



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

March 2, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

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

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Commission Members Absent: Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF)

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

It was determined a quorum was present, and Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m. via WebEx. Dr. Fan 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). Dr. Fan announced March is National Nutrition Month which is important as Delaware talks about chronic disease and try to reach good healthy outcomes.

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve February 2, 2023, meeting minutes

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to take a moment to review the February 2, 2023, meeting minutes. Dr. Jan Lee made a motion to approve the minutes. Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were

unanimously approved for the commissioners present. The minutes are available on the DHCC Website.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Cost Aware 2.0

Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik provided an overview and brief history of the CostAware initiative and kicked-off the launch of the CostAware 2.0 website. The updated CostAware website will be “live” later in the day. The purpose of the CostAware website is to highlight variation in the cost, utilization, and quality of health care in Delaware. The launch of CostAware was an important first step toward increasing the transparency of Delaware’s health care systems. The website will allow users to see the variation in cost and quality of medical services and procedures in Delaware. The website was created to be user friendly for both the policy maker and the consumer. The updated 2.0 website includes the following enhancements:

- **Estimates of the average cost per visit for additional medical services**, including child wellness visits, mental and behavioral/health services, diabetes care, cardiac investigations and procedures, doctor visits by complexity, and lab tests (blood and urine tests).
- **Results reported by type of care setting** (e.g., hospital outpatient facility, outpatient lab, professional office, urgent care facility, and telehealth) to facilitate additional comparisons.
- **Additional years of data included** – 2020 and 2021 were added to the 2019 data used for CostAware 1.0.
- **Trend visualizations, with multiple years of data**, show changes over time in average cost, quality, and other measures.
- **Improved filtering of results** by insurance category (Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare Advantage) and patient age range and gender (as appropriate).
Average cost estimates for episode of care will be reported for named Delaware hospitals.

Secretary Magarik next gave a “live” presentation of the new website. She walked through the reports for diabetes care and mental health services.

Jonathan Mathieu with Freedman HealthCare highlighted the differences between CostAware 1.0 and CostAware2.0 in response to the feedback from stakeholders:

Domain	1.0	2.0
Measures	Multiple procedure codes were grouped into a single measure.	Each measure has only one code included in the calculation.
	“Mild Severity ED Visits” included CPT code 99281 and 99282	Average cost for 99281 and 99282 are reported separately
Payer Type (insurance category)	Dropdown menu filtered results by “Commercial,” “Medicaid,” and “Medicare”	The updated menu specifies “Medicare Advantage”
Methodology Documentation	N/A	Specifies that average cost for a medical service only includes the CPT code claim line, not other services performed on the same day

Feature	1.0	2.0
Number of Reports	12 reports (15 measures)	15 reports (67 measures)
Services Grouping	Unnamed ACO	Care Setting
Episodes Grouping	Unnamed Hospital	Named Hospitals
Years of Data	1 year (2019)	3 years (2019-2021)
Filters	Payer Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payer Type • Year • Age* • Gender*

Dr. Gurpreet Kaur with the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) provided a summary of the methodology of the CostAware 2.0 website. Services consist of claims identified based on CPT code, average amount paid by service/payer type and billing providers based on NPIs. Episodes include all the events between the admin date and the discharge date.

Outlier methodology lays a significant role in any kind of study. With this study in particular, outlier methodology values may exist due to incomplete data and impact the accuracy and relevance of the average cost estimates. For example, in each service or episode, claims may be excluded along with top and bottom 2.5 percentile for each payer type, care setting, and procedure code.

In looking to the future planning of CostAware 3.0, there will be the study design phase which would include enhanced quality reports, more procedures, more episodes, and

more surgeries with different counts at the different levels with the filters being at the payer level or hospital level.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Fan asked if there were any questions or comments from the Commission. Cabinet Secretary Magarik added if there is something that can be added or tweaked to the site, the feedback is greatly appreciated. Commissioner Navarro asked if the hospital data that goes “live” today would be shown in the bar graphs. Mr. Mathieu shared the data would be available on the new 2.0 website.

The CostAware 2.0 presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#).

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from Steven Costantino to everyone:

This is a great example of DHIN and DHSS collaboration and the potential of the HCCD. Really proud to be able to work on this!

from Magarik, Molly DHSS to everyone:

The SUD increase is only on the Medicaid side, not the DSAMH-funded services

from Stacey Hassel to everyone:

Correct, Secretary Geisenberger, the DHIN request is specific to funding the Healthcare Claims Database

from CHEiks to everyone:

I agree with comments made by Steve Constantino, very interesting and exciting work. Wonderful to see the Version 2.0 come to fruition.

Governor’s Recommended Budget Fiscal Year (FY 2024)

Cabinet Secretary Geisenberger provided an update on the Governor’s Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) had the department’s Joint Finance Committee (JFC) meetings in February, however, there is still opportunity to weigh-in with mark-up in May. First, Secretary Geisenberger shared the from FY 16 to FY 25 the revenue stream has tended to be very up and down. Secretary Geisenberger shared if the State continued its course to spend every dollar, the state would have likely had some severe problems during Covid. With that in mind, the State has been having a slow steady growth tied to reasonable levels of sustainable economic growth. The extra monies have been put in reserves. This allowed the State to not raise taxes.

For the FY 2024 plan, the Rainy Day fund remains fully funded. The financial plan also includes compensation and pay equity for state employees and classroom teachers,

supporting healthy families, early childhood development, and investments in health. The budget also includes a \$101.5 million investment in housing. Secretary Geisenberger explained the budget process and shared the timeline for FY 24.

Dr. Fan applauded the Governor for investing in areas of social determinants of health. Dr. Fan asked if the commissioners had any question. Rich Heffron agreed the Governor and Secretary Geisenberger did a great job overall with health care in the FY 24 budget. Mr. Heffron asked if the Supreme Court decision last week on unclaimed property would affect the budget. Secretary Geisenberger said it is still active litigation and they did not decide liabilities. He added our revenue streams are very volatile because Delaware does not have a sales tax or big statewide property tax.

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

Medicaid Unwinding

Secretary Magarik provided an update on Delaware's plan for unwinding from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Unwinding is the process by which the State will resume annual Medicaid eligibility reviews. In 2022, DHSS started preparing for unwinding. Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act on December 29, 2022 and Congress designated April 1, 2023 as date for unwinding to begin. The State of Delaware Medicaid system is going back to its original Medicaid eligibility reviews in place before Covid. There are only three instances in which someone can be taken off the Medicaid program and that is if someone dies, they move out of state, or voluntary disenrollment.

Secretary Magarik stated because of the continuous enrollment provision, the State of Delaware started with 250,000 Medicaid members and now there are over 315,000 members, which is a 27% growth over three years. In looking at those numbers, DHSS will see some members go through a passive renewal process; meaning their information can be pulled down from federal sources and can be renewed with the information received. Others will have to reapply; providing the required information to see if renewal is an option.

Medicaid members should expect the following:

- Will need to renew
- Will have to update contact information
- Renewals will be worked from oldest to newest. Patience is key
- Should be on the lookout for communications
- Members will be supported through the process
- Cannot disenroll more than a tenth of the members per month

DHSS has been in regular contact with Medicaid members, partners, and stakeholders about unwinding through all forms of communication and social media since April 2022.

Secretary Magarik shared with the Commission some good news. The federal government put money into enhanced subsidies on the Marketplace through Calendar Year 2025 which is dropping the cost of the premiums and the ability for Delawareans to get a high-quality, low-cost health insurance plan.

Dr. Fan asked if there were any questions from the commissioners.

Secretary Geisenberger commented that this entire process is going to take patience. Insurance Commissioner Navarro asked if there is a need for people to start updating their information with their income now to make it easier to contact them when the time comes? Secretary Magarik replied can update their contact information at <https://assist.dhss.delaware.gov/>.

Steven Costantino stated CMS has been doing passive renewals, meaning they send renewal information out to the members and if their information is correct, they do not need to do anything, they will be automatically eligible for renewal. Although this process seems to be working with a good turn around percentage, there still needs to be two other modes of communication before members can be disenrolled. DHSS does not anyone that is eligible for Medicaid to be disenrolled.

Insurance Commissioner Navarro noted scammers are waiting to take advantage of unsuspecting individuals and it is important Delawareans use the website healthcare.gov. Secretary Geisenberger echoed the possible scams.

Mr. Moriello shared his concern that individuals could have a gap of health care coverage. Continuous coverage is the real goal.

Dr. Fan flagged a question from the WebEx Chat Box if flyers and posters are going to be available. Secretary Magarik encouraged those interested to reach out to DHSS and/or DHCC directly for materials and that DHSS could also present the unwinding presentation to other interested stakeholders or groups.

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

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from Wayne Smith to everyone:

Are you hearing from other states which have already started the percent of those reviewed who are being dropped from Medicaid?

from Steven Costantino to everyone:

At this point, only a few states started earlier than Delaware. National estimates are saying between 5% to 12 % will be disenrolled.

from David Bentz to everyone:

Members can update their contact information at <https://assist.dhss.delaware.gov/>

from Dr. Liz Brown she/her to everyone:

Note, it is 12 months after the end of a pregnancy

from Nancy Fan, MD to everyone:

as always all these slides will be available on the DHCC website after today's meeting so if you missed any information, you can access it

from CHeiks to everyone:

Do we have an estimate of how many of the individuals currently receiving benefits, are homeless - or potentially homeless?

from Chris Otto, R.N. - DE Nurses Assc. to everyone:

Secretary Magarik and David Bentz: the Delaware Nurses Association would like to request this presentation be provided to Delaware Nurses. Please advise who I can work with to schedule a special webinar. Thank you. executivedirector@denurses.org

from Anthony Onugu to everyone:

When will the posters/flyers be available?

from CHeiks to everyone:

Thank you for the extra time for individuals in long-term care. As you know, many individuals who reside there can no longer make decisions on their own behalf and it will take extra time to attempt to reach family or individuals acting as POA's. Facilities struggle to get responses. In addition, the address the individual may have used to apply for Medicaid may no longer be accurate, if they are residents in long-term care for situations other than short-term care.

from David Bentz to everyone:

Anyone who represents a group that would like to receive this presentation can reach out to me at david.bentz@delaware.gov.

from Judith Butler to everyone:

With the massive inflation in food costs, won't most SNAP recipients be likely to qualify for additional SNAP benefits?

from Lolita Lopez to everyone:

Unfortunately we are short staffed as well but rest assured we are working hard to support the process.

from David Bentz to everyone:

We do have communications materials we can share and would appreciate your support in spreading them within your networks.

from David Bentz to everyone:

SNAP related materials are posted online.

https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/community_partners.html

from David Bentz to everyone:

Medicaid related materials:

https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dmma/de_medicaid_eligibility_renewal.html

UPDATES

Delaware Institute for Dental Education and Research (DIDER)

Ted Becker, Commissioner and DIDER board member, provided an update about DIDER's first meeting of Calendar Year 2023 which was held March 1. Summary of the meeting:

- Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry provided an admissions update. Kornberg received a total of 3398 applications. Of that number 23 were from Delaware with 22 being reviewable. 16 of those applicants were interviewed with 13 being offered admission. 4 declined and 9 paid their deposit. The second deposit is due March 15, 2023.
- ChristianaCare General Practice Dental Residency Program has 8 residents. 7 of those contracted to practice in Delaware. Of the 8, four are staying in NCC, 3 are going to Sussex, and 1 is going to the DC area.
- The school-based screening with the Division of Public Health is in full swing.
- The Dental Task Force on Access report is tentatively set to be released in mid-April.
- The DIDER board is looking to develop a Dental Aptitude Prep Scholarship Program for underrepresented minorities and students.
- DIDER and Temple are planning outreach activities for the students in the program. More information to come.

Dr. Nick Conte, with the Division of Public Health and DIDER board, shared a highlight for him was seeing almost 30 Delaware students apply to Kornberg. He also shared Senator McBride shared with the Task Force a draft recommendation report last evening. The Task Force is planning to meet two more times.

Mr. Becker's presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#).

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from nick conte to everyone:

Thanks Ted, that was a great update

Health Workforce Subcommittee

Nick Moriello provided a brief update on the Health Workforce Subcommittee. He was pleased to share a new co-chair, Dr. Kathy Matt, will be joining Secretary Geisenberger as co-chair.

Dr. Fan thanked Mr. Moriello for his service to the Subcommittee and noted will be great to have Dr. Matt serve as co-chair. Dr. Fan asked Secretary Geisenberger if he had any comments. Secretary Geisenberger replied Mr. Moriello has done a fantastic job. He also shared a governance structure question came up on how chairs are named for committees or subcommittees of the DHCC. After some discussion, it was decided that it could be done by appointment of the Chair of the DHCC and the subcommittee members can be selected by the co-chairs.

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan provided a brief update about the Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC). The next meeting will be held on March 12. There will be a new support this year from the Health Management Associates (HMA). They are assisting with the PC delivery model as well as other content.

Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program

Dr. Fan shared there has been a lot of feedback regarding this 1st year of implementation; how the program can be much more robust and centrally sustainable to recruit and retain healthcare workers and providers within the State of Delaware. The DHCC internal team are looking to revise the program structure. More information will be forth coming.

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from Christina Bryan, DHA to everyone:

Thank you Dr. Fan. DHA supports updating the HCPLRP to address some of the current barriers to make the program even more successful.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m. The next DHCC meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and will be hybrid meeting with an in-person option at Buena Vista Conference Center in New Castle.

**Public Meeting Attendees
March 2, 2023**

Anthony Onugu	United Medical
Brian Olson	La Red Health Center
Cheryl Heiks	Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
Chris Otto	Delaware Nurses Association
Christina Crooks Bryan	Delaware Healthcare Association
Cristine Vogel	DOI
David Bentz	DHSS
David Roose	Department of Finance
Elizabeth Koonce	Freedman HealthCare
Eschalla Clarke	DHSS
Frank Pyle	DOI
Gurpreet Kaur	DHIN
Janet Bailey	Gain Well Technologies
James Nutter	Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze
Janice James Webb	
Jeff Schott	DOI
Jennifer Brestel	DHSS
Joann Hasse	League of Women Voters of Delaware
Jonathan Mathieu	Freedman HealthCare
Juan Arjona	DHIN
Judith Butler	
Kathleen Collison	DHSS
Leslie Palladino	Impact Life
Lincoln Willis	The Willis Group
Liz Brown	DHSS
Lolita Lopez	Westside Family Healthcare
Maggie Norris Bent	Westside Family Healthcare
Mollie Poland	Nemours
Nicole Freedman	Morris James
Nick Conte	DHSS
Nichole Moxley	DHSS
Nina Figueroa	DHR
Pam Price	Highmark Delaware
Pamela Gardner	Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Paul Keifer	
Paula Roy	Roy Associates
Randy Farmer	DHIN
Sarah Stowens	ChristianaCare
Shay Scott	Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

Sherry Nykiel
Stacey Hassel
Steven Costantino
Summer Preg
Susan Jennette
Wayne Smith
Victoria Brennan

DHSS
DHIN
DHSS
Freedman HealthCare
DOI
Smith Capitol Advisors LLC
CGO