

**DELAWARE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 2, 2006  
DELAWARE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CONFERENCE CENTER, ROOM 400 B  
DOVER  
MINUTES**

**Action Items**

**Commission Members Present:** Vincent Meconi, Acting Chair; Theodore W. Becker, Jr.; Richard Cordrey; Matthew Denn; Jacquelyne W. Gorum, DSW; Joseph A. Lieberman, III, MD; Dennis Rochford; and Lois Studte, R.N.

**Members Absent:** John C. Carney, Jr., Chair; and Carol Ann DeSantis, Secretary, Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chairman Vincent Meconi called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2006 MEETING**

Dr. Jacquelyne Gorum made a motion that the minutes of the October 5, 2006 meeting be approved. Dennis Rochford seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION: DIABETES**

Don Post, of the Division of Public Health, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, gave a presentation on Diabetes.

The presentation included the following key points:

- Delaware received two national awards for meeting goal objectives within the *Healthy People 2010* target.
- High-risk population areas were targeted at 101 events statewide and 2,845 people were screened. There were 1,043 one-on-one consultations.
- Of those screened, 87.8% had no previous diagnosis of diabetes, and 16% were referred to a health care provider. One hundred seventy five participants were contacted for follow-up. Of those, 13 were diagnosed with diabetes.
- By November 3<sup>rd</sup>, all school nurses will have received a new glucose and ketone meter.

**Discussion**

Dennis Rochford asked what efforts are underway to address the issue of diet in the schools. Mr. Post said there is an initiative within the Department of Education to address the issue of nutrition in schools.

**2006 – 2007 WORKPLANS**

Paula Roy provided a review of the proposed 2006-2007 work plans, including Community Healthcare Access Program (CHAP); State Planning Program and Mental Health.

**Action:**  
The minutes of the October 5, 2006, meeting were approved.

Don Post, of the Division of Public Health, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, gave a presentation on Diabetes.

Commissioners heard a review of the 2006-2007 work plans.

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

General activities of CHAP through the fiscal year were approved in October. The application submitted to the Health Fund Advisory Committee will be reviewed in December and reflects the addition of disease management/health promotion component to the program. Appointment of an oversight committee will be deferred until next month to work with CHAP over the next few months.

### State Planning Program

A timeline for CHAP activities from November 2006 – July 2007 was presented for consideration. Delaware has been granted one additional year to complete state planning activities under the federal State Planning Grant program.

The Small Group Insurance Committee has met, received a report and discussed the recommendations. One more meeting is needed to finalize those recommendations and report.

A Universal Coverage “building blocks” meeting was held in August. During the meeting Committee members discussed the elements of moving from the current health care financing system to the traditional single-payer financing system. A transitions document and a model have been developed and need to be finalized. A timeline for continued Planning activities from November 2006 – August 2007 was presented for consideration.

### Mental Health

The Mental Health Issues Committee’s report made several specific recommendations but one that stands out is learning more about co-occurring conditions with mental health issues so we may be comprehensive or holistic in our approach. There is a shortage of mental health practitioners in western and southern New Castle County, northern and western Kent County.

Of the 16 report recommendations that include the Delaware Health Care Commission, four are included in the DHCC staff proposed work plan:

- 1.) Re-convene the Mental Health Issues Committee
  - ~learn about the co-occurring issues,
  - ~ learn about activities around homelessness,
  - ~ address mental health parity issues;
- 2.) Participate in the Speaker’s Task Force on Mental Health;
- 3.) Include mental health professions in existing Workforce activities;
- 4.) Convene appropriate coordination activities to focus on safety net development, including opportunities to build on CHAP.

### **Action:**

Dr. Joseph Lieberman made a motion that the 2006 – 2007 work plans be approved. Dennis Rochford seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Action:**

The 2006-2007 Action Plan was approved.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The fiscal year 2008 Commission budget has been submitted. It included five strategic initiatives: 1.) Uninsured Action Plan; 2.) Information and Technology; 3.) Health Professional Workforce Development; 4.) Research and Development Policies, and 5.) Specific Health Care issues/Affiliated Organizations and Task Forces.

An additional \$100,000.00 was requested in the budget for the Loan Repayment Program for DIDER. This is because the Commission anticipates a high volume of clinician applications through August 2007. Due to the increased number of applications, the entire FY 2007 appropriation was obligated within the first four months of the fiscal year.

### **New Quality Initiative**

Seventy five thousand dollars was added to the budget request to launch the new Quality Initiative. Information gleaned from this initiative potentially will enhance activities associated with chronic illness and health disparities; two key areas of focus in Delaware.

### **CHAP**

Commissioners agreed to defer discussion on the appointment of a CHAP Oversight Committee until the Commission chairman, John Carney, is present.

### **Geographic Expansion Proposal**

An ad hoc Geographic Expansion Review Committee has reviewed proposals to expand services into geographic areas of the state currently underserved. The Committee recommends the award of one grant. Additional recommendations will be forthcoming at future meetings.

The recommended award is to Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, with support from La Red Community Health Center. The proposal would fund space for two years at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital to serve as a clinic to include a Nurse Practitioner, supplies and equipment. The clinic will be open evenings and weekends and will be staffed by La Red. This clinic will serve western Sussex County and plans to serve 2,250 patients.

### ***Action***

Lois Studte made the motion to approve the Geographic Expansion proposal submitted by Nanticoke Memorial Hospital. Ted Becker seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

## **INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

The *DHIN Clinical Information Exchange Utility Progress Project Report – October 2006* was distributed to the Commissioners.

## **RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Health Fund Advisory Committee**

Dr. Lieberman reported that the Health Fund Advisory Committee is in the process of reviewing funding requests for the continuation of existing programs, as well as the addition of new programs.

FY 2008

Commission budget has been submitted.

CHAP oversight discussion was deferred until the chairman is present.

### ***Action:***

The 2006-2007 Geographic Expansion Plan was approved.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Annual Report and Strategic Plan**

A draft Annual Report and Strategic Plan was distributed to commissioners for review. The report will be finalized in December and early January and submitted to the Governor and General Assembly on January 15, 2007.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joann Hasse, of the League of Women Voters, asked if data could be provided to let the public know how much is being done in Delaware using the tobacco settlement money for health care. Dr. Lieberman noted that the State of Delaware is unique in having a health care fund supported by the tobacco monies.

Brian Olson, Executive Director of La Red Health Center, thanked the Commission for its support of La Red's efforts in Sussex County.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at the Delaware Technical and Community College Conference Center, Terry Campus, Room 400B

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## **GUESTS ATTENDING**

Jack Akester, mental health advocate  
Judith Chaconas, Division of Public Health  
Jeanne Chigione, ACS  
Michael Duva, Delaware Healthcare Association  
Robert Frelich, Medical Society of Delaware  
Doug Gramiak, Office of the Lt. Governor  
Gary Haber, The News Journal  
Joann Hassi, League of Women Voters  
Paul Lakeman, Bayhealth  
L. Lopez, Westside Health

Rita Marocco, NAMI-DE  
Linda Nemes, DOT  
Sheila Nutter, EDS  
Brian Olson, LaRed Health Center  
Rosa Rivera, Henrietta Johnson Medical Center  
Faith Rentz, OMB  
Jill Rogers, DPH  
Debra Singletary, Delmarva Rural Ministries  
Jose Tiess, EDS  
Kathleen Widdoes, EDS