



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

December 3, 2020

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair), Theodore W. Becker (Mayor of Lewes), Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), David Roose (Designate for Secretary Geisenberger), Richard Heffron, Melissa Jones, Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN), Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS), Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF), Nick Moriello (Highmark), and Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI)

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Health Care Commission Staff Marques Johnson (Administrative Specialist III), Eschalla Clarke (Social Services Sr. Administrator), Latoya Wright (Manager of Statistics and Research), Ayanna Harrison (Public Health Administrator I), and Elisabeth Massa (Executive Director)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. via Webex video and phone conference. The meeting started with an attendance roll call to check if the commissioners were all on the line. It was determined that a quorum was present. Dr. Fan asked public attendees to virtually sign-in by placing their name and affiliation in the chat box or by sending their name and contact information to the DHCC Resource Account (dhcc@delaware.gov).

Approval of November 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the November 5, 2020, meeting minutes. There were no comments. Ted Becker motioned to approve the minutes. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners who were present. Minutes can be viewed on the DHCC website: https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/dhcc_presentations2020.html

BOARD BUSINESS

DHCC Seasonal Calendar

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the 2020 DHCC Seasonal Calendar which contains topics for discussion at monthly DHCC meetings. She asked the commissioners if they wanted to make any changes. Dr. Fan suggested – move the annual report to March, review the Strategic Retreat in January, and move

the DHIN update to June. Dr. Lee had no issues moving the DHIN update to June for 2021. Dr. Fan shared all meetings would include updates on the Primary Care Reform Collaborative and Health Workforce Subcommittee. Ted Becker suggested discussing tuition reimbursement and/or Student Loan Repayment program earlier in the year in order to help bring recommendations to legislature. David Roose (Secretary Geisenberger's designate) added that for any initiative that may affect budget planning, the earlier the initiative is discussed the better. Dr. Fan asked Ayanna Harrison (DHCC) if the Benchmark discussion should stay in November. Ms. Harrison suggested it should be moved to January because the trend report should be available in Quarter 1. Dr. Fan also suggested that the Children's Behavior health update be moved from September to December. Dr. Margolis (DSCYF) agreed. The commissioners were all in agreement with DHCC Seasonal Calendar adjustments. An updated version of the calendar will be shared with the commissioners at the January 2021 DHCC meeting.

Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) Workplan

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the work plan from DHSA in relation to their work for DIMER outreach. The workplan needs to be modified and approved by the commissioners because COVID has affected some of the planned in-person outreach events. As the commission's representative, Dr. Lee, shared the proposal is moves money around to reallocate funds – no increases or decreases. Dr. Fan asked for a motion to approve. Secretary Magarik motioned to approve, and Ted Becker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all commissioners.

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners if they were still in favor of supporting a state sponsored loan repayment program being included in the upcoming budget and legislative session. The commissioners were in agreement.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Telehealth Update

Susan Campbell, Director of Telehealth (DHSS), provided an update on the state of telehealth medicine in Delaware. She shared information about legislative bills and regulations relevant to telehealth, and their effects on making telehealth medicine a part of standard care during the COVID pandemic. Ms. Campbell also shared information about initiatives to help make telehealth a permanent part of standard care. She spoke about the challenges that are faced reaching the rural health community and what is needed to help meet those challenges. A call for support was also expressed to back initiatives related to telehealth. She also pointed to trying to utilize community and state building centers to help provide access to telehealth services for those without the ability to access. Her presentation is available at, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/telehealth120320.pdf>

Commissioner Trinidad Navarro shared some thoughts about the benefits of telehealth. He is open to suggestions for making the telehealth bill (HB 348) a more powerful bill to the General Assembly. Dr. Fan shared she recently attended a townhall with physicians and asked if Delaware's Telehealth Coalition had any comments on the Telemedicine Compact. Ms. Campbell asked Christina Bryan with Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) if she could comment because she has been sitting in on the Telehealth Coalition meetings. While Ms. Bryan said she could not speak directly to the Compact, DHA is actively

working on what needs to be made permanent in a telehealth bill and if anyone is interested in working together with the DHA, to reach out to her directly.

Dr. Fan asked if there were any initiatives or action items in Telehealth Coalition strategic plan with respect to networking and collaborating resources. Ms. Campbell said she would have to review again the strategic plan because many of the items were very broad. Nick Moriello mentioned that it would be good for the Commission to learn about the pros and cons of joining the Compact to better understand whether supporting it would be in the best interests. Dr. Fan noted that some of the previous barriers that caused hesitation for joining may have fallen by the wayside and agrees that exploring joining the compact would be a good idea for the Commission.

Chat Box Comments:

Christina Bryan - Please feel free to reach out to me if you are interested in working together on telehealth christina@deha.org

Cheryl Heiks - LTC centers have utilized Telehealth during the pandemic in a number of ways. To speak with hospitals for consultations to determine if someone needed to go to the hospital. Also, for follow-up visits with regular doctor appointments. Unfortunately, one of the sources of infection for the vulnerable long-term care residents are visits to out-patient doctor appointments. If those can be minimized to only when absolutely necessary - it will lessen the spread of the virus. Telehealth adoption by more physicians is needed. We are working with hospitals on discharge planning documents to emphasize the use of telehealth for follow-up appointments whenever possible. Facilities and residents have become much more comfortable with telehealth as they connected with families and friends using technology during the pandemic. LTC supports on-going use of telehealth in our settings and reimbursement to all providers.

Lolita Lopez - Christina, Westside Family Healthcare is interested in joining your efforts on telehealth, Maggie Norris Bent will reach out to you directly.

Division of Prevention & Behavioral Health Services

Commissioner Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF) presented an overview of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families Division of Prevention & Behavioral Health Services. He shared information about the division's mission, values, and communities served. One highlight was that due to a shortage in child psychiatrists, they started doing televisits in the facilities. He noted that the kids responded very well. The presentation also highlighted some of the grants that are being used to help provide services to families, one being the Delaware Child Psychiatry Access Program, a program that provides telehealth consultations between a child psychiatrist and primary care providers. Dr. Margolis also highlighted the different facilities used and their functions. His PowerPoint presentation can be found at, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/childrenhealth.pdf>

Dr. Fan asked about if there is a workforce shortage in the child psychiatrist field. Dr. Margolis agreed and pointed to the importance of DIMER and State Loan Repayment program to help address this workforce shortage need.

UPDATES

Marketplace

Insurance Commissioner Navarro first shared an update on the Mental Health Parity Examination as part of Senate Bill 230 where the Department of Insurance investigated parity complaints. The Department found thousands of violations which were expected because this is the first examination done. Highmark and Aetna's investigation led to \$597,000 in fines. United and Cigna investigations are wrapping up now. Many violations have been addressed and more will continue to be addressed, leading to a large decrease in such violations in the future.

Commissioner Navarro also provided a brief update on the Marketplace and shared statistics for the Marketplace Exchange sign-ups. As of November 21, there are 6,402 sign-ups, a 11% increase. He mentioned that off exchange sign-ups have also increased, and advertising has helped. DHCC Commissioner and Secretary Magarik noted that they were able to use funds from the CARES Act to conduct a marketing campaign to target those that have lost jobs and health care coverage due to the pandemic.

Health Workforce Subcommittee

Commissioner Nick Moriello (Subcommittee co-chair) provided an update on the Health Workforce Subcommittee. Secretary Geisenberger is also a co-chair. The group's first meeting will be held on December 10th and most of the members of the committee have been selected: Melissa Jones, Ayanna Harrison, Elisabeth Massa, Maggie Norris-Bent, Kathy Collison, Tim Gibbs, Kathleen Matt, Wayne Smith, Mark Thompson, Cheryl Heiks, and Gwendolyn Scott-Gibbs. At the meeting goals and timelines will be discussed.

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan shared an update on the PCRC. At the last PCRC meeting which was held just before Thanksgiving, the findings and recommendations from the DOI Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery preliminary report were discussed which reaffirmed the goals related to the importance of primary care spend. One finding has shown that the State's level of investment in primary care is low. The goal is to figure out what care and/or pay models will help increase primary care investment without raising Total Cost of Care. This will be the next challenge for the Collaborative to try and get aligned on and focus on the target goals to reach. The next PCRC meeting in December will focus on this challenge. Dr. Fan mentioned that the COVID-19 situation has contributed to the difficulties related to raising cost of care and trying to find solutions to the challenges. The next PCRC will be held on December 21st. Dr. Fan explained what care models are: recommendations for payment models and services that may help practices to invest in primary care spend. Leslie Ledogar (DOI) mentioned that the report is close to being completed and that the collaboration efforts of other agencies to put the report together.

Closing Comments:

Dr. Fan shared information about a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Diversity Program grant (HRSA-21-020). Grantees will support nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds to meet the diverse and cultural needs of rural communities. Those interested can apply at www.grants.gov. A technical assistance webinar will be held on December 18, 2020 that will help applicants understand, prepare, and submit an application for this notice of funding opportunity. Additional information is available on the DHCC website, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/nursingdiversity.pdf>

ADJOURN

Dr. Fan thanked everyone for their participation. She encouraged attendees to check the [State of Delaware Public Calendar](#) for the DHCC meeting location and updates. The next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2021 and will be virtual. Dr. Fan adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:41 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next DHCC meeting will be held on January 7, 2020 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Public Meeting Attendees December 3, 2020

Bill Howard	BDC – Health
Brian Olson	La Red Health Care
Cheryl Heiks	Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
Elizabeth Lewis	Hamilton and Goodman Partners, LLC
Dr. Elizabeth Brown	Delaware Health and Social Services
Geoffrey Christ	Division of Professional Regulation
Joanne Haase	League of Women Voters of Delaware
Leslie Ledogar	Delaware Department of Insurance
Lolita Lopez	Westside Family Healthcare
Maggie Norris Bent	Westside Family Healthcare
Mary Fenimore	Medical Society of Delaware
Mary Perkins	MACHC Goeins-Williams Associates
Dr. Nicholas Conte	Division of Public Health, Oral Health
Randy Munson	United Medicaid LLC
Yvette Santiago	Nemours
Steven Costantino	Delaware Health and Social Services
Jill Fredel	Delaware Health and Social Services
Lincoln Willis	Medical Society of Delaware
Kathy Collison	Division of Public Health
Victoria Brennan	Office of the Controller General
Pamela Price	Highmark

Paula Roy
Lauren Graves
Susan Campbell
Jen Reid
James Nutter
Jeanne Chiquoine
Nora Hoban
Christina Crooks Bryan
Claudia Kane
Fleur Mckendell
David Roose

Roy Associates
AmeriHealth
Delaware Health and Social Services
TAPP Network
PGS Legal
Cancer Society
MACHC
Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA)
DHIN
Department of Insurance
Department of Finance