

**DELAWARE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 5, 2009
DELDOT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
FARMINGTON-FELTON CONFERENCE ROOM
DOVER
MINUTES**

Action Item

Commission Members Present: Theodore W. Becker, Jr., Acting Chair; Lisa C. Barkley, MD; Tom Cook, Acting Secretary of Finance; Rita Landgraf, Secretary, Delaware Health and Social Services; A. Richard Heffron; Dennis Rochford, and Fred Townsend.

Members Absent: John C. Carney, Jr., Chair; Janice E. Nevin, MD; Vivian Rapposelli, Secretary, Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, and Karen Weldin Stewart, Insurance Commissioner

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Ted Becker, Acting Chairman.

MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3 and OCTOBER 1, 2009

Dr. Lisa Barkley made a motion to accept the September 3, 2009 meeting minutes. Tom Cook seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

Action

Tom Cook made a motion to approve the October 1, 2009 meeting minutes. Fred Townsend seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

UNINSURED ACTION PLAN

Update: Community Health Care Access Program (CHAP)

Chap/Screening for Life

Ted Becker, Chair of the CHAP Oversight Workgroup, said since CHAP was launched in 2001, the evaluation component has focused on the operational process, health outcomes and chronic disease management. The numbers have substantiated that it is better for people to have a health home and patients have better health outcomes. Since its inception, total enrollment in the program is nearly 22,000, surpassing its target.

The Committee proposes to focus on a more global basis on how CHAP would fit into the health care delivery system with health care reform.

Action

The September 3, and October 1, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

Two factors have led the Committee to propose a change in focus for this year's evaluation activities: 1.) likelihood that some type of health reform will be enacted at the federal level, 2.) Commission's decision to step back and look at CHAP from a more global perspective this year.

Mr. Becker asked for a motion to endorse the concept of re-focusing the next CHAP evaluation.

Action

Tom Cook made a motion that the Commission endorse the concept of the next CHAP evaluation to focus on a more global sense of how CHAP would fit into the health care delivery system with health care reform. Rita Landgraf seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Update: Delaware Health Information Network – Robert White, Chair, DHIN Board of Directors and Gina Perez, Executive Director

Robert White reported that it is currently a very busy time for DHIN. DHIN has an active Governance Workgroup, chaired by Rich Heffron, and a Finance and Sustainability Workgroup, chaired by Ed Ratledge.

Given the availability of stimulus funds and the acceleration of activities by national laboratories, other states and vendors, it is an extraordinarily change-filled environment in which to try and make decisions.

DHIN has a head start on almost every other state in the country. There are ongoing conversations with Pennsylvania and Maryland, which recognize that by copying some of Delaware's decisions, their organizations could trim valuable months or even years off their development processes.

DHIN is subject to Sunset Review this year and is undergoing an audit by the State Auditor's office, both of which are time consuming. It is expected that both of those processes will be beneficial to DHIN in the final analysis by positioning a higher understanding about what DHIN is doing.

There are many demands currently being made on DHIN staff. Mr. White was gratified to see a newspaper article wherein the Director of the Office of Management and Budget specifically mentioned that, while it is necessary to trim state government, there are pockets where, due to increased demands, it is necessary to increase staff.

Action

The Commission endorsed the concept of the next CHAP evaluation to focus perspective on a more global sense of how CHAP would fit into the health care delivery system with health care reform.

With the increased number of data senders and data receivers to be trained and serviced and the aforementioned demands, Mr. White thinks everyone will agree it is appropriate for DHIN to be adding staff.

Gina Perez said DHIN is potentially eligible for about \$4.6 million through the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) program, based on a formula of size/population.

DHIN is working closely with Medicaid to enable providers to query DHIN about program eligibility and process claims.

Discussions about utilizing DHIN are taking place with Delaware Health and Social Services, the Division of Services for Children, Youth and their Families, Department of Correction, Papastavros and Diagnostic Imaging Associates.

Twenty five new practices have inquired about DHIN or started the enrollment process over the last month. There are now 61 practices in the pipeline (doubled in one month) and 140 practice sites live.

U. S. Senator Kaufman contacted Ms. Perez and plans to give a presentation to the Senate about DHIN and innovations in health care.

Mr. White said that California is using Medicity, the same vendor as Delaware. A large portion of the grant money California is receiving is being spent on developing functionality in the same system DHIN is working on. California is approaching the information exchange from the administrative end while Delaware has been approaching from the clinical end. DHIN has had multiple discussions with Medicity and both states will meet in the middle. Delaware will benefit from California's work and California will benefit from Delaware's work.

Discussion

Dr. Barkley asked if the stimulus funds would allow DHIN to hire more staff. Mr. White responded that the funds will provide four new positions, perhaps as early as January 2010.

Dennis Rochford asked what percent of the physicians in Delaware is connected to DHIN. Ms. Perez said about 50 percent.

Mr. Rochford suggested that Delaware should charge a consultation fee for providing information on its health information network to other states. This is an opportunity to bring resources into the state. Ms. Perez said that DHIN is developing a model by which it will be charging other states for information on both the technology and infrastructure.

DHIN is potentially eligible for about \$4.6 million through the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) program.

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U. S. Senator Kaufman plans to give a presentation to the Senate about DHIN and innovations in health care.

About 50 percent of Delaware's physicians are connected to DHIN.

DHIN Board Appointments

Mr. Becker explained that the Commission appoints up to six members, plus an additional three representatives of the insurance industry to the DHIN Board of Directors. There are currently some terms about to expire and some vacancies.

The Commission was asked to consider appointing Ted Becker to the DHIN Board of Directors and re-appointing Joann Hasse, Edward Ratledge, and Robert White. There are still vacancies to be filled.

Action

Fred Townsend made a motion to approve the appointment of Ted Becker to the DHIN Board, and the re-appointment of Joann Hasse, Edward Ratledge, and Robert White. Thomas Cook seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Action: State Loan Repayment

Leah Jones reported that the State Loan Repayment Program was awarded \$100,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The grant will supplement and support the existing Loan Repayment Program, and add new eligible specialties, including psychiatrists, psychologists, pediatric dentists and geriatric providers.

The Loan Repayment Program has the following funds available for distribution: \$100,000 available in State DIDER funds through June 30, 2010, \$150,000 available in State DIMER funds through June 30, 2010, and \$200,000 available in federal matching funds through August 30, 2010

Review of DIDER Applications and Recommendations

The Loan Repayment Committee and the DIDER Board reviewed the following applications and made the following recommendations.

Site: DeLaWarr State Service Center, Division of Public Health dental clinic

- 500 Rogers Road, New Castle 19720
- serves approximately 1,148 patients per year, all of whom are Medicaid and/or SCHIP enrollees.
- open 37.5 hours per week – Mon. – Fri. (8:00 am–4:30 pm)
- dentists may be assigned to any of the DPH dental clinics as necessary.
- funding: State funds only

Action

Joanne Hasse, Edward Ratledge and Robert White were re-appointed to the DHIN Board and Ted Becker was appointed as a new member.

The State Loan Repayment Program was awarded \$100,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Yuri ("Judy") Majul, Dentist – (Recruitment)

Dr. Majul was born and raised in Colombia, South America and is bilingual (English/Spanish). She first attended the Metropolitan University of Dentistry in Barranquilla, Colombia, South America. Upon her arrival to the United States she proceeded to pursue her valid U.S. dental license and attended Temple University's School of Dentistry, Philadelphia, PA, where she graduated in May 2007. Dr. Majul completed the General Practice Residency Program at Christiana Care Health Services in August 2008. Dr. Majul has about \$181,795 in loans (verified) and is interested in a two year service commitment and contract.

Dr. Majul started employment with the DeLaWarr State Service Center dental clinic, effective April 27, 2009. Dr. Majul's application was postponed during the last review period.

Site application: Peninsula Dental, LLC (RECRUITMENT)

- 26670 Centerview Drive, Unit 19, in Millsboro, DE 19966
- newly established practice in Sussex County, which is currently under construction.
- joining the practice: Doctors Glen Goleburn, DMD and Neil S. Woloshin, DMD, 2 dental hygienists, 2 dental assistants, and one receptionist/treatment coordinator. Interested in recruiting a third full-time Associate Dentist, with future opportunity for partnership in the practice
- serve patients in Millsboro community.
- loan repayment would serve as a recruitment tool for the new practice.
- open Monday through Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm, and will be on-call on weekends. They anticipate opening the practice in October 2009.

Office Manager, John T. Moore, has assured that the new practice will provide dental services to Medicaid, S-CHIP enrollees as well as uninsured or low-income patients provided care at reduced rates.

Recommendation

The DIDER Board recommended deferring this application until December 2009 to be consistent and comply with the program Review and Approval process. It was requested that DHCC staff contact Dr. Majul and Peninsula Dental Associates, LLC in Millsboro and request that a joint application be submitted for review and approval in December. *Subsequent to the Loan Repayment Review Committee meeting (9/1/09), Dr. Yuri Majul formally notified the DHCC staff in writing that she resigned from the DeLaWarr State Service Center, DPH Dental Clinic. Effective October 26, 2009, Dr. Majul will be working full-time (40 hrs/week) at Peninsula Dental Associates, 26670 Centerview Drive, Unit 19, in Millsboro.* She is requesting that her application reflect this change, and be duly considered for Loan Repayment to practice at the new site location.

Review of DIMER Applications and Recommendations

The Loan Repayment Committee and the DIMER Board reviewed the following applications and made the following recommendations.

Site: The Birth Center: Holistic Women's Health Care, LLC, Wilmington

- provides care to approximately 2000 patients per year
- dedicated to improving prenatal outcomes in Wilmington.
- one-third of their patients are Medicaid enrollees (others are covered under private insurance)
- provides free pregnancy confirmation to all patients, prenatal care, labor/delivery, child birth education classes, post partum home visits, extensive newborn care, breast feeding support, and routine well-woman care
- their nurse midwives can trade call days and office days as needed to accommodate for personal scheduling conflicts or events. Each midwife is allotted four hours of administration time per week.
- funding: State funds only

According to the federal SLRP Regulations, for OB-GYN physicians and certified nurse midwives, the majority of the 40 hours per week (not less than 21 hours) is expected to be spent providing direct patient care. Also, time spent in "on-call" status will not count toward the 40-hour work week.

Nicole Black, Certified Nurse Midwife – (1 Yr. EXTENSION Request)
Ms. Black graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master's in Nursing in 2006. She is licensed in Delaware as an RN. She works a total of 24 hours per week and spends an additional 60 hours on call: Monday and Thursday 9 AM – 5 PM and Wednesday Noon – 8 PM. She also spends significant time responding to labor/delivery. (The site will provide a full account of hours spent in this capacity.) Ms. Black recently completed a loan repayment service obligation contract effective for the period of August 1, 2007 through July 31, 2009 and was awarded \$10,000. At the time of her award she had \$56,000 in loans (verified). Today, her current total student debt burden is \$28,101.93. She is requesting a one year loan repayment extension.

Recommendation

Due to the significant increase in highly qualified loan repayment applications submitted by advanced level practitioners during this review period, the Loan Repayment Committee and the DIMER Board recommended postponing any decisions on loan repayment to mid-level practitioners until the next meeting (scheduled for December 2009).

Westside Family Health Care Applications

This facility has already been approved as a loan repayment site and qualifies for federal matching funds.

Site: Westside Health (FQHC), Wilmington

- 1802 West Fourth Street, Wilmington, DE 19805
- treats 10,875 patients per year.

Kathy Cornelius, MD, Family Physician – (RECRUITMENT – 8/2009)
Dr. Cornelius graduated from the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, OH in May 2006. She completed her residency training at the University of Pennsylvania in Family Medicine in Philadelphia, PA in June 2009. Her license to practice in DE is pending (per 8/17/09 Notice of Receipt from Division of Professional Regulation). Her service commitment and dedication to primary care was rewarded with the Wilburn H. Weddington Award by the Ohio Academy of family physicians, an award given to underrepresented minority students who have displayed exemplary academic, leadership and service skills. She also received the Family Medicine student of the year award in 2006, recognizing her medical school career. In her fourth year residency training, she traveled to and trained in Botswana through a Penn global health initiative. Dr. Cornelius' total student debt burden is about \$183,873.43 (verified) and she is requesting a two year service commitment.

Recommendation

Dr. Kathy Cornelius be awarded loan repayment in the amount of \$25,000 (\$12,500 state and \$12,500 federal) for a two year commitment to practice at Westside Family Healthcare in Wilmington.

Site: Westside Health (FQHC), Wilmington

- 1802 West Fourth Street, Wilmington, DE 19805
- treats 10,875 patients per year.

Megan Gaskill, MD – Family Physician – (RECRUITMENT – 11/3/2009)

Dr. Gaskill graduated from St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, West Indies in June 2005. She completed her residency training at the Saint Joseph Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, NY in Family Practice in June 2008, which she served as Chief Resident during her last year. Dr. Gaskill is licensed to practice in PA and her license to practice in Delaware is currently pending, as her employment contract with Westside does not begin until November 3, 2009. She is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Gaskill's total student debt burden is about \$276, 830 (verified) and she is requesting a two year service commitment.

Recommendation

Recommend that Dr. Megan Gaskill be awarded loan repayment in the amount of \$25,000 (\$12,500 state and \$12,500 federal) for a two year commitment to practice at Westside Family Healthcare in Wilmington.

Site: Westside Health (FQHC), Wilmington

- 1802 West Fourth Street, Wilmington, DE 19805
- treats 10,875 patients per year.

Helen (Katie) C. McCarthy, DO, Pediatrician (RECRUITMENT – 8/8/2009)

Dr. McCarthy graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in Philadelphia, PA in June 2004. She completed her residency training in Pediatrics at the Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, PA in July 2009. During her residency training, she worked in Chester, PA, a desolate city of crime and poverty with one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the country, and provided care to primarily low-income uninsured patients. She was also recognized with a Dr. David Baker Memorial Award for service, teaching, and patient advocacy. Following her traditional pediatric residency, she was chosen to be Chief Resident for one year and was responsible for administrative, clinical and educational duties. She is Board Eligible and plans to take the certifying exam in October 2009. She obtained her license to practice in DE, beginning 8/2/09 through 3/31/11. Dr. McCarthy's total student debt burden is about \$117,912.92 and she is interested in a three year service commitment.

Recommendation

Recommend that Dr. Helen McCarthy be awarded loan repayment in the amount of \$25,000 (\$12,500 state and \$12,500 federal) for a two year commitment to practice at Westside Family Healthcare in Wilmington.

Site: Westside Health (FQHC), Newark (Brookside Office)

- 27 Marrows Road, Newark, DE 19713
- treats 3,476 patients per year.

Shahreen Malik, MD, Pediatrician - (RECRUITMENT – 8/15/2009)

Dr. Malik graduated from the New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY in May 2004. She completed her residency training in Pediatrics at the Stonybrook University Hospital in Stonybrook, NY in June 2007. She is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and licensed to practice in the State of Delaware. During her residency, she requested to work in an underserved Islip Primary Care clinic in Central Islip, NY and worked there for three years, helping patients and their families through a range of health issues, lack of insurance, and follow up care. In her final year of residency, she traveled to and trained in Bangladesh and accepted a rotation at the Dhaka Children's Shishu Hospital, an opportunity

to give back to the country where she was born. Dr. Malik is fluent in three languages including English, Spanish, and Bengali. Dr. Mailk's total student debt burden is about \$216,137 (verified) and she is requesting a two year service commitment.

Recommendation

Recommend that Dr. Shahreen Malik be awarded loan repayment in the amount of \$25,000 (\$12,500 state and \$12,500 federal) for a two year commitment to practice at Westside Family Healthcare in Newark.

Site: Westside Health (FQHC), Newark (Brookside Office)

- 27 Marrows Road, Newark, DE 19713
- treats 3,476 patients per year.

Marcia Reynolds, CRNP-BC - (RECRUITMENT- 6/29/2009)

Ms. Reynolds graduated from Widener University in Chester, PA with an RN and MSN in August 2002. She is board certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and the sub-specialty board of Family Nurse Practitioners. Throughout her career, she has worked in mostly urban underserved areas primarily providing care to the uninsured in hospitals located in Philadelphia, PA including Temple Children, Temple University Hospital, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PA. As a Nurse Practitioner, she worked in a state correctional facility for two years, providing care to inmates and later worked for Spectrum Health Service, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Philadelphia, providing care to the underserved, uninsured women and children. Ms. Reynolds total student debt burden is about \$58,592 (verified) and she is interested in a three year service commitment.

Recommendation

Due to the significant increase in highly qualified loan repayment applications submitted by advanced level practitioners during this review period, the Loan Repayment Committee and the DIMER Board recommended postponing any decisions on loan repayment to mid-level practitioners until the next meeting (scheduled for December 2009).

Site: Westside Health (FQHC), Wilmington

- 908-B East 16th St., Wilmington, DE 19802

Nicole Hancq, MD, Family Physician (RECRUITMENT – 08/10/09)

Dr. Hancq graduated from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, NJ in 2006. She completed her residency training in Family Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA in 2009. Dr. Hancq also completed a Family Medicine Internship at the JFK Medical Center in Edison, NJ in 2007. During medical school, Dr. Hancq was awarded for academic excellence in Family Medicine and during her residency training, she provided instruction on various health care topics to

elementary school children at a local public school, as well as Diabetes group visits at Penn Family Care focused on prevention and education for patients of the practice. Dr. Hancq's total student debt burden is about \$164,911 and she is interested in a two year service commitment.

Recommendation

The Loan Repayment Committee recommended that Dr. Nicole Hancq be awarded loan repayment in the amount of \$25,000 (\$12,500 state and \$12,500 federal) for a two year commitment to practice at Westside Family Healthcare in Wilmington.

Site application: La Red Health Center (FOHC), Georgetown

This facility has already been approved as a loan repayment site and qualifies for federal matching funds.

- 505 West Market Street, Georgetown, DE 19947 (302) 855-1233
- treats 4,839 patients per year. Of the total patient population, 3,387 patients fall below 200% of federal poverty level (fpl).

Recruiting one Family Practice physician and one Family Practice Nurse Practitioner (*Waiting for health professional applications*)
Projected hiring timeline is about 4-6 months to recruit.

Recommendation

Recommend that \$25,000 (\$12,500 state and \$12,500 federal) be reserved to assist La Red Health Center with recruiting a Family Practice Physician.

- Due to the significant increase in highly qualified loan repayment applications submitted by advanced level practitioners during this review period, the Loan Repayment Committee and the DIMER Board recommended postponing any decisions on loan repayment to mid-level practitioners until the next meeting (scheduled for December 2009).

Site: Nanticoke Pediatrics, Seaford

- 613 High Street in Seaford, DE, 19973
- treats approximately 2400 patients per year. About 17.5% of the total patient population fall below 200% federal poverty level. Fifty seven percent of patients, ages Birth to 11, are Medicaid or S-CHIP enrollees.
- the practice is open 45 hours per week and the hours of operation are as follows:
Monday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thursday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- funding: qualifies for federal matching funds

Meredith McComas LeQuear, DO, Pediatrician

Dr. LeQuear graduated from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2004. She completed a residency training program in pediatrics at the Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Isup, New York in June 2007. She practiced in a Suffolk County Clinic in Wyandanch, NY for three years and provided care to primarily the uninsured and Medicaid population. Dr. LeQuear has about \$178,774 in loans (verified) and is requesting a three-year contract.

Dr. LeQuear applied for the loan repayment program in 2008 and was approved in the amount of \$40,000 in loan repayment, and at the time was working for Nemours Pediatrics in Seaford and Georgetown, but decided not to sign the contract. She decided to leave Nemours and accepted employment at a private Urgent Care center in Salisbury, MD. Since that time, Nanticoke Hospital, in reaction to observations in the community, recently opened an office to provide comprehensive pediatric care to serve patients in the local Georgetown area. Dr. LeQuear learned of this opportunity and was recruited to the Nanticoke hospital sponsored practice, and her employment will begin in August 2009. Dr. LeQuear will be working with a team of two physicians (moving from NY and NJ) and a local nurse practitioner.

Recommendation

Recommend that Dr. Meredith McComas LeQuear be awarded loan repayment in the amount of \$25,000 (\$12,500 state and \$12,500 federal) for a two year commitment to practice at Nanticoke Pediatrics in Seaford.

Site: Kahn OBGYN Associates, P.A., Dover

- 1113 S. State Street, Dover, DE 19901
- treats approximately 20,000 patients per year. Of the total patient population, 30% fall below 200% federal poverty level. About 30% are Medicaid or S-CHIP and about 10% are uninsured.
- funding: State Funds Only

Adeline N. Nukuna, MD – (RECRUITMENT)

Dr. Nukuna graduated from the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, NE in 2005. She has at one time lived in Europe and Africa, living with diverse communities, cultures, and has devoted time to volunteer service. She completed a residency training program in OBGYN at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA September 2009. She is bilingual and speaks both English and French. Dr. Nukuna has 17 years of post-secondary education and clinical training, including a three year undergraduate degree in Microbiology as well as a Masters and Doctoral degree in Microbiology. Dr. Nukuna's total student debt burden is about \$291,424.55 (verified) and she is requesting a three year contract and service commitment.

Recommendation

Recommend that Dr. Adeline N. Nukuna be awarded loan repayment in the amount of \$25,000 for a two year commitment to practice at Kahn OBGYN Associates in Dover.

Site: Beebe Medical Center, Lewes, DE (Beebe Medical Physician Network)

- 424 Savannah Road, Suite B, Lewes, DE 19958
- treats 24,643 patients per year (FY08 stats). Of the total patient population, 16% are Medicaid or S-CHIP enrollees, and about 8% are uninsured. Approximately, 2500 patients in FY08, fell below 200% federal poverty level.

Afshin Adili-Khams, MD, Internal Medicine, Geriatrics Fellowship
Dr. Adili-Khams graduated from the University Medical School of Debrecen, located in Hungary in June 2000. He completed his residency training in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall University School of Graduate Medical Education at the Trinitas Hospital located in South Orange, NJ in June 2004. Dr. Adili-Khams is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, and he is licensed to practice in the State of Delaware. In 2005, Dr. Adili-Khams completed a Geriatrics Fellowship at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA. In December 2008, he began working as a full-time hospitalist for Beebe Medical Center and later in April for Kent

General Hospital/Milford Memorial Hospital in Dover. Dr. Adili-Khams total student debt burden is \$38,219 (not verified – Royal bank of Canada, Ontario) and he is interested in a three year service commitment.

Recommendation

Hold. After further research and counsel by the Deputy Attorney General to the DIMER Board, it was determined that the applicant is not a US Citizen, which is a federal program requirement.

It is recommended Dr. Khams' be placed on hold because he is applying for a green card, which would make his application eligible for consideration.

Site: Delcastle Wellness Center, Wilmington 19804

- this site is not physically located in a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area (MH HPSA).

Kristen Rahn, LCSW

Recommendation

Not Approved. The Delcastle Wellness Center is not physically located in a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. Therefore, Dr. Kristen Rahn does not qualify for loan repayment due to the fact that the practice site is not an eligible site located in a HPSA for her discipline.

Action

Richard Heffron made a motion to approve the Loan Repayment recommendations. Dr. Barkley seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

Update: Oral Health Planning Grant

A \$200,000 grant was awarded to Delaware by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for one year of planning activities to expand access to dental health care services and improve oral health outcomes, with a particular focus on Sussex County.

Funds were transferred to the Commission to contract with a vendor, John Snow, Inc. (JSI), to conduct a feasibility analysis in three areas: 1.) a multi-purpose clinic for the underserved population in southern Delaware; 2.) expanding training opportunities for oral health professionals in southern Delaware; and 3.) a case management program targeted at Medicaid children.

JSI's Oral Health Infrastructure Enhancement Feasibility Analysis Project Update is attached to these minutes.

JSI has progressed through two of the phases of the contract. Preliminary information will need to be vetted with key stakeholders in Southern Delaware to see if there is interest in implementing the recommendations. Cost estimates for implementation have been developed, and this information will be shared as well. This information will also need to be shared with the DIDER Board of Directors at its meeting in December before coming back to the Commission for action.

The grant period ends April 30, 2010. Approval is being sought to extend the contract with JSI through May 31, 2010. There is no additional cost involved.

Mr. Rochford inquired about the reaction of the Delaware Dental Society and DIDER Board of Directors to the plan. Ms. Jones said they are very supportive and are eager to see the final report and recommendations.

Action

The Loan Repayment recommendations were approved.

Action

Dennis Rochford made a motion to approve extending the contract with John Snow, Inc. to conduct a feasibility analysis to expand dental health care access in southern Delaware through May 31, 2010. Rita Landgraf seconded the motion. There was a voice vote. Motion carried.

RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

DHCC Annual Report and Strategic Plan

Ms. Roy reminded the Commission that, by statute, the Health Care Commission is required to submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 15 of each year. Typically, the Commissioners would have seen an outline of the report this month and a draft report in December. However, the delay of the Strategic Planning Retreat will postpone the draft report.

A draft report will be submitted to the Commissioners after the November 18 retreat. Commissioners will be asked to take action on the report in January.

Federal Health Care Reform - Deborah Gottschalk, Delaware Health and Social Services Chief Policy Advisor

Deborah Gottschalk presented an overview of health reform activities occurring at the federal level. She stressed that many elements of the reform packages are under active discussion and change. She distributed a handout of side by side comparisons of the House Leadership Bill and the Senate Finance Committee health care reform proposals and talked about key points in each.

The Kaiser Family Foundation web site (www.kff.org) has an interactive side-by-side health reform comparison tool, which is periodically updated and allows users to compare any or all of 13 different proposals.

Health Resources Board – MaryKate McLaughlin

MaryKate McLaughlin reported that changes in the statute for the Health Resources Board are under discussion. If changes are made to the statute it could impact the State Health Resources Management Plan which the Board develops.

The Commission is required to review the plan, so it is possible that changes in the Health Resources Board's statute could impact the Commission.

In order to prepare, Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Roy will work with the Division of Public Health to pull stakeholders together to facilitate discussion of the path forward for the Board.

Action

The Commission approved extending the contract with John Snow, Inc. to conduct a feasibility analysis to expand dental health care access in southern Delaware through May 31, 2010.

By statute, the Health Care Commission is required to submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 15 of each year.

OTHER BUSINESS

DHCC Strategic Planning Retreat

Ms. Roy reminded Commissioners that the Commission's Strategic Planning Retreat will be held on Wednesday, November 18 from 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. in the Buck Library at Buena Vista.

Budget Hearing

The Health Care Commission's internal budget hearing before the Office of Management and Budget is November 23.

Aiming Higher for Health System Performance -the Commonwealth Fund's 2009 State Scorecard

Ms. Roy reported that Delaware was one of seven states highlighted by the Commonwealth Fund's 2009 State Scorecard. Delaware ranks second in the nation in the percentage of at-risk adults who have visited a doctor in the past two years for a routine checkup, first in the nation for adults with a usual source of care and first for residents over age fifty receiving recommended screening and preventive care.

The profile notes that Delaware is *"one of the most improved states in terms of access to preventive care and quality of treatment, jumping ahead of 16 states with dramatic improvements in most quality-related Scorecard measures. Overall, it is one of only three states (plus the District of Columbia) that experienced relative improvement of 5 percent or more on at least half of the state's scorecard indicators with trends."*

Ms. Roy said there is strong evidence that CHAP, the Cancer Treatment Program and Screening for Life have contributed to Delaware's good performance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lolita Lopez, of Westside Family Health Care, expressed gratitude for the loan repayment opportunities for the 5 new physicians. Westside Family Health Care has successfully recruited 13 new providers, and the Loan Repayment Program was critical to bringing them on board.

Joann Hasse reported that she served as moderator for one of the three public hearings of the Delaware Supreme Court Task Force on the Criminal Justice System and Mental Health held in each county. After listening to questions and comments from the audience and panelists, connection with DHIN will be very helpful in the long term because so many people in the criminal justice system have mental health issues. The ability to get information about people when they move from one system to another will be very helpful.

The Commission's Strategic Planning Retreat will be held on Wednesday, November 18 from 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. in the Buck Library at Buena Vista.

The Health Care Commission's internal budget hearing before the Office of Management and Budget is November 23.

Delaware was one of highlighted on the Commonwealth Fund's 2009 State Scorecard.

Delaware is *"one of the most improved states in terms of access to preventive care and quality of treatment, jumping ahead of 16 states with dramatic improvements in most quality-related Scorecard measures."*

Dr. Robert Frelich expressed concern that it was difficult for him to hear the presentations and discussions. He suggested that the Commissioners use microphones.

Dr. Frelich expressed concern that fifty percent of the physicians in Delaware are not connected to DHIN.

It is important not to forget about the dental problems in Sussex County. The State put forth some effort to improve oral health in Delaware by adding fluoride to the water. He asked if the Health Care Commission can request that fluoride be added to the water in Sussex County to reduce the need for dentists.

One of the things that could reduce the cost of medical care is malpractice insurance. The threat of malpractice lawsuits is costly and causes doctors to order extra tests and procedures as a defensive measure. The Commission should become involved with helping physicians in Delaware obtain better malpractice coverage.

Dr. Frelich said that Delaware needs to get better, less expensive health care and set an example for the Federal government on how to do things.

Mr. Becker pointed out that the DHIN has only been up and running for about a year and a half.

Mr. Becker asked Ms. Rita Landgraf to provide the Commission with data on fluoride in Delaware water.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the Farmington/Felton Conference Room on the first floor of the Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Administration Building, 800 S. Bay Road, Dover.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the Farmington/Felton Conference Room on the first floor of the Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Administration Building, 800 S. Bay Road, Dover.

GUESTS

Judy Chaconas	DHSS/Division of Public Health
Dr. Robert Frelich	Medical Society of Delaware
Debbie Gottschalk	Delaware Health and Social Services
Joann Hasse	League of Women Voters
Jon Kirch	AHR/ASA
Lolita Lopez	Westside Family Healthcare
MaryKate McLaughlin	Services for Children, Youth and their Families
George Meldrum	Nemours Foundation
Linda Nemes	Department of Insurance
Sheila Nutter	Electronic Data Systems
Brian Olson	LaRed Health Center
Rosa Rivera	Henrietta Johnson Medical Center
Wayne Smith	Delaware Healthcare Association
Betsy Wheeler	Wheeler and Associates Management Services
Rob White	DPCI/DHIN