

DELAWARE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 7, 2008  
DELAWARE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CONFERENCE CENTER, ROOM 400 B  
DOVER

MINUTES

**Commission Members Present:** Lt. Governor John C. Carney, Jr., Chair; Lisa Barkley, MD; A. Richard Heffron; Theodore W. Becker, Jr.; Matthew Denn, Insurance Commissioner; Carol Ann DeSantis, Secretary, Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families; and Dennis Rochford, President, Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay Authority

**Members Absent:** Richard Cordrey, Secretary of Finance; Vincent Meconi, Secretary, Delaware Health and Social Services; and Janice Nevin, MD

**Staff Attending:** Paula Roy, Executive Director; Marlyn Marvel, Community Relations Officer, and Linda G. Johnson, Administrative Specialist.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman John Carney. He introduced new Commission member A. Richard Heffron.

**MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2007 AND DECEMBER 6, 2007**

Ted Becker made a motion to accept the October 4 meeting minutes. Cari DeSantis seconded the motion. There was a voice vote and the motion carried.

Dr. Lisa Barkley made a motion to accept the December 6 meeting minutes. Rich Heffron seconded the motion. There was a voice vote and the motion carried.

**ACTION: 2008 HEALTH CARE COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT**

The Annual Report was discussed in November and distributed to Commissioners in December 2007. Mr. Becker made a motion to approve the 2008 DHCC Annual Report. Mr. Heffron seconded the motion. There was a voice vote and the motion carried.

**UNINSURED ACTION PLAN**

**UPDATE: Delaware Public Policy Institute**

Paula Roy reported that the Delaware Public Policy Institute (DPPI) has launched an initiative to focus on the uninsured and develop recommendations to expand coverage. The initiative is designed to complement the work of the Delaware Health Care Commission. A summit was convened in June 2007. Ms. Roy gave a presentation on the uninsured, based on research Ed Ratledge, of the University of Delaware Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research, performed for the Commission. Summit attendees adopted guiding principles on the uninsured and formed a workgroup to more closely examine policy options. The workgroup met twice, in July and September, and presented the most favored options at a second summit held in October. The options adopted

***Action***

The October 4 and December 6, 2007 meeting minutes were accepted.

***Action***

The Health Care Commission's 2008 Annual Report was approved.

at the October summit largely mirror strategies already endorsed by the Health Care Commission.

Options presented at the October summit were:

- Health Leadership Council Health Access America Outreach Campaign
- Focus on outreach to people (25 per cent of the uninsured) eligible for public programs but not enrolled
- Premium assistance plan based on a three share financing model
- Guaranteed issue in the individual market
- Primary care/catastrophic coverage model - CHAP was used as a model for this option.

The recommendations call for greater outreach to enroll those eligible but not enrolled in existing programs and linking low income uninsured individuals to health homes and needed services.

The DPPI report is due to be released in mid-February. The report acknowledges the Commission's work and the Commissioners will be receiving a copy.

Chairman Carney reviewed a draft of the DPPI Report and an option which rose to the top was promoting primary preventive care. Mr. Carney suggested that the Commission pursue piggy-backing CHIP expansion with the CHAP program. Money appropriated to seek a waiver to expand CHIP could be used to eliminate the CHIP premium and cover people who would enter the program as a result.

Chairman Carney suggested that the Commission pursue piggy-backing CHIP expansion with the CHAP program.

Through Census data work, Ed Ratledge estimates there are 80,000 people on Medicaid in Delaware and another 20,000 eligible, but not enrolled. It is important to know who the uninsured are and where they are.

There was general discussion about methods to learn about the uninsured in more detail. Ms. Roy will look at other state activity. Next month's geo-map presentation by Dr. James Gill will offer additional insights for Commissioners.

#### UPDATE: Community Healthcare Access Program (CHAP)

Ted Becker reported the CHAP Workgroup met on January 23, 2008. Dr. James Gill will have geo-maps prepared for the March Commission meeting. The mapping should be helpful to identify areas to target for outreach. The Health Risk Assessment (HRA) will also be a topic at the March meeting. Christiana Care Health System has rejoined CHAP and is moving to consolidate CHAP into its bad debt and charity care programs. Christiana Care Health System will recognize the CHAP card as entry into services there.

Chairman Carney asked how the outreach is system working. Mr. Becker responded that, overall, enrollment is growing. As of November 30, 2007, 4,613 total people were enrolled in CHAP. Of those, 2,558 were new enrollments, and 2,055 were new re-enrollments.

Community Healthcare Access Program Annual Report 2007

Action on the Community Healthcare Access Program Annual Report 2007 was deferred until the March meeting to allow Commissioners more time to review it.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

State Loan Repayment Program

The Loan Repayment Committee met on Thursday, December 6, 2007 and the DIMER Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. The following recommendations for funding were made:

Funding Updates:

- \$50,100 available in State DIMER funds (through June 30, 2008)
- \$88,000 available in Federal matching funds

Applications reviewed:

*Site:* La Red Health Center, Georgetown

This federally qualified health center has previously been approved as a loan repayment site and qualifies for federal matching funds.

*Health Professional:* Coleen Brogan, Certified Nurse Midwife – La Red Health Center

Ms. Brogan graduated from Case Western Reserve University (Ohio) with a Master’s in Nursing in 1996 and from the Frontier School of Midwifery (Kentucky) in 1999. She is certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board. Her employment with La Red Health Center (40 hours per week) began in September 2007. Ms. Brogan has \$74,000 in loans and is requesting a three-year contract.

Coleen Brogan, a Certified Nurse Midwife at La Red Health Center, has \$74,000 in loans and is requesting a three-year contract.

The DIMER Board accepted the Loan Repayment Committee’s recommendation that \$30,000 be allocated to Coleen Brogan, (\$15,000 State funds and \$15,000 Federal funds) for a two-year contract to practice at La Red Health Center.

Mr. Carney expressed concern with the limited funds available if a physician were to apply for loan repayment. Additional funds will be available beginning July 1. It is unknown, but unlikely that significant new applications will be submitted between now and July 1.

After general discussion it was determined that, in view of the critical need for OB/GYN services in Sussex County, this would be a good use of loan repayment dollars.

Dr. Barkley suggested that practice sites be polled to learn what recruitments are in the pipeline.

**ACTION:**

Ms. DeSantis made a motion that Coleen Brogan be awarded \$30,000 for a two year contract to practice at La Red Health Center. Mr. Becker seconded the motion. There was a voice vote and the motion carried.

**ACTION**  
Coleen Brogan was awarded \$30,000 for a two year contract to practice at La Red Health Center.

## **RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Total Cost of Health Care in Delaware Report**

The Total Cost of Health Care in Delaware Report was distributed to Commissioners in December.

Ms. DeSantis made a motion that the Commission accept the Total Cost of Health Care in Delaware Report. Mr. Becker seconded the motion. There was a voice vote and the motion carried.

## **INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY**

### **UPDATE: Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN)**

Gina Perez provided an update on the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN).

In the first week of January 2008, six new practices began using DHIN. There are now more than 40 practices and 150 physicians participating - about a 50/50 split between primary care and specialists. This has been accomplished through word of mouth in the medical field.

About 1.3 million transactions flow through the system per month. These are all laboratory and radiology reports. Pharmacy data will be available this time next year.

DHIN is currently in phase two of its implementation, which includes: 1.) patient record inquiry; 2.) electronic order entry from electronic medical records for lab tests; 3.) consumer participation via a patient portal; and 4.) public health reporting.

The DHIN budget includes three million dollars of federal money, three million dollars in state funds, and matching private sector funds.

Ms. Roy added that the Governor's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 includes \$2.5 million dollars allocated for the DHIN, which is the amount requested.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Frelick attended the National Cancer Advisory Board meeting in Washington, D.C. They had a study that used the telephone for follow-up in the Tobacco Quit Program. He asked if a telephone network could be used for public health prevention or CHAP. Also, the four dollar prescription program at places like Wal-Mart has been a tremendous help.

Chairman Carney asked if federally qualified health centers make follow up phone calls with patients, such as appointment reminders. Lolita Lopez from Westside Health responded that they do.

Paula Roy announced that Leah Jones will be joining the Health Care Commission staff on February 25, as the Director of Planning and Policy.

## **ACTION**

The Total Cost of Health Care in Delaware Report was accepted.

DHIN has more than 40 practices and 150 physicians participating - about a 50/50 split between primary care and specialists.

About 1.3 million transactions flow through the system per month. These are all laboratory and radiology reports. Pharmacy data will be available this time next year.

Paula Roy announced that Leah Jones will be joining the Health Care Commission staff on February 25, as the Director of Planning and Policy.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: DHIN Staffing RFP & Contract Negotiations**

Dennis Rochford made a motion that the Commission enter an executive session to discuss the DHIN staffing RFP and contract negotiations. Rich Heffron seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Rochford made a motion that the Commission come out of executive session. Cari DeSantis seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

***Action***

Mr. Heffron made a motion that the Commission approve an addendum to the existing contract with Medicity to provide software applications, hardware, data center operations, testing and implementation support for the National Health Information Network (NHIN) Trial Implementation contract deliverables. Ms. DeSantis seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

***Action***

Mr. Heffron made a motion that the Commission approve an addendum to the existing contract with John Snow, Inc. to provide quality assurance monitoring to DHIN's work in support of the National Health Information Network (NHIN) Trial Implementation project. Ms. DeSantis seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

***Action***

Mr. Rochford made a motion that the DHIN staffing contract be approved. Ms. DeSantis seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

***Action***

Matt Denn made a motion that the DHIN staffing contract include a provision for the evolution of the DHIN governance. Dr. Lisa Bradley seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at Del Tech Terry Campus in Room 400 B.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

***Action***

The Commission approved an addendum to the existing contract with Medicity.

***Action***

The Commission approved an addendum to the existing contract with John Snow, Inc.

***Action***

The DHIN staffing contract was approved.

***Action***

The DHIN staffing contract will include a provision for the evolution of the DHIN governance.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at Del Tech Terry Campus in Room 400 B.

## Guests Attending

Anthony Brazer, D.O.  
Judy Chaconas  
Barbara DeBastiani  
Robert W. Frelick, MD  
Carlyle Hoof  
Jonathan Kirch  
Lolita Lopez  
Becky Magdycz  
George Meldrum  
Linda Nemes  
Sheila Nutter  
Brian Olson  
Gina Perez  
Albert Shields  
Wayne Smith  
Roger Van Brussel  
Betsy Wheeler

Div. of Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Div. of Public Health  
Wheeler and Associates/MACHC  
Medical Society of Delaware  
NAMI Delaware  
American Heart Association  
Westside Health  
EDS/CHAP  
Nemours Foundation  
Department of Insurance  
Electronic Data Systems  
La Red Health Center  
Advances in Management  
Office of the Lt. Governor  
Delaware Health Care Association  
Inter Component Ware America  
Wheeler & Associates Management  
Services, Inc.