



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

March 4, 2021

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

### **Meeting Attendance and Minutes**

**Commission Members Present:** Theodore W. Becker (Mayor of Lewes), Cabinet Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours), Richard Heffron, Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN), Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS), Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF), and Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI)

**Meeting Facilitator:** Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS)

**Commission Members Absent:** Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair), Melissa Jones, Nick Moriello (Highmark)

**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**

Secretary Magarik called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. via WebEx video and phone conference. She introduced herself as the guest chair as Dr. Fan was called to an emergency surgery.

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

#### **ACTION ITEM: Approve February 4, 2021 meeting minutes**

Secretary Magarik asked the commissioners to review the draft February 4, 2021 meeting minutes. There were no comments or changes. Dr. Lee motioned to approve the minutes. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The approved minutes are available on the [DHCC website](#).

#### **ACTION ITEM: Approve DHSA/DIMER scope of work and metrics**

Next, Secretary Magarik shared the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) contract to support their partnership with DIMER is up for renewal. A new DHSA scope of work and metrics were sent to the commissioners in advance to the meeting to review. DIMER chair (Sherman Townsend) and DHSA (Pam Gardner) were available at the meeting if there were comments or questions. The DIMER board approved the scope and metrics at a DIMER meeting on February 16. The DHCC board now needs to approve. Secretary Magarik asked the board if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none,

she asked for a motion to approve. Ted Becker motioned to approve, and Commissioner Navarro seconded. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The DHCC staff will now finalize the contract. Secretary Magarik thanked DHSa for the fruitful partnership with the DIMER program.

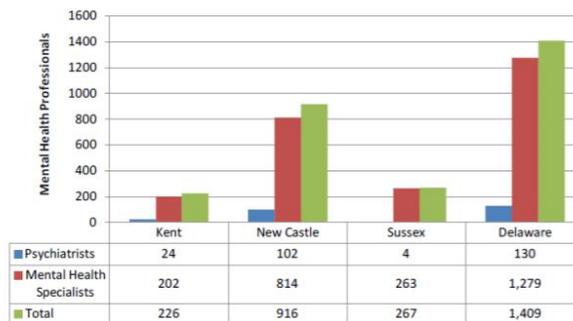
**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

**Mental Health Surveillance Results**

Secretary Magarik introduced Tibor Tóth, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Biden School of Public Policy & Administration with the University of Delaware. Dr. Toth previously presented at a Health Care Commission meeting the [“Primary Care Physicians in Delaware 2018”](#) report. Dr. Toth shared a summary of the results of the mental health professionals in Delaware study which was released in early March. It is part of a series of studies that are conducted as part of a contract with the Department of Health and Social Services. The Mental Health Professionals in Delaware was conducted at the end of December 2019 and spring of December 2020. The study was conducted in 2005, 2009, and 2014. The survey included psychiatrists and mental health specialists. A list of all mental health professionals was obtained from the Division of Professional Regulation. This list contained around 2,800 licenses some of which were inactive or duplicates. As a result, the list was reduced to 2,685 professionals licensed in Delaware. From the 2,685 there were 1,753 professionals that had a license for an address listed in Delaware and 120 professionals had a license in zip codes adjacent to Delaware – this is the group surveyed. From this group of 1,873, there were 504 usable responses received which is a response rate around 26%. While a higher response rate is desired, this type of low response rate is what they are seeing across all surveys.

Dr. Tóth’s presentation highlighted the data gleaned from the survey. The slide below shows the breakdown of mental health professionals in Delaware by county with a total of 130 psychiatrists and 1,279 mental health specialists.

**Figure 2.1**  
**Number of Mental Health Professionals by County, Delaware, 2019**



Source: Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Mental Health Professionals in Delaware, 2019.

Dr. Tóth compared data from 2014 to 2019. There has been a decline in psychiatrists (98 professionals in 2014 to 86 in 2019). There has been an increase in mental health specialists (541 professionals in 2014 to 743 in 2019). Dr. Toth also shared data on professionals by gender, race, languages spoken other than English, age, education level, and practice information. The study also contained data on mental health professionals' clinical settings, hours worked, same day access to patients, accepting new patients, and participation in insurance plans.

Ted Becker commented the numbers in Sussex County are quite alarming and noted nothing was referenced about Sun Behavioral Health which opened in Georgetown. Dr. Tóth shared this may be due to the timing of the survey and not all providers responded to the survey. Dr. Roger Harrison asked Dr. Tóth for some clarification on the data and the separation of psychiatrists and other mental health specialists. Dr. Jan Lee asked what the implications are for receiving the shortage designation. Dr. Tóth shared with the shortage designation, resources could be pulled down from the federal government. Dr. Harrison asked about the survey response rate and what are the plans to increase provider participation. Dr. Tóth said in the past the greatest response rate was in allied health. For this study, the responses are weighed appropriately. The providers are contacted via email, mailings and through stakeholder outreach.

Dr. Tóth's presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#).

### **Apollo Youth in Medicine**

Secretary Magarik introduced the Apollo: Youth in Medicine, a program that provides physician shadowing and educational opportunities for high school students. Apollo was founded in the summer of 2018 by three students and community leaders as a partnership between the Delaware Youth Leadership Program (DYLN) and the Medical Society of Delaware (MSD). The goal of Apollo is to reduce barriers for high school students as they seek to explore their interest in the medical field. Apollo helps expose high school students to the medical profession through three opportunities: physician shadowing, educational sessions, and Enhanced Experiences. Apollo is open to any student attending high school in Delaware currently in their junior or senior year.

The presenters included:

- Ruth Wilhelm Padua '21, 2020-2021 Apollo: Youth in Medicine President
- Andrew MacWilliams Archmere '21, 2020-2021 Apollo: Youth in Medicine Vice President
- Arjan Kahlon Wilmington Charter '22, Apollo: Youth in Medicine Co-founder

The presenters went into greater detail about the program sharing information about how the program works, the benefits for students and physicians, and opportunities for future growth.

ApolloProgram.org • apolloYIMde@gmail.com

## What is Apollo?

- **Student-founded, student-led**
- HIPAA Training & legal forms for students
- Provides insight to high school students about physician career paths
- Coordinates with high schools
  - Excused student absences
  - Student selection
- Provides an opportunity to increase student knowledge and networking
- Exclusive educational opportunities/enrichment
  - Cadaver dissection, Corona Class lecture series, Virtual Sessions, Instagram outreach, specialty primers

**Gastrointestinal (GI) Clinical Dept**

**What is GI?**

GI refers to the organs of the gastrointestinal system. GI disease includes a wide range of conditions, including: gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), peptic ulcer disease, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), celiac disease, and colorectal cancer.

**Common Terms:**

- **GI:** Gastrointestinal
- **GI Tract:** The organs of the gastrointestinal system, including the mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, and rectum.
- **GI Disease:** Any disease of the gastrointestinal system.
- **GI Surgery:** Surgery of the gastrointestinal system.
- **GI Oncology:** The study of cancer of the gastrointestinal system.
- **GI Endoscopy:** The use of a camera to examine the interior of the gastrointestinal tract.
- **GI Pathology:** The study of disease of the gastrointestinal system.
- **GI Radiology:** The use of imaging techniques to diagnose GI disease.
- **GI Therapeutics:** The treatment of GI disease.

SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT: lo – Youth in Medicine Student Observation Program      Parental Consent and Release      Acknowledgement of HIPAA Training (Signature & Date by Individual Shadowing/Observing to be signed AFTER training session)



The presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#).

Secretary Magarik thanked the presenters and opened the meeting to questions and/or comments from the commissioners. Dr. Lee expressed she was completely in awe of what they have been able to accomplish and wished a program like this was available when she was in high school and interested in a career in medicine. Rich Heffron expressed how important mentoring is and offered his congratulations on a great program. Secretary Geisenberger shared with the presenters information about the DHCC Health Workforce Subcommittee and mentioned he or Nick Moriello (the Subcommittee co-chair) would likely be in touch with them. He wondered if other programs similar to Apollo exist for other areas of the healthcare workforce and if there are opportunities to leverage the type of shadowing work example that the Apollo program is doing. It would also be helpful to hear more from the perspective of students. Ruth Wilhelm mentioned that the Apollo program shares information about the DIMER program with students and encourages students to come back to Delaware to practice. Commissioner Navarro complimented the presenters for a wonderful program and asked how the DHCC could be supportive and/or how could Apollo partner with the DHCC. Andrew MacWilliams shared the more partnerships the program can have, the better leading to more increased opportunities for students.

**Public Comment from the WebEx Chat Box:**

Christina Haas (Department of Insurance): Incredible work and presentation, Apollo!

David Baker (Sussex Econ. Dev. Action): Is Apollo available in Sussex?

Joann Hasse (League of Women Voters of Delaware): I suggest viewing at least one Hlth Care Comm meeting be made part of the students introduction to the program so that they can get a broader view of providing health care.

Ruth Wilhelm (Apollo: Youth in Medicine): Currently we are not. It was one of our goals for 2020-2021, but COVID limited physician volunteers. We are hoping to expand to Sussex county as soon as in-person shadowing is possible. In addition, we are hoping to increase our outreach to physicians in Sussex county through partnerships.

David Baker (Sussex Econ. Dev. Action): That would be most appreciated, especially since the greatest Doctor shortages are in Sussex and Kent. Great program!

Anthony Onugu (UMACO): There's an opportunity for the program to present at our UMACO Provider Meetings

Mary Fenimore (Medical Society of Delaware): Bravo Apollo!!!

Margaret O'Dwyer (DYLN): Thank you for inviting us to present

Additional Public Comment:

Dr. Randeep Kahlon, a physician mentor for the Apollo Program, shared the students planned to go statewide in 2020, but the COVID pandemic delayed the expansion. The students are taking steps to make the program go statewide. He also mentioned that other hospitals have similar programs, but what makes the Apollo Program unique is the program goes across counties and is student-run.

For more information about Apollo, <https://www.apolloprogram.org/> and the DHCC meeting presentation, [https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/apollopresn\\_030421.pdf](https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/apollopresn_030421.pdf).

## **UPDATES**

### **Health Workforce Subcommittee**

Secretary Geisenberger (Subcommittee co-chair) provided an update on the Health Workforce Subcommittee's third meeting which was held on February 17. The meeting included a presentation from the Division of Professional Regulation on interstate licensure compacts and how licensure compacts benefit the residents of Delaware and state regulatory authorities. There was also a discussion about leveraging data and studies already existing when assessing workforce needs and capacity. One idea is to collect real-time, actionable data instead of one-time survey data. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 17.

Secretary Magarik asked how the Subcommittee was defining the health workforce, are they thinking about those who do not provide clinical care? Secretary Geisenberger said that he and Nick Moriello are looking very broadly at the health care workforce. Rich Heffron asked if community health workers were on the Subcommittee's agenda. Secretary Geisenberger confirmed they are including community health workers.

### **Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)**

Secretary Magarik shared a short update on the PCRC. The February meeting was cancelled, and the next meeting is Monday, March 8 at 5pm and the focus of the discussion will center around potential legislation for PC spend targets.

### **Health Resources Board (HRB)**

Secretary Magarik shared an update on the HRB Joint Legislative Oversight & Sunset review. The Committee will hold a HRB Recommendation Meeting on March 18 at 9 a.m. There will be no public

comment at the Recommendations Meeting. Public comments can be sent in writing to [sunset@delaware.gov](mailto:sunset@delaware.gov). The public will be able to view the meeting live via YouTube on the General Assembly's live stream. That viewing link will be posted on the agenda.

**Public Comment:**

Pam Gardner (DHSA) thanked Secretary Magarik and the commissioners for their work and engagement with DIMER.

Cheryl Heiks (Delaware Health Care Facilities Association) commented she would like to encourage orientation to long term care facilities for those participating in the DIMER program. Pam

Wayne Smith (Delaware Healthcare Association) commented he enjoyed listening to the Apollo Program presentation. He also made comments on the potential primary care reform legislation.

**ADJOURN**

Secretary Magarik thanked everyone for their participation and asked for a motion to adjourn. Rich Heffron made the motion, and Ted Becker seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting**

The next DHCC meeting will be held on April 1, 2021 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**Public Meeting Attendees  
March 4, 2020**

Brian Olson	La Red Health Care
Julie Saville	MeadowWood Hospital
Katie Macklin	Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter
Ruth Wilhelm	Padua Academy
Andrew MacWilliams	Archmere
Arjan Kahlon	Charter School of Wilmington
Margaret O'Dwyer	DYLN and ChristianaCare Trustee
Dr. Randeep Kahlon	MSD Past President
Cheryl Heiks	Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
Christian Crooks Bryan	Delaware Healthcare Association
Wayne Smith	Delaware Healthcare Association
David Roose	Department of Finance
Melissa Marlin	Department of Finance
Geoffrey Christ	Division of Professional Regulation
Nora Hoban	Mid-Atlantic Assoc. of Community Health Centers
Pam Price	Highmark Delaware

Pam Gardner	Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Sherman Townsend	DIMER
Mary Fenimore	Medical Society of Delaware
Jules Villecco	Delaware Health and Social Services
Dr. Elizabeth Brown	Delaware Health and Social Services
Jill Fredel	Delaware Health and Social Services
Steven Costantino	Delaware Health and Social Services
Joanne Haase	League of Women Voters of Delaware
Leslie Ledogar	Delaware Department of Insurance
Lolita Lopez	Westside Family Healthcare
Lincoln Willis	Medical Society of Delaware
Kathy Collison	Division of Public Health
Paula Roy	Roy Associates
Lauren Graves	AmeriHealth
David Roose	Department of Finance
Patricia Redmond	Nemours
Chris Haas	Department of Insurance
Bonnie Miller	Goeins-Williams Associates, Inc
Judy Chaconas	Retired healthcare policy& program professional
David Baker	Sussex Econ. Dev. Action
John Dodd	BDC – Health
Anthony Onugu	UMACO
Lynn Robinson	