



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

March 3, 2022

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

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

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

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Commission Members Absent: None

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

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 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 their name and contact information to the DHCC Resource Account (dhcc@delaware.gov).

Dr. Fan announced the COVID positivity is down – the last she checked it was 4.2%. It will be almost two years ago that everything almost completely shut down. She also announced March is colorectal cancer awareness month. Colon cancer is one of the top three cancers for all adults, especially for woman. She stressed how important and impactful colon cancer screening can be for early detection.

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve February 3, 2022 meeting minutes

It was determined a quorum was present. Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the draft February 3, 2022, meeting minutes. Jan Lee moved to approve the minutes. Ted Becker second the motion to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The approved minutes are available on the [DHCC website](#).

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Children's Behavioral Health

As part of the [DHCC seasonal calendar](#), Dr. Margolis provided an update on children's behavioral health. He started his presentation sharing an overview of what is currently happening throughout the county. In December 2021, the U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on Protecting Youth Mental Health outlined the pandemic's unprecedented impacts on the mental health of America's youth and families, as well as the mental health challenges that already existed before the pandemic. The number of teen suicides and planned suicide attempts rose with the pandemic. Those affected the most were already vulnerable before COVID.

The Children's Department (DSCYF) and the Division of Behavioral Health services is working hard to address the behavioral needs of children with a focus on evidence-based trauma informed services. They have expanded the use of telehealth and have two school-based behavioral health programs. Dr. Margolis shared information about the Delaware Child Psychiatry Access Program. Dr. Fan asked Dr. Margolis a few questions about the program (how long has the program/grant and has it been utilized much). Dr. Margolis shared the program has been around almost 3.5 years and it has been utilized by an estimated 270-280 prescribers. Dr. Fan also asked about the sustainability of the program (Is it just the educational part because one of the challenges is the reimbursement for the integration of services of behavioral health, withing primary care practices having the appropriate coding.) Dr. Margolis responded that practice codes are available, and we must make sure that insurers are willing to reimburse those codes.

Dr. Fan asked if the commissioners had any questions. Dr. Harrison shared Spanish speaking families are having a hard time accessing the mobile crisis services and Spanish speaking providers making referrals for high-level care the materials are in English-only. He asked Dr. Margolis about increasing Spanish access services. Dr. Margolis said referral intake materials are being translated to Spanish and agreed we lack the number of Spanish speaking clinicians that we need. Recruitment of Spanish speaking clinicians has been a challenge. There are interpretation services that clinicians are using for the time being. Dr. Harrison's second question was regarding adolescents that are starting to develop psychotic symptoms and the

Core Program was such as asset – are there alternatives to the Core program and other referral options for children who are dealing with severe psychiatric illness and the development of psychotic syndromes? Dr. Margolis replied the Core Program is a grant program his division operates that focuses on children who are showing early signs of psychosis. The grant was reduced and developed into Core II, but for only services in New Castle County.

Rich Heffron shared a couple of years ago a school superintendent was asked if he had extra funding, what would he do with it and the answer was he would hire more school child psychiatrists. Mr. Heffron asked Dr. Margolis what we are doing to attract more people to the profession. Dr. Margolis shared Delaware unfortunately does not have a training program, but there are some in neighboring states. Dr. Margolis has been able to recruit child psychiatrists via J1 visas to work in Delaware for two years. Some of these psychiatrists have established roots in Delaware and have stayed.

Commissioner Navarro made a comment regarding school-based wellness centers and spoke about the mental health parity issues. The Department of Insurance (DOI) is working with the General Assembly on a mental health wellness check. Dr. Margolis thanked Commissioner Navarro and DOI for all their support.

Dr. Fan shared historically psychiatry and behavioral health has been underfunded in reimbursement and payment, unless private. She also wanted to expand on awareness of both children and parents aspect that their child might actually have a behavioral health issue and need care early on.

Secretary Magarik added it speaks to what other states are doing with focus on quality as opposed to fee-for-service and having payment models supporting team-based approaches and the health home model.

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from Roger Harrison he/him to everyone
Yes, I was thinking about our youth downstate!

from Roger Harrison he/him to everyone:
Yes! Thank you for addressing this!!!

from Roger Harrison he/him to everyone:
Particularly for Masters level clinicians. I can't see how we sustain recruitment paying them what we pay them!

UPDATES

DIDER

Dr. Rafetto, the DIDER chair, provided an update on the DIDER program. The DIDER board met on January 12. Dr. Rafetto shared the State of Delaware currently pays for four seats a year at Temple, however, Temple typically accepts more than four. The 2021-2022 Temple class has 11 DIDER students. He shared demographics about the class and applicants as well as the new general practice residents in Delaware.

Other DIDER highlights – Dr. Rafetto and several DIDER board members will be having lunch with the DIDER students in the coming weeks to connect with students. DIDER is interested in developing a pilot program scholarship for qualified Underrepresented Minority (URM) students to take a DAT prep course as well as the exam. Funding needs to be identified.

The next DIDER meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022. Dr. Rafetto's update is available on the [DHCC website](#).

Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP)

Dr. Fan shared an update on the implementation of the HCPLRP. The Advisory Committee is in the final stretch defining the program parameters. A geographic areas of need survey was sent to health systems and FQHCs to define what are the geographic areas of need in the community. The Committee finalized the funding allocation for mid-level and advance degree clinicians and the eligibility criteria for the applicant, facility, and loan repayment.

The applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with six-week intervals of review and award. The estimated application deadlines are tentatively scheduled for May 1, July 15, and September 1. The DHCC released a Request for Proposal to procure a vendor to develop an electronic (online) application process/system. The vendor should be in place early April. The DHCC has also been working with a marketing vendor (Aloysius Butler & Clark) to develop a logo, marketing materials, tool kit, website design, and develop a statewide campaign strategy for increasing brand and program awareness. There is also a workgroup that has formed to develop a weighted criteria.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 14. Dr. Fan's update is available on the [DHCC website](#).

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan provided an update on the PCRC activities. The PCRC met in January. One of the recommendations that came out of the meeting was standing up workgroups to help start up a primary care delivery model. Per SS1 for SB 120, one of the mandates is the DHCC is

responsible for increasing participation in value-based care, alternative payment models, and monitoring compliance practices. The DHCC will first convene the Payment and Attribution workgroup.

The next meeting is scheduled on March 14. Dr. Fan's update is available on the [DHCC website](#).

Dr. Fan asked if Commissioner Navarro wanted to comment on DOI's regs for SB 120. Commissioner Navarro shared the regs are out for public comment and is hopeful it will be returned with few challenges. He also announced they are hiring a director for the Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery office.

From the WebEx Chat Box

from Haas, Christina (DOI) to everyone:

The Department of Insurance is accepting applications for a Director of Office of Value Based Healthcare Delivery.

<https://www.jobapscloud.com/DE/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=020222&R2=MUAH08&R3=120300>

from Anthony to everyone:

was a public call for nominations to the sub-committee

from Lori Ann Rhoads to everyone:

what is the time of the 3/14 pcrc meeting?

from Hartos, Stephanie (DHSS) to everyone:

4:00-6:00pm

from Lori Ann Rhoads to everyone:

thank you!

from Hartos, Stephanie (DHSS) to everyone:

No problem, here is a link to the meeting on the public meetings calendar:

<https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/#/meeting/71084>

from Anthony to everyone:

Surprised that the call for nominations to the sub committees was made only to the PCRC stakeholders, which in effect limits it to the PCRC members

from CHEiks to everyone:

The lack of available workforce helps to drive up the cost of care, and though the workers deserve higher pay - the costs will ultimately fall on the taxpayers and the healthcare systems.

from CHeiks to everyone:

*available.

ADJOURN

Dr. Fan asked if there was any new business from the commissioners. Commissioner Navarro shared DOI is working with the Medical Society of Delaware and other partners to try to come up with some immediate relief for primary care physicians. It is understood that SB120 was not signed until late last year, so there was not a chance to apply that increase for primary care this year. DOI and partners are hoping to provide relief this year if possible.

Nick Moriello shared an update about the enrollment in the Marketplace. Enrollment was very strong (around 35,000 Delawareans) and there were fewer drop offs in payment of premiums. Commissioner Navarro mentioned there are very positive updates coming out from the federal government around the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He will share the news when confirmed. Dr. Lee asked the Commissioner if he thought the reason it is now becoming profitable for the insurers is because of the pent-up needs for those who have gone without healthcare for years because they had no insurance and that over time that became better addressed as we are not seeing very sick people coming into the Marketplace. The Commissioner shared at first it was everyone who needed healthcare needed treatment. What is happening now is with Delaware's 1332 waiver and the new subsidies through the Biden Administration there is no longer an attempt to end the ACA. It's a combination of our efforts, our insurers efforts, and federal partners. Dr. Lee thanked Highmark Delaware for staying in the Marketplace while other insurers dropped. Secretary Magarik shared while there is lots of good news on the Marketplace, we need to also keep focusing on healthcare cost inflation and pivoting off fee-for-service.

Dr. Fan announced the next DHCC meeting is scheduled for April 7. At this point in time, the meeting will be virtual. Secretary Geisenberger asked the commissioners what their thoughts were on the format for meetings moving forward – virtual, in-person and/or hybrid. Dr. Fan commented last summer it was briefly discussed, but a topic that should be revisited.

Nick Moriello added many boards are looking at this right now and many are considering a hybrid option. He suggested the DHCC should consider a hybrid model. Secretary Magarik agreed and shared that having a virtual option is very important for those that are immunocompromised. Secretary Geisenberger suggested the DHCC sets a certain number of meetings as all remote and if needed, have an anchor, instead of a mix of some meetings hybrid and some not hybrid. Dr. Lee agreed that not all meetings have to be in-person.

Dr. Fan thanked the commissioners for their feedback.

**Public Meeting Attendees
March 3, 2022**

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| Brian Olson | La Red Health Center |
| David Roose | Department of Finance |
| Delaney McGonegal | Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers |
| Frank Pyle | Department of Insurance |
| Chris Haas | Department of Insurance |
| Lizzie Lewis | 302 Strategies |
| Joann Hasse | League of Women Voters of Delaware |
| Lolita Lopez | Westside Family Healthcare |
| Maggie Norris Bent | Westside Family Healthcare |
| Lori Ann Rhoads | Medical Society of Delaware |
| Mollie Poland | Nemours |
| Pam Price | Highmark |
| Pamela Gardner | Delaware Health Sciences Alliance |
| Paula Roy | Roy Associates |
| Frank Pyle | DOI |
| Liz Brown | DHSS |
| Richard Holladay | DHSS |
| Jill Fredel | DHSS |
| Steven Costantino | DHSS |
| Kathy Collison | DHSS |
| Juliann VILLECCO | DHSS |
| Nicole Moxley | DHSS |
| Sarah Noonan Davis | DHSS |
| Christine Schiltz | PGS Legal |
| Nicole Freedman | Morris James |
| Mashiya Williams | DELFCF |
| Louis Rafetto | DIDER |
| Nina Figueroa | DHR |
| Christina Crooks Bryan | DHA |
| Anne Farley | First State Strategies |
| Katie Macklin | Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter |
| Anthony Onugu | United Medical |
| Bryan Gordon | ChristianaCare |
| Kim Hammond | Highmark |
| Kim Blanch | Beebe Healthcare |
| Cheryl Heiks | Delaware Health Care Facilities Association |
| Stacey Worthy | |
| Jessica Luff | |
| Russ Larson | |
| Mary Kate McLaughlin | |