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.
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.
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 prospective 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.


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. 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.

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**Public Meeting Attendees**  
**March 4, 2020**

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