



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

January 5, 2023

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

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present: Theodore Becker, Dr. Nancy Fan (St. Francis), Cabinet Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Richard Heffron, Melissa Jones, Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI), Nick Moriello (Highmark), Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS), Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours), Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF), and Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN)

Meeting Facilitator: Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik and Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Commission Members Absent: NONE

Health Care Commission Staff: Stephanie Hartos (Public Health Administrator), Latoya Wright (Manager of Statistics and Research), Colleen Cunningham (Senior Social Service Administrator), Elisabeth Massa (Executive Director), and Tynietta R. Congo-Wright (Administrative Specialist III)

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Molly Magarik opened the meeting in place of Dr. Fan as she had an emergency.

It was determined a quorum was present, and Secretary Magarik called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m. via WebEx. Secretary Magarik asked public attendees to virtually sign-in by placing their name and affiliation in the chat box or by sending an email to the DHCC Resource Account (dhcc@delaware.gov).

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve December 1, 2022, meeting minutes

Secretary Magarik asked the commissioners to take a moment to review the December 1, 2022, meeting minutes. Nick Moriello made a motion to approve the minutes. Ted Becker seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved for the commissioners present. The minutes are available on the [DHCC website](#).

Secretary Magarik took a moment to provide an update on COVID. With the holidays ending, the Division of Public Health is seeing cases go up and a new variant has come into play. Currently, there is no cause for panic. The current COVID vaccine booster is effective to handle this variant. Secretary Magarik stated that if Delawareans have not received a COVID vaccine by the summer of 2022 and have not had a recent COVID case, to please get vaccinated. It is also not too late to get the flu vaccine.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Delaware State University National Institute of Health (NIH) Research Grant

Melissa Harrington, PhD., Associate Vice-President for Research Director, Delaware Center for Neuroscience Research Co-director, Health Equity Research Center with Delaware State (DSU), shared with the Commission a few exciting updates at DSU. DSU is on the rise right now, the U.S. News and World Report has ranked DSU as the number two best colleges for historical black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and number 8 overall among state colleges and universities nationwide. DSU's infrastructure has grown with the purchase of Wesley College, which enables DSU to add more programs.

DSU was awarded a U54 Research Centers at Minority Institutions grant to initiate the Interdisciplinary Health Equity Research (IHER) Center. DSU received \$18.3 million for 5 years. The grant is renewable. The goal is to develop DSU as a leader in health equity research by supporting new research initiatives and collaborate with community organizations across Delaware. IHER will embrace a Community First in All Research with a particular focus in Kent and Sussex Counties. Several projects will be funded by this grant:

- Investigation of Mental, Physical, & Sleep Health: The Role of Social Determinants
- Integrating Low-Cost Paper-Based Devices and Personalized Immunotherapeutic to Treat Triple Negative Breast Cancer
- Machine learning based program looking at biomarkers for metabolic and age-related diseases in imaging.

Dr. Fan thanked Dr. Harrison for sharing an overview of the NIH grant and other activities at DSU. Dr. Fan asked the commissioners if there were any questions. There were no questions.

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

From the WebEx Chat Box

from Anthony Onugu to everyone:

Would be helpful to explore options for integrating this into a pragmatic health research setting, especially in the ambulatory setting.

from Melissa Harrington to everyone:
Absolutely, I would love to connect people to explore options.

from Anthony Onugu to everyone:
Will email you

Health Force and “State of the Delaware Healthcare Workforce Report 2022 ACTION AND OPPORTUNITY”

Mr. Tim Gibbs, Executive Director, Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association (DAM/DPHA), started his presentation by acknowledging Dr. Jan Lee for winning the 2022 Health Care Leader of the Year award. Mr. Gibbs also thanked the DHCC for their support and funding for Delaware Health Force.

Healthcare and healthcare access are modifiable, social determinants of health. In 2019, DAM/DPH started the Delaware Health Force project to look at the comprehensive health care workforce in Delaware in collaboration with the DHCC, the Division of Professional Regulation (DPR), and the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN). Mr. Gibbs shared that his presentation today would focus on the data and research component of the project.

In June of 2022, there were 63,000 active healthcare provider licenses within DELPRO. Within that number, there are a number of providers that have a CSR license which enables them to prescribe. In the future, the goal is to delve deeper into the numbers, breaking them down by location, gender, area of study, etc.

Mr. Gibbs shared the following data points:

- Physician license by birth year
- Physician grouped by AAMC specialty
- All nurse license type
- Behavioral Health workforce

For various reasons the following foundational components of our healthcare system are not included in this report:

- Certified Nurse Assistants – licensed in a different division
- Direct Service Providers – licensed in a different division, and not at an individual level
- Dental Assistant – licensed in a different division
- Medical Assistant – not licensed in Delaware
- Community Health Workers – not yet a licensed group in Delaware

Mr. Gibbs shared key takeaways from the report which are highlighted in his slide below:

Key Takeaways

- The nursing sector is the largest single component of our healthcare delivery system. Registered Nurses make up the largest component with over 20,000 licenses followed by LPNs and Family Nurse Practitioners.
- Nursing represents a wide range of specialization, and scope of practice which compliments, and supplements other degree types in medicine including physicians and physician assistants.
- Distribution of our nursing colleagues throughout the state closely parallels that of other medical providers – and all are driven by the location of hospitals and clinics.
- Nursing adapts and grows, to serve the needs of our community, and encouraging nurses to practice to the top of their license is common sense.
- The pandemic, aging workforce, and growing population (especially in Kent and Sussex) show that supply of nursing is not keeping up with current and future demand statewide. This is no one's fault, and everyone's opportunity to address.
- The pandemic also highlighted the essential nature of caring for our own caregiver colleagues of all types, encouraging mental health and wellness, and embracing the profoundly challenging nature of caring for our fellow Delawareans.

Key points from the report:

- 1st Quarter 2023, Division of Professional Regulation data dashboard goes live at <https://dehealthforce.org/> as a part of DHCC's ongoing collaborative arrangement with DPR.
- Graduate Medical Education Expansion in Kent and Sussex, and select areas in New Castle County
- Expanded Student Financial Aid program starts loaning funds to Delaware residents attending Delaware school 1stQuarter 2023.
- Mini Medical School Pathways program for youth starts this spring with goal of 1500-2000 students per year.
- From HRSA funded activities DAM/DPHA is working diligently on Community Health Worker advancement in Delaware.

The complete Delaware Health Force Report is available at, <https://dehealthforce.org/>

At the conclusion of Mr. Gibbs' presentation, Dr. Fan asked if the Workforce Subcommittee co-chairs had any comments. Secretary Geisenberger noted the Commission should take ownership as a Commission around where the gaps in data are and what public policies can we recommend filling in those gaps perhaps licensing, nursing home administrators, etc. He next suggested the Commission should explore what role the Commission plays in respect to what is done with the data. Mr. Moriello agreed with Secretary Geisenberger and added the Workforce Subcommittee could convene and develop policy recommendations that are taken forward to the Commission for consideration.

Dr. Fan asked if there was a way to align with the studies that are being led by the Division of Public Health. Secretary Geisenberger responded the Commission will have to partner with other organizations to explore further.

Dr. Roger Harrison asked how the Commission can have a more integrated approach as it pertains to inclusion and diversity, and the health and equity aspects. How well is the Commission able to meet the language needs of our community? Mr. Harrison stated the Commission has a great opportunity to integrate this idea of representation and inclusion. Secretary Geisenberger commented this was one of the data gaps. If the data was collected during the licensing process, the public policy question is can you require that type of information? Mr. Gibbs noted DELPRO does not collect that data, however, that is something to investigate for the future as voluntary data to disclose. Mr. Heffron commented he appreciated the data and information.

Mr. Gibbs' presentation is available on [DHCC website](#).

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from Cheryl Heiks to everyone:

In the workforce data, can you include Nursing Home Administrator

from nick conte to everyone:

thanks Tim, lots of interesting info

from Collison, Katherine to everyone:

The health care capacity studies conducted by UD for DPH ask questions about their ability to communicate with patients in other languages. See the survey tool on page 56 at the link below.

from Collison, Katherine DHSS to everyone:

<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsm/files/pcpinde2018.pdf>

from Collison, Katherine DHSS to everyone:

Q33-35

from Collison, Katherine DHSS to everyone:

<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsm/files/filesmhpinde2021.pdf>

from Collison, Katherine DHSS to everyone: 10:04 AM

Q35-37 in the last link (sent an older report in the first link)

from Cheryl Heiks to everyone:

Other states are using ARPA funds to speed up nursing licensure

from Cheryl Heiks to everyone:

Also to encourage more Cert Nursing Aides, using ARPA funds to get more Cert Nursing Aides

from Cheryl Heiks to everyone:

Is there a need to measure PT's OT's and Speech Therapist

from Cheryl Heiks to everyone:

Important for DHCC to look at these issues regularly and then can measure what strategies are working. We should also measure staffing agencies (which are not regulated in this state. Staffing agencies are very successful at recruiting our existing workforce and have them working in other states.

UPDATES

Board Discussion – Policy recommendations for workforce and support for DIMER and DIDER programs

Dr. Fan opened the segment and suggested the commissioners take a deeper dive into the DIMER and DIDER programs and if the commission could make helpful policy recommendations. Both programs have been very successful. The Commission's goal is to look and see if there are any areas for improvement. DIDER would like to create a dental aptitude scholarship program for underrepresented minorities. Dr. Fan asked if the commissioners have any additional suggestions or recommendations. Secretary Geisenberger asked if the DIDER and DIMER boards had seen Mr. Gibbs' presentation. Dr. Fan stated she did not think so. When the report came out, it was after DIMER and DIDER's last meeting. Mr. Gibbs stated he would be more than happy to do a presentation for DIMER and DIDER. The DHCC staff will coordinate with Mr. Gibbs a presentation for the DIMER and DIDER boards. Dr. Fan suggested a future Commission meeting could focus on policy recommendations.

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from Massa, Elisabeth to everyone:

The next DIDER meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 3/1. Time TBD.

from Massa, Elisabeth to everyone:

The next DIMER meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 1/25 4pm - 6pm.

<https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/#/meeting/73931>

Primary Care Reform Collaborative

Dr. Fan presented an update on recent the Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC) activities. The PCRC met on December 12, 2022. At the meeting, Dr. Fan presented a short summary of Dr. Toth's recent primary care study which included demographic data. The meeting also included updates on the PCRC workgroups and an update from the Department of Insurance Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery. Dr. Fan also shared the graphic for the initial design framework for the Delaware Primary Care Payment Model. The workgroups have been looking at what kind of payments could be done through the payment model (Standard Quality

Investment Payment and Continual Quality Investment Payment). The PCRC is scheduled to meet again on March 13.

Dr. Fan's update is available on the [DHCC website](#).

Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP) Update

Stephanie Hartos, DHCC Public Health Administrator, provided an update on the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP), a state-funded program administered by the DHCC.

In December 2022, the DHCC signed contracts with four eligible providers HCPLRP. These individuals will be under contract through December 2024, with an option to re-apply for additional repayment through 2026. The DHCC currently has 11 other individuals who are in the process of applying for this program, with the next cohort deadline being February 1. The DHCC has been in contact with hospital systems to increase awareness of the program and meet with potential applicants on a regular basis to answer questions and increase the number of applications received.

Dr. Fan asked if the Commission should consider broadening the requirement that the applicant must have graduated in the past 6-months, and if so, to send an email to DHCC staff.

Dr. Harrison stated there are several mental health professionals that are not recent graduates who work primarily in integrated primary care settings. In thinking of this, it may be a way to build up that primary care workforce beyond the physician and nursing staff. Dr. Fan commented we cannot have a loan repayment for every specialty; however, the Commission does want to be able to incentivize the ones of extreme deficiency in Delaware. The Commission should discuss.

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

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from Roger Harrison he/his to everyone:
Is that a roughly 30% response rate?

from Nancy Fan to everyone:
yes it's a math of 799 respondees out of 2600 eligible providers

from Massa, Elisabeth C (DHSS) to everyone:
More information about the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP) is available on our website, <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/loanrepaymentnew.html>

from Massa, Elisabeth C (DHSS) to everyone:

To be eligible, providers must have completed graduate education within six months.

Advanced-degree practitioners must have completed a residency program. Eligible degrees and specialties include:

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)

Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

Physician Assistant (PA)

from Cheryl Heiks to everyone:

Still on the workforce issue, educational institutions should be encouraged to offer online courses (where it would be appropriate). Online helps to keep people in their current role (and stay employed).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Fan asked if there was any public comment. There were no additional comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. The next DHCC meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and will be virtual.

Public Meeting Attendees

January 5, 2023

Anthony Onugu	United Medical
Brian Olson	La Red Health Center
Cristine Vogel	DOI
Cheryl Heiks	Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
David Bentz	DHSS
David Roose	Department of Finance
Nicole Freedman	Morris James
Frank Pyle	DOI
Jeff Schott	DOI
Joann Hasse	League of Women Voters of Delaware
Joanne Landry	Highmark
Jose Tieso	Gainwell Technologies
Louisa Phillips	Delaware Healthcare Association
Juliann VILLECCO	DHSS
Lincoln Willis	The Willis Group
Liz Brown	DHSS
Maggie Bent	Westside Family Healthcare

Melissa Harrington
Mollie Poland
Nicholas Conte
Nichole Moxley
Nicole Freedman
Pamela Gardner
Pam Price
Paul Kiefer
Paula Roy
Richard Holaday
Sherry Nykiel
Steven Costantino
Tim Gibbs
Tyler Blanchard
Matt Bittle
Kristen Dwyer
LaVar Johnson
Sarah Stowens
Louis Phillips

DSU
Nemours
DHSS
DHSS
Morris James
Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Highmark
DHR
Roy Associates
DHSS
DHSS
DHSS
DAM/DPHA
Aledade
Planned Parenthood of Delaware