently on target for the planned March 30, 2007 go-live.

The survey has resulted in the following recommendations:

- Aggressive program to recruit and retain nurses
- Address nursing faculty shortage
- Better collaboration for clinical site availability
- Tap into nurses licensed in Delaware but not working in Delaware
- Address salary issues (despite the fact that there was a salary increase during the survey time frame)
- Evaluate work environments and develop action plans for improvement
- Positive public relations
- Develop a Center of Nursing Practice and Research

It was suggested that the Health Workforce Data Committee review the recommendations in the report and establish a set of recommendations before the Committee's Chairperson, Lois Studte, leaves in June 2007.

Ms. Studte said it is projected there will be a significant increase in graduating nurses in the next few years.

#### **RESEARCH & POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

Vince Meconi made a motion that "The Total Cost of Health Care in Delaware 2005" report be approved. Dr. Joseph Lieberman seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dr. Gorum said that the Delaware Healthy Mothers and Infants Consortium has requested that a representative of the Health Care Commission attend a meeting and give a report on what the Commission is doing to:  
1.) Address the uninsured issue; and 2.) Increase the number of doctors in Delaware.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Robert Frelick said it would be helpful if the "Delawareans without Health Insurance" report included the percentage of uninsured people being seen in hospitals and outside clinics.

Dr. Lieberman said that Christiana Hospital spent 35 million dollars in 2005 on the uninsured.

Dr. Frelick asked how many doctors do not have electronic equipment to participate in DHIN. Gina Perez responded that about 20 percent of the doctors have electronic equipment.

Referring to Dr. Gambardella's presentation, Dr. Frelick asked if only 5 percent of Delaware's nurses are working in doctors offices, who is working in the offices? This raises issues about quality of care.

**Action**  
"The Total Cost of Health Care in Delaware 2005" report was approved.

Dr. Lieberman responded that most of the employees in doctors offices are medical assistants.

Joann Hasse, a retired nurse, said that while nurses' salaries may have increased, the pay does not commensurate with the responsibility. Perhaps one reason so many new nurses are lost during the first three years is due to the lack of sufficient clinical training. Once they begin practicing they discover that nursing is not what they want to do.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2007, at the Delaware Technical and Community College Conference Center, Terry Campus, Room 400 B.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2007, at the Delaware Technical and Community College Conference Center, Terry Campus, Room 400B.

**GUESTS ATTENDING**

Jack Akester	Mental health advocate
Kelli Burris	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - Delaware
Judy Chaconas	DHSS/Division of Public Health
Kathy Collison	DHSS/Division of Public Health
Barbara DeBastiani	Wheeler and Associates
JoAnn Fields	Local physician
Robert Frelick	Medical Society of Delaware
Lucille Gambardella	Wesley College
Doug Gramiak	Lt. Governor's Office
Gary Haber	The News Journal
Joann Hasse	League of Women Voters
Lolita Lopez	Westside Health
Linda Nemes	Department of Insurance
Gina Perez	Advances in Management
Suzanne Raab-Long	Delaware Healthcare Association
Rosa Rivera	Henrietta Johnson Medical Center
Jose Tiese	Electronic Data Systems
Betsy Wheeler	Wheeler & Associates
Calvin Young	UAW Community Healthcare Initiative