



## **The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting**

February 4, 2021

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), Cabinet Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours), Richard Heffron, Melissa Jones, Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN), Cabinet 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:** Elisabeth Massa (Executive Director), Ayanna Harrison (Public Health Administrator I), Eschalla Clarke (Social Services Senior Administrator), and Latoya Wright (Manager Statistics and Research)

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. via WebEx video and phone conference. She highlighted we are now approaching the one-year mark of the COVID pandemic.

Dr. Fan announced the Commission has a new board member – Roger Harrison, Ph.D., a Pediatric Psychologist with the Division of Behavioral Health, Nemours A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children. Dr. Harrison was appointed by the Governor to serve in the board position previously held by Dr. Edmondo Robinson.

In the interest of time, Dr. Fan delayed approval of the January 7, 2021 meeting minutes until after the Governor's Recommended Budget presentation.

#### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

##### **COVID/VACCINE Update**

Dr. Karyl Rattay, Director of the Division of Public Health, provided an update on Delaware's response to COVID-19. Dr. Rattay started her presentation sharing data regarding Delaware's number of new cases, positive cases, hospitalizations, and lives lost. The current data shows some improvement and trends heading in the right direction in Delaware. Delaware is one of the states with the highest testing rates in the nation. Deaths have been mostly individuals over the age of 65, however, the youngest adults (age 18-34) have the highest rate of infection and adults (age 35-49) are the second highest.

For the next part of her presentation, Dr. Rattay shared a snapshot of where Delaware currently stands with respect to vaccines (110,707 administered, 131,775 doses delivered, and 21,068 doses remaining). Phase 1A has been focused on long term care residents/staff and the health care workforce. Phase 1B are those age 65+ and front-line workforce. These two phases there are almost 600,000 doses. Dr. Rattay shared a recent *New York Times* article placed Delaware as a top 10 state in vaccine roll out. DHSS is working with vaccine partners CURATIVE and Vault Health to expand Delaware's vaccine capacity. Dr. Rattay also shared there is a significant concern about the inequities of who has been vaccinated so far. This is a high priority for the Governor and DHSS. The Division of Public Health is actively working to reach underserved communities by working with hospitals, pharmacies, medical practices, and FQHCs. DPH will also be releasing community toolkits. Finally, Dr. Rattay shared information about COVID Alert DE app and information about testing <http://de.gov/gettested>.

Commissioner Navarro asked Dr. Rattay if she could speak to the number of health care workers that have been vaccinated. He heard various reports that the number is quite low. Dr. Rattay shared there was a slower start during the holidays because of vaccine hesitancy.

Secretary Geisenberger asked about second shots and new shots for those in 1B. He has heard from people who are concerned they are not going to be able to get their second dose. Dr. Rattay said they are committed to getting second doses to those that received a first dose as close to the 21-days or 28-days as possible.

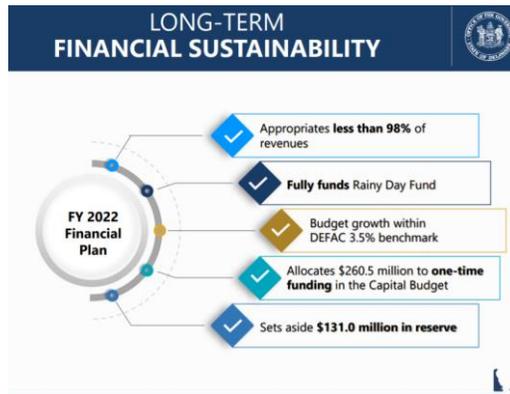
Dr. Fan shared a comment from the WebEx chat box: Is there a DPH contact for help for the Hispanic and black communities? Dr. Rattay advised individuals should contact [vaccine@delaware.gov](mailto:vaccine@delaware.gov), if interested in vaccinating a community, [vaccineplanning@delaware.gov](mailto:vaccineplanning@delaware.gov)



Dr. Rattay's presentation is available at, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/covidupdtph020421.pdf>

### **Governor's Recommended Budget**

Secretary Geisenberger presented a summary of the Governor's Recommended Budget. The Governor has been keeping his promise to build a long-term sustainable budget. Secretary Geisenberger explained revenue volatility vs. benchmark spending stability showing Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2022. The State's Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Plan:



Secretary Geisenberger highlighted the investments in statewide school infrastructures, economic development, clean water initiative, investing in downstate judicial facilities, and investments in health of Delawareans. DHSS budget snapshot which includes \$500,000 to create a health care provider loan repayment program:

<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES</b>	
(S. thousands)	
DMMA - Medicaid "Growth"	\$12,500.0
DDDS - Community Placements & Graduates	\$2,016.7
DMMA - Delaware Healthy Children Program (CHIP)	\$2,000.0
DSAAPD/DVI - Growth in Community Services	\$1,519.0
Behavioral Health & Treatment	\$810.0
DSA&MH Community Housing Supports	\$528.0
Health Care Provider State Loan Repayment Program	\$500.0
<hr/>	
ASF – Opioid Impact Fund	\$700.0
ASF – Background Check Center	\$1,000.0
ASF to GF – School Health Centers, CHIP, Renal, etc.	\$8,101.0
<hr/>	
<b>GF Budget: \$1,268,680,100</b>	
<b>2.34% growth</b>	

In February and March, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will hold hearings with agencies and advocates to consider Governor Carney’s recommended operating budget. The budget will be marked-up in April and May. The General Assembly passes the appropriation bills and the Governor signs by June 30. Fiscal Year 2021 starts on July 1, 2020.

Secretary Geisenberger’s presentation is available at, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/fy22budgetpresentation.pdf>

**BOARD BUSINESS**

**Approval of January 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

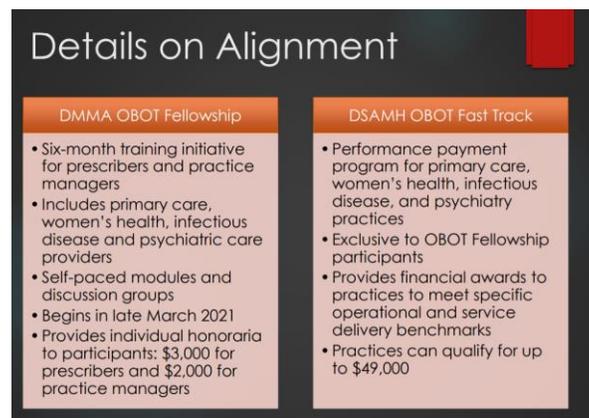
Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the draft January 7, 2021 meeting minutes. There were no comments. Ted Becker motioned to approve the minutes, and Secretary Magarik seconded. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The approved minutes are available at, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/dhccmmfnljan2021.pdf>.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

### Office-Based Opioid Treatment Fellowship

Jacob Bowling with the DHSS Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) shared information about a new program, Office-Based Opioid Treatment Fellowship (OBOT), supported via the Support Act Planning grant by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$3,579,864 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. There are three components of the Support Act Planning grant: 1) technical assistance, 2) assessing Medicaid rates, and 3) strengthen SUD and opioid use disorder prevalence and ongoing surveillance.

The initiative is a coordinated effort between DMMA and the DHSS Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH). OBOT dovetails nicely with DSAMH's OBOT Fast Track initiative.



**Details on Alignment**

DMMA OBOT Fellowship	DSAMH OBOT Fast Track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Six-month training initiative for prescribers and practice managers</li><li>• Includes primary care, women's health, infectious disease and psychiatric care providers</li><li>• Self-paced modules and discussion groups</li><li>• Begins in late March 2021</li><li>• Provides individual honoraria to participants: \$3,000 for prescribers and \$2,000 for practice managers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance payment program for primary care, women's health, infectious disease, and psychiatry practices</li><li>• Exclusive to OBOT Fellowship participants</li><li>• Provides financial awards to practices to meet specific operational and service delivery benchmarks</li><li>• Practices can qualify for up to \$49,000</li></ul>

Office-Based opioid treatment is the provision of medications to treat addiction in an outpatient medical setting and the gold standard for opioid use disorder treatment. The OBOT Fellowship has two tracks – administrative (practice managers) and clinical (prescribers). There is hope the practice managers and prescribers participate in pairs. Phase 1 starts (March 2021) with self-paced modules with weekly discussion groups. Phase 2 (April 2021 – September 2021) bi-weekly interactive webinars tailored to needs and interest.



**Next Steps**

- Register for or inquire about the OBOT Fellowship by emailing Jake Bowling at [SUPPORTAct@Delaware.gov](mailto:SUPPORTAct@Delaware.gov) or [Jacob.Bowling@Delaware.gov](mailto:Jacob.Bowling@Delaware.gov)
- After registering, instructions will be provided on how to apply for the OBOT Fast Track program
- Spread the word to colleagues

Dr. Fan opened the meeting to questions. She asked, wearing her ACOG hat, if this presentation could be shared with their members and where is the role with the X waiver (a SAMHSA and DEA requirement that

a special waiver to prescribe Buprenorphine). Mr. Bowling describe the waiver as a barrier to prescribers and can contribute to stigma and discrimination. The X waiver is still the “law of the land.” Steven Costantino (DHSS) shared many states, not just Delaware, have struggled with prescribing and that the OBOT Fellowship is an opportunity to get practices engaged. Secretary Magarik added they hear from providers that want to get into this space but concerned they will be flooded with patients that could crowd out other areas. One of the goals with the OBOT Fellowship is to increase the number of providers providing OBOT. The Secretary also wanted to acknowledge and thank Dr. Liz Brown (DMMA) and Dr. Sherry Nykiel (DSAMH) for all their hard work.

Mr. Bowling’s presentation is available at,  
<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/obotdsamhprest2021.pdf>

## **UPDATES**

### **Health Workforce Subcommittee**

Commissioner Nick Moriello (Subcommittee co-chair) provided an update on the Health Workforce Subcommittee’s second meeting which was held on January 20. The meeting included a presentation from the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association and a discussion on whether the Subcommittee should explore an ecosystem workforce analysis. The meeting also included a presentation from DHCC Commission Dr. Margolis around shortages in Child Psychiatry. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 17 will include a presentation from the Division of Professional Regulation (DPR) and explore health initiatives, policies and activities that would be most impactful and then the committee would make recommendations to the Commission.

### **House Bill 48, Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program**

Dr. Fan provided an update on House Bill 48, the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program that was introduced in the State House and making its way through the legislative process.



The infographic features a blue header with the text "House Bill (HB) 48". Below the header, a white box contains the text: "This Act establishes a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program for new primary care providers to be administered by the Delaware Health Care Commission". At the bottom, a list of three bullet points details the legislative timeline: "01/07/21 – HB 48 introduced by Rep. David Bentz", "01/13/21 – Amendment HA 1 placed with HB 48", and "01/21/21 – Voted out of House Health & Human Development Committee".

House Bill (HB) 48

This Act establishes a Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program for new primary care providers to be administered by the Delaware Health Care Commission

- 01/07/21 – HB 48 introduced by Rep. David Bentz
- 01/13/21 – Amendment HA 1 placed with HB 48
- 01/21/21 – Voted out of House Health & Human Development Committee



The legislation would create a state-sponsored loan repayment program administered by the DHCC. The DHCC may award education loan repayment grants to new primary care providers of up to \$50,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years. Priority consideration may be given to DIMER-participating students and participants in Delaware based residency programs.

Dr. Fan also highlighted the current State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) application cycle ends on March 15 and encouraged practitioners to apply.

#### State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

- Application cycle ends March 15, 2021 and September 15, 2021
- \$450,000 available annually for practitioner awards
- Receive loan repayment ranging from \$60,000 - \$200,000 for 4 years of service in a HPSA
- Eligibility and application information available on the program <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhcc/slrp.html>



#### Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan provided an update of the PCRC's recent activity. The PCRC met on January 25 and present components of possible primary care legislation that might be introduced this legislative session. Many of the components came from the DOI Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery work. The PCRC members were asked to review the legislation and provide comment by February 10. Members of the public can also comment. SB 227, the legislation that created the PCRC, sunsets this June. Leslie Ledogar (DOI) commented DOI is in the process of reviewing the comments.

#### ADJOURN

Dr. Fan thanked everyone for their participation. She mentioned February is heart awareness and black history month. Attendees are encouraged to check the [State of Delaware Public Calendar](#) for the DHCC meeting location and updates. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2021 and will be virtual. Dr. Fan adjourned the meeting.

#### Next Meeting

The next DHCC meeting will be held on March 4, 2021 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

#### Public Meeting Attendees February 4, 2020

Brian Olson  
Krissy Yurkanin  
Pam Gardner  
Rebecca Goldsmith  
Sherman Townsend  
Shay Scott  
Mary Fenimore

La Red Health Care  
Aloysius Butler & Clark  
Delaware Health Sciences Alliance  
Department of Finance  
DIMER  
Henriette Johnson Medical Center  
Medical Society of Delaware

Claudia Kane  
Hamilton Goodman Partners  
Jacob Bowling  
Jules Villecco  
Dr. Elizabeth Brown  
Joanne Haase  
Leslie Ledogar  
Lolita Lopez  
Dr. Nicholas Conte  
Randy Munson  
Steven Costantino  
Lincoln Willis  
Kathy Collison  
Paula Roy  
Lauren Graves  
Fleur Mckendell  
David Roose  
Joe Bryant  
Patricia Redmond  
Chris Haas  
Lori Ann Rhoads  
Bill Howard  
Bonnie Miller  
Emily Vera  
John Dodd  
Judy Chaconas  
David Baker  
Carolanne Obrien  
Margaret Hassman

Delaware Center for Health Innovation  
  
Delaware Health and Social Services  
Delaware Health and Social Services  
Delaware Health and Social Services  
League of Women Voters of Delaware  
Delaware Department of Insurance  
Westside Family Healthcare  
Division of Public Health, Oral Health  
United Medicaid LLC  
Delaware Health and Social Services  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Division of Public Health  
Roy Associates  
AmeriHealth  
Department of Insurance  
Department of Finance  
Governor's Office  
Nemours  
Department of Insurance  
Medical Society of Delaware  
BDC - Health