



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

February 3, 2022

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

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present: Theodore W. Becker (Mayor of Lewes), Dr. Nancy Fan (St. Francis), Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours), Richard Heffron, Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS), Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF), Nick Moriello (Highmark), and Jan Lee (DHIN)

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan, Chair

Commission Members Absent: Melissa Jones and Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI)

Health Care Commission Staff: Elisabeth Massa (Executive Director), Stephanie Hartos (Public Health Administrator I), Eschalla Clarke (Social Services Senior Administrator), Latoya Wright (Manager of Statistics and Research), and Tynietta Congo-Wright (Administrative Specialist III)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. via WebEx. It was determined 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). Dr. Fan shared happy Chinese New Year greetings – the year of the tiger. She also announced February was heart awareness month. Dr. Fan spoke about heart risk especially for woman.

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve December 2, 2021 meeting minutes

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the draft December 2, 2021, meeting minutes. Dr. Fan asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Rich Heffron motioned to approve, and Dr. Lee seconded. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The approved minutes are available on the [DHCC website](#).

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Governor's Recommended Budget

Secretary Rick Geisenberger provided an overview of the Governor's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. The Secretary's update is an item on the [DHCC Seasonal Calendar](#).

Governor Carney released the proposed budget on January 27. Secretary Geisenberger started his presentation highlighting that there is a lot of interest in the intersect between the budget, the capital budget, and the federal funding Delaware has been receiving (CARES Act, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and infrastructure). The budget was constructed around these federal resources. The Secretary shared how the federal funds have been spent to date and the various type of investments made. The ARPA funds are making a \$216 million investment in several health-related projects.

Secretary Geisenberger shared Delaware made it through the worst of the pandemic without cutting services or raising taxes. He highlighted the FY 23 GRB included \$500,000 to increase funding for the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. Secretary Magarik shared additional details investments related to DHSS technology needs.

Secretary Geisenberger highlighted economic development, environmental initiatives, and education investments. He concluded his presentation by sharing a timeline for the FY 23 budget process. In February and March, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) and Bond Bill Committee Hearings will be held with the mark-up scheduled for April and May. By June 30, the General Assembly passes the budget and bond bills and the Governor signs. The new fiscal year (FY 23) begins July 1.

Dr. Lee asked for clarification on the ARPA funds – have most of the funds been distributed? Secretary Geisenberger clarified that little of the money has been distributed, but almost all of the money has been allocated. Commitments have been made to a variety of projects. Some will require matching money. Secretary Geisenberger shared the website, <https://governor.delaware.gov/rescue-plan/>, includes a list of ARPA allocations. Dr. Lee asked if those who applied and were not accepted will receive some type of notification that their project was not approved. Secretary Geisenberger said there will be a notification once the U.S. Department of Treasury renders a decision. Dr. Lee asked if projects do not qualify for ARPA, could they be added to Delaware's Bond bill? There are three buckets of money available (ARPA must be committed by 2024, federal infrastructure, and State money). State money has more flexibility. If there was a specific project Dr. Lee was interested in feedback, Secretary Geisenberger offered to check with Claire DeMatteis on the status.

Nick Moriello commented entities should not be discouraged by the process and should still apply as they could qualify for other opportunities. Secretary Magarik added there is a substantial amount of public comment and opportunities for the public to provide input.

Secretary Geisenberger's presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#).

UPDATES

DIMER

DHCC commissioner and DIMER board member, Dr. Lee provided an update on the recent DIMER board meeting that was held on January 26. At the meeting, Dr. Lee shared there was an update from the DIMER partner medical schools, Sidney Kimmel Medical Center (SKMC) and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM). This included a snapshot on current enrollment numbers. ChristianaCare shared an update on their Branch Campus. The Branch Campus welcomed the largest cohort, 32 new 3rd year students enrolled – 21 from SKMC (11 from Delaware) and 11 from PCOM (7 from Delaware). Dr. Lee shared information about Bayhealth and Beebe’s residency programs and concluded her update a short summary on the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) outreach for the DIMER program which includes virtual events and engaging with high school students. The next DIMER meeting is scheduled for April 6.

Dr. Lee’s DIMER update is available on the [DHCC website](#).

Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP)

Dr. Fan provided an update on the implementation activities for HCPLRP. An Advisory Committee was created to help develop the program parameters. The Committee met on November 8, December 13, January 10, and January 24. Additional meetings will be held in the coming months. To date, the Committee has established the core eligibility requirements for the applicants and facilities. Marketing efforts are also in development. A paper application will be released until an online application system is available. Dr. Fan shared a snapshot of the budget which includes a recent one-time contribution from Highmark Delaware in the amount of \$1 million. The Committee is scheduled to meet again on February 16.

Secretary Geisenberger thanked Nick Moriello and Highmark for their support for the program.

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

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan shared an update on the PCRC. The first meeting was held on January 10 which included an update from the Department of Insurance on some of their data work that was included in their 2021 annual report that was recently released as well as an update on their regulations issued in January regarding rate filings for increase in primary care spend. Public comment for the regs closed on January 31. The PCRC chairs provided comments. The PCRC meeting also discussed the concept of having three work groups (1. payment and attribution, 2. quality and benchmarks, and 3. care coordination and care management).

Nick Moriello provided comments from his Highmark “hat” and shared Highmark has been working closely with DOI to collaborate on compliance and discuss various challenges they are hearing from the providers in their network.

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

From the WebEx Chat Box

from Joann to everyone:

Good meeting with lots of important information! Joann Hasse. League of Women Voters

ADJOURN

Dr. Fan asked if there was any new business from the commissioners or public comment. Secretary Geisenberger asked if Dr. Liz Brown, the Chief Medical Director for the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance had any comments on the dollars in the budget for the expansion of postpartum Medicaid coverage. Dr. Brown shared to qualify for Medicaid, there are income limits, and those income limits are different for pregnant women (slightly higher). Up until this point, there has been 60 days postpartum coverage and there have been calls to extend that coverage to a full year. Beginning April 1, CMS will be allowing the extension of Medicaid coverage up to one-year postpartum for anyone in the Medicaid program. DHSS is very excited CMS has made this an option and planning to implement the program and appreciate the dollar in the budget to support the state portion of the funding. Dr. Fan added this expansion is huge for the OB patient population and maternal heart and cardiac disease. Dr. Brown clarified this is a state plan option and the state does not need to plan for a waiver, but instead a state plan amendment. She shared she would be happy to make a presentation on this topic at a future DHCC meeting. There was also some additional discussion that due to the current Public Health Emergency, there is currently a Medicaid extension in place.

Hearing no other comments, the meeting adjourned. The next DHCC meeting is scheduled for March 3 at 9:00 a.m.

**Public Meeting Attendees
February 3, 2022**

Faith Rentz
Tyler Blanchard
Randil Munson
Bryan Gordon
Mashiya Williams
Kim Blanch
Delaney McGonegal
Jeff Toborg
Sharlene Adams
Chris Otto
Fleur McKendell
Cheryl Heiks
Chris Haas
Lizzie Lewis
Joann Hasse
Lolita Lopez
Pam Price

SEBC
Aledade
United Medical, LLC
ChristianaCare
Delaware Community Foundation

Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
CSG Government Solutions
GT Independence
DE Nurses Association
Department of Insurance
Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
Department of Insurance
302 Strategies
League of Women Voters of Delaware
Westside Family healthcare
Highmark

Pamela Gardner
Nichole Freedman
James Nutter
Monica Rubio
Liz Brown
Kathy Collison
Richard Holladay
Jill Fredel
Steven Costantino
Sarah Noonan Davis
Nick Conte
Nina Figueroa
Jarrell Mahusay
Stephanie Bosko
Krissy McMahon
Maggie Norris Bentz
Anthony Onugu

Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Morris James

Wilmington University

DHSS

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DHSS

DHR

University of North Florida

AB&C

Westside

United Medical