



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

April 1, 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, Melissa Jones, Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN), Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS), Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF), Nick Moriello (Highmark), and Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI)

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Commission Members Absent: none

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

Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. via WebEx video and phone conference. 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 the first hour of the meeting will be devoted to board business and updates. The second hour of the meeting will concentrate on the benchmark. The WebEx line will remain open after the DHCC meeting for the DEFAC Healthcare Spending Benchmark Subcommittee Meeting. All are welcome to stay on the line and attend the DEFAC Subcommittee Meeting when the DHCC meeting adjourns.

Dr. Fan announced the Division of Public Health is offering a virtual Recruitment and Retention conference on May 18. Anyone involved in recruiting or retaining primary care physicians, dentists or mental health professionals will find value in participating. The speakers will present on the following topics:

- Health professional shortage area designations in Delaware.
- Recruitment programs, including requirements for participating in the State Loan Repayment Program, the National Health Services Corps Program and the Conrad State 30/J-1 Visa Waiver Program.
- Licensure issues from the Delaware Division of Professional Regulation.

- A session on Recruiting in a Virtual World.
- Perspectives from medical residents at Christiana.

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve March 4, 2021 meeting minutes

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the draft March 4, 2021 meeting minutes. There were no comments or changes. Secretary Magarik made a motion to approve. Ted Becker and Dr. Lee seconded. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The approved minutes are available on the [DHCC website](#).

Review DHCC Annual Report

The commissioners reviewed a draft of the DHCC 2020 Annual Report. The report summarizes the activities of the DHCC for calendar year 2020. Dr. Fan asked the commissioners if there were any comments or questions. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve. Dr. Lee motioned to approve and Rich Heffron seconded. A motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The final report will be sent to legislative leadership, the Governor's office, and posted on the DHCC website.

UPDATES

DIMER

Dr. Lee (a DIMER board member and the DHCC liaison to DIMER) provided a DIMER update. The board recently met on March 17. At the meeting, Dr. Lee shared with the DIMER board information about the Health Care Commission's strategic planning efforts and an update on the state-sponsored loan repayment program (HB 48). The DIMER meeting also included updates from the partnering DIMER institutions (Sidney Kimmel Medical College and the Philadelphia Osteopathic Medicine College). The Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) provided an update on their DIMER outreach activities. Bayhealth and Beebe also provided updates on standing up their residency programs. The ChristianaCare Branch Campus shared an update. Dr. Fan asked about DIMER providing metrics to the DHCC board. Sherman Townsend (DIMER board chair) shared he appointed a committee to work on the metrics and they will report back to the DIMER board and the DHCC board.

Pam Gardner (DHSA) provided an update on the DHSA survey form that is distributed at outreach and engagement events. The 2020 survey results indicate that 62% of attendees were not aware of DIMER prior to DHSA's outreach and engagement. At the conclusion of an event, 62.2% stated they intended to apply to a DIMER partnering school. Ms. Gardner shared an update on residency matches which were announced March 19 – ChristianaCare (7 DIMER class of 2021 students), Nemours (1 DIMER class of 2021 student), and St. Francis and Bayhealth did not have any matches.

Dr. Roger Harrison asked about diversifying the workforce for those underrepresented in the workforce and asked about the ethnic and racial composition of the DIMER students. Mr. Townsend noted there is a diverse makeup of DIMER students. Ms. Gardner shared in the DIMER class of 2020 there were 47 students and 61% reported a diverse demographic.

Health Workforce Subcommittee

Nick Moriello (Subcommittee co-chair) provided an update on the most recent Health Workforce Subcommittee meeting which was held on March 17. Unfortunately, there was not a quorum at the meeting, however there was a good discussion with those present. The Subcommittee members discussed data sources that are currently available with respect to the health care workforce and where there are shortfalls now and potentially in the future. A survey was sent to the Subcommittee members (#1. What data sources exist that Subcommittee members feel have good data and would be useful? and #2. Looking at those sources, what are the questions to ask?). The Subcommittee plans to make a recommendation to the Commissioners on a data collection and analysis process. Tentative dates are planned for upcoming meetings with the next meeting scheduled for April 13.

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan shared an update on the PCRC which met on March 8 to discuss primary care legislation that Senator Townsend and Representative Bentz plan to introduce sometime in April. The legislation establishes primary care targets for investment (11.5% by 2025), implement a process where 60% of the investment will be in value-based care, alternative payment models, and delivery care systems, and expand the regulation of the Department of Insurance to ensure the affordability standards offered by the Office of Value-Based Health Care and Delivery are implemented to address the total cost of care by conducting a rate review. There will not be an April meeting. Dr. Lee asked if Dr. Fan was sharing this update for the Commissioners' awareness and information or does the Health Care Commission need to approve a plan. Dr. Fan clarified the update was for information purposes, however, the Health Care Commission will implement the value-based framework and monitoring compliance.

Health Resources Board (HRB)

Dr. Fan provided an update on the HRB Joint Legislative Oversight & Sunset (JLOSC) review which began in July 2019. On March 18 and March 25, the JLOSC held Committee Recommendation meetings. During these meetings, the JLOSC analyst presented staff findings and recommendations using information and research presented in prior JLOSC reports. The JLOSC Staff Findings and Recommendations report is available on the Committee's website. The meeting was an opportunity for the Committee to meet publicly to review and discuss staff findings. The Committee is free to modify, reject, or create brand new recommendations. Five staff recommendations were discussed. At the meeting on March 25, the Committee made 2 motions:

- 1 motion for Recommendation #1, option 2, to terminate the board (4 in favor, 6 opposed)
- 1 motion for Recommendation #1, option 1, to continue the board (6 in favor, 4 opposed)

Both motions to either terminate or continue the board failed to reach the required 7 votes to be adopted. The Committee voted and unanimously approved to table all recommendations and will discuss at a later meeting. Date TBD. The public will be able to view the meeting live via YouTube on the General Assembly's live stream.

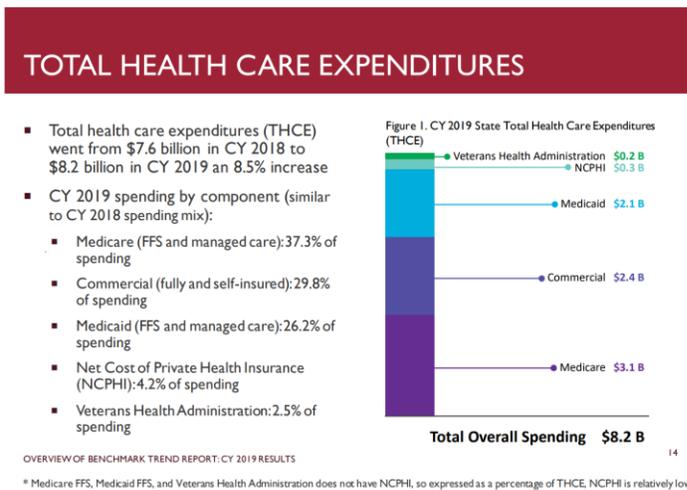
POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Benchmark Trend Report and Proposed Quality Benchmarks

Secretary Magarik presented an overview of the Benchmark Trend Report Calendar Year (CY) 2019 Results and the proposed quality measures. First, she provided a background on the benchmark initiative which included a short summary of the Governor's Executive Order 25 which was signed in November 2018 and laid out a vision for improving the transparency and public health awareness of health care spending and quality. The benchmark program went into effect January 1, 2019. Secretary Magarik also shared how the benchmarks (spending and quality) were set. The benchmarks are not a penalty or cap, this is a target value for year over year health care inflation.

Next, Secretary Magarik shared information about the data methodology of the benchmark initiative. DHCC collected final CY 2018 data and/or first run of CY 2019 data from all payers (e.g., Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Cigna, Highmark, and United). CY 2018 data from DMMA and VHA was not restated per the benchmark process. Due to methodological differences, this data should not be compared to other sources of Delaware spending. Insurers submitted quality data for the CY 2019 performance period (Emergency department utilization, Persistent of beta-blocker after a heart attack, Statin therapy for patients with cardiovascular disease). Other CY 2019 quality results were obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) public reports (Adult obesity, Tobacco use, Opioid-related overdose deaths per 100,000). High school students who were physically active is not reported by CDC.

Secretary Magarik shared data from the Trend Report. The total health care expenditures (THCE) went from \$7.6 billion in CY 2018 to \$8.2 billion in CY 2019 an 8.5% increase. The below chart shows CY 2019 spending by component.



Other data shared included state level by per capita, total medical expense (TME) by service category, and quality measure results (slide below).

QUALITY MEASURE RESULTS

QUALITY MEASURE	CY 2019 Benchmark	CY 2019 Results	Notes
Adult Obesity	30.0%	34.4%	Lower result/score is better
Adult Tobacco Use	17.1%	15.9%	Lower result/score is better
Opioid-related Overdose Deaths	16.2 deaths per 100,000	43.0 deaths per 100,000	Lower result/score is better
Emergency Department Utilization	190.0 visits per 1,000 (Commercial only)	193.2 visits per 1,000	Lower result/score is better
Persistence of Beta-Blocker Treatment after a Heart Attack	82.5% Commercial 78.8% Medicaid	93.9% Commercial 73.5% Medicaid	Higher result/score is better
Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease – Statin Adherence 80%	79.9% Commercial 59.2% Medicaid	83.5% Commercial 65.1% Medicaid	Higher result/score is better

Secretary Geisenberger asked Secretary Magarik if she anticipates because of the pandemic how the quality measures results may look next year – could there be any significant impacts? Secretary Magarik shared it is too soon to know, however, there is some thought adult obesity and opioid-related overdose deaths could increase. Dr. Fan shared she did not see the State progressing in the right direction, and Dr. Lee shared DHIN’s website has a public-facing report on ED utilization and how that has changed during the pandemic.

Marcy Jack (Beebe Healthcare) asked about the status of the “Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines” quality measure. Fred Gibson with Mercer (DHCC’s vendor supporting the benchmark program) shared after further research it was determined the measure was not useful and instead opting to use a similar measure “Use of Opioids at High Dosage.”

Next, Secretary Magarik shared information about the proposed quality measures for CY 2022 - CY 2024. The DHCC proposes maintaining six of the eight from the CY 2019 – CY 2021 cycle and adopt four new measures. Three of these new measures will focus on cancer screenings (breast, colorectal, and cervical) and one measure focused on dental services. The new annual benchmarks will need to be developed for all quality measures.

Elisabeth Massa (DHCC) shared that according to Executive Order 25, the commissioners did not need to vote on the proposed quality measures, however, the DHCC would welcome comments and dialogue on the proposed measures. There was some discussion among the commissioners about the proposed quality measures. Secretary Geisenberger asked about measuring childhood obesity. Dr. Fan shared there were so many variables to measure with childhood obesity. Dr. Lee added it would be very hard to measure. There was some discussion around the dental measure and the age group selected. Steve Groff (DMMA Director) shared the measure was EPSDT measure for children. Rich Heffron also asked about the pandemic numbers.

Dr. Fan encouraged meeting attendees to ask questions or provide comments in the WebEx chat box.

WebEx Chat Box

from John Dodd to everyone: 10:12 AM

Very good discussion on the value of the data and the types of issues that can provide guides to policy interventions. Very Good

from mjack to everyone: 10:17 AM

Thank you for the update on concurrent benzodiazepines and opioids.

from John Dodd to everyone: 10:26 AM

Why tobacco is dropped? Not getting better

from Joann to everyone: 10:31 AM

Comment if you can on reports of "up-coding" of Comment if you can on reported "up-coding of care by Medicare Advantage plans which increases their reimbursement from the government

from nick conte to everyone: 10:32 AM

with the rollout of adult dental last year, it might be too soon to report on adults

from Steven's Computer to everyone: 10:33 AM

yes but we could see the increase in trend

from Steven's Computer to everyone: 10:34 AM

for dental

from Steven's Computer to everyone: 10:34 AM

It's not only Medicaid though

from Steven's Computer to everyone: 10:36 AM

any reason we are limiting to just Medicaid

The DHCC is accepting written public comments at DHCC@delaware.gov. Please send comments by Friday, April 9, 2021.

The Secretary's presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#). All benchmark documents including the Trend Report are available on the [DHCC benchmark website](#).

ADJOURN

Dr. Fan thanked everyone for their participation and shared the conference line would remain open for the DEFAC Healthcare Spending Benchmark Subcommittee Meeting.

Next Meeting

The next DHCC meeting will be held on May 6, 2021 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Public Meeting Attendees

April 1, 2021

Brian Olson	La Red Health Care
Randil Munson	United Medical, LLC
Katie Macklin	Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter
Cheryl Heiks	Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
Chris Otto	Delaware Nurses Association
Christian Crooks Bryan	Delaware Healthcare Association
Wayne Smith	Delaware Healthcare Association
Megan Williams	Delaware Healthcare Association
Lisa Goodman	Hamilton Goodman Partners
Meredith Tweedie	ChristianaCare
Pam Price	Highmark Delaware
Pam Gardner	Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Victoria Brennan	Controller General's Office
Sherman Townsend	DIMER
Mary Fenimore	Medical Society of Delaware
Melissa Marlin	Department of Finance
David Roose	Department of Finance
Devona Williams	Goeins-Williams Associates, Inc
Kiki Evinger	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
Steve Groff	Delaware Health and Social Services
Joanne Haase	League of Women Voters of Delaware
Leslie Ledogar	Delaware Department of Insurance
Lolita Lopez	Westside Family Healthcare
Nick Conte	Division of Public Health
Lori Ann Rhoads	Medical Society of Delaware
Lincoln Willis	Medical Society of Delaware
Kathy Collison	Division of Public Health
Marcy Jack	Beebe Healthcare
David Roose	Department of Finance
John Dodd	BDC – Health
Fred Gibison	Mercer
Laurie Klanchar	Mercer
Jordan Bublik	Mercer
Alexandra Parkowski	AB&C
Krissy Yurkin	AB&C
Amanda McAtee	Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee

Beth Altemus
Aditi Seri
Rebecca Kidner
Lynn Robinson
Lisa Acre
RBK

Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore