



## **The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting**

May 4, 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, Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI), and Dr. Stephanie Traynor (DSCYF)

**Meeting Facilitator:** Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

**Commission Members Absent:** Nick Moriello (Highmark Delaware)

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

After confirming a quorum, Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m. virtually. Dr. Fan asked public attendees to formally identify themselves by placing their name and affiliation in the chat box.

Dr. Fan opened the meeting by highlighting the month of May is celebrated as both Mental Health Awareness Month and Asian American Pacific Islander Awareness Month. Secretary Molly Magarik added that May is also celebrated as Older Americans Month.

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

#### **ACTION ITEM: Approve April 6, 2023, meeting minutes**

The Commissioners reviewed the April 6, 2023, meeting minutes. Dr. Jan Lee made a motion to approve, and Secretary Magarik seconded the motion. No objections were made, and minutes were approved. The minutes are available on the [DHCC Website](#).

## **Public Health Emergency Ending May 11, 2023 – meeting format**

Dr. Fan shared with the Public Health Emergency ending May 11, 2023, public meetings will be returning to in-person. Organizations can offer a hybrid meeting if there is an anchor location and at least one board member present. Starting in June, the DHCC meetings will be hybrid with an anchor location at the Chapel on the Herman Holloway campus in New Castle. Dr. Fan encouraged commissioners and public attendees to attend in-person as the virtual component, while available, may not provide the best meeting experience. The Chapel is not available for the December meeting and the anchor location is TBD.

Unrelated to the impact on public meetings, Secretary Geisenberger asked Secretary Magarik what issues are associated with the ending of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). Secretary Magarik shared:

- Redeterminations of Medicaid benefits and emergency SNAP benefits is underway. There is some additional flexibility regarding food benefits and work requirements pertaining to childcare payments, although some childcare and TANF requirements will be phased slower. When the PHE ends, flexibility around staffing will end.
- There are concerns around staffing flexibility for the long-term care facilities. All facilities have to say they meet the staffing quota, and additionally, Delaware implemented Eagles Law in 2000, that sets nursing staffing requirements above and beyond. Eagles Law has been suspended and unlike the licensure flexibility, DHSS has heard from long term care that they are very concerned.
- With respect to pharmacies, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act (2020) provided pharmacies with flexibilities such as texting and administering vaccinations. The State is reviewing guidance to determine if these allowances will continue moving forward.
- The federal requirements around telehealth are still in flux and the federal government is in the process of putting rules into place.
- The Biden Administration announced the vaccine requirement will end on May 8, 2023.

Secretary Geisenberger suggested the Commission keep the ending of the PHE on the agenda for future meetings to keep track of the changes and to the extent the Commission is called upon to assist. Dr. Fan agreed she liked this being an ongoing board agenda item.

### **From the WebEx Chat Box:**

from Molly Magarik, DHSS to everyone:

We've also heard that it's challenging for long-term care to get the data from the health systems, so this is great for them as well to understand the acute experience

## **STRATEGIC RETREAT**

Dr. Fan informed the Commission the DHCC staff is having a challenging time securing an anchor location for the December meeting. Dr. Fan inquired if the commissioners would consider holding the retreat on November 17 and cancelling the December Commission meeting. After much discussion, no decision was made. DHCC staff will send a Doodle poll to the commissioners to survey dates.

### **From the WebEx Chat Box:**

from Roger Harrison he/his to everyone:  
I'm okay with Dec 1. It avoids both holidays

from Trinidad to everyone:  
I will be out of town on Dec. 1st, but my conference room would still be available. We can accommodate approximately 100 guests.

from Trinidad to everyone:  
Maybe we should do a doodle poll

## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN)**

Dr. Jan Lee provided an update on DHIN activities. She shared a fair amount of work has been done in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. Much has been accomplished this year by individual stakeholders who are doing upgrades of their own systems and how they interface with DHIN, including:

- A recently added Medicaid MCO is being onboarded
- School absentee report (DASH) has been updated
- St. Francis Epic conversion is complete
- TidalHealth interface to DHIN
- Upgrade to FHIR r4
- 34 SNFs have been onboarded
- Complete the distribution and execution of updated participation agreements

Dr. Lee shared DHIN went through a High Trust certification, and it was a significant amount of work. High Trust is an organization that has created a harmonization of security standards from many different standard setting organizations and has become the "gold standard" for healthcare organizations and security best practices. DHIN has additional work planned, including completing a Community Health Record (CHR) transition and will be working with vendor, Outcome Healthcare. Dr. Lee highlighted additional FY 2024 work summarized in the slide below:

## Additional FY24 Work Planned

- Complete CHR refresh
- Upgrade our technology stack (FY24 and ongoing)
- Major tech refresh (ENS, Clinical Gateway, MPI – FY24 and ongoing)
- Compliance requirements
- TEFCA readiness
- Continue automation of manual work
- Contracts in negotiation (new data senders, lines of business)
- Additional projects as negotiated with customers/stakeholders
- Continue work to mature analytics capabilities



Dr. Lee shared information about DHIN’s analytics service line that ties to DHIN’s major strategic themes:

1. New sources/types of data
2. Strengthen DHIN’s ties to the State
3. Business sustainability
4. Maintain DHIN’s current strengths and advantages

Dr. Lee’s presentation concluded with “Where Are We and Where Do We Want to Go?” illustrated in the slide below:

## Where Are We & Where Do We Want to Go?

On a scale of one to ten, with the following definitions:

- One – Data Extraction Service
- Ten – Advanced Analytics Service

*Where are we today?*

*Where do we want to be in 6-12 months?*

*Where do we want to be in 3 years?*



To summarize, Dr. Lee concluded:

- DHIN’s flagship services have near total market penetration with little to no further growth potential
- DHIN’s sustainability requires new markets, new services, new revenue sources
- Data analytics appears to be the obvious “next big thing” for DHIN
- A rigorously developed business plan for growth of the analytics service line
- A detailed roadmap has been developed

Dr. Fan inquired if there was 100% participation of all practices in the DHIN to be able to access the services of DHIN. Dr. Lee replied that participation was approaching 100% for users of the Community Health Record; there is less than 100% participation from ambulatory services for submitting data to DHIN and is an area DHIN would like to see more.

Melissa Jones asked how much of the information received is manually uploaded verses automated. Dr. Lee indicated that data DHIN receives is all through interfaces and not manually entered.

Secretary Magarik expressed thanks to DHIN for the services they have provided through the pandemic.

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

**From the WebEx Chat Box:**

from Alia Bonner EL to everyone:

Not a question but comment on school absenteeism reporting: I've done some consulting within Christina School district as a BCBA and have known children to be absent due to mental health w/ no f/up visit to provider. This is a good initiative. I am hopeful that other districts and providers will get involved

**UPDATES**

**Delaware Institute for Medical and Research (DIMER)**

Dr. Fan, serving as the acting DIMER chair, provided an update about DIMER. She shared a recap on the most recent DIMER board meeting which was held on April 19. During the meeting, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University presented an overview of their history, curriculum, admissions data, students, and community. Cooper Medical School is interested in the DIMER program and reached out to DHSS to learn more and explore potential collaboration. Philadelphia College Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) and Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) provided an update on the class of their incoming class of 2027. The schools shared admission and demographic statistics. Also, during the meeting, the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance provided an update on their medical education and DIMER engagement activities including outreach to high schools. The DIMER board also spent some time at the meeting reviewing possible legislation regarding the board composition. The DIMER board would like to discuss further at their June 7th meeting.

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

## **Delaware Institute for Dental Education and Research (DIDER)**

Ted Becker, DHCC commissioner and DIDER board member, provided an update about the recent DIDER meeting which was held on April 26. At the meeting, the DIDER board welcomed a new member, Christine Stinton, DMD (Chief Dental Officer with La Red Health Center). The Board reviewed and discussed the Dental Task Force's final recommendations. Dr. Jeffrey Cole, DIDER board member and residency director at ChristianaCare (CCHS), provided an update on CCHS's new clinic and recently implemented enhancements. The Division of Public Health also provided program updates. The DIDER board scheduled a luncheon on June 7 with students attending the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry. The next DIDER meeting is scheduled for July 12.

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

## **Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)**

Dr. Fan, as the PCRC chair, provided an update on the recent April PCRC meeting. At the April meeting, the Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery (OVBHD) provided an update on commercial affordability standards and on the Primary Care Investment projections for 2023. The Primary Care Reform Collaborative's (PCRC) vendor, Health Management Associates (HMA) provided an update on the methodology and recommended payment amounts for the Delaware Primary Care Payment model. At the meeting, Dr. Fan presented a PCRC survey containing recent primary care scorecard recommendations from NASEM. The next PCRC meeting is scheduled for June 5. Time and location are forthcoming.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM

## **UPCOMING MEETING**

The next DHCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The anchor location for the meeting:

The Chapel  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Herman Holloway Campus  
1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720

**Public Meeting Attendees  
May 4, 2023**

Alia Bonner El	
Beste Kuru	
Brian Olson	La Red Health Center
Christina Crooks Bryan	Delaware Healthcare Association
Christopher Otto	Delaware Nurses Association
Cristine Vogel	Department of Insurance
Delaney McGonegal	
Eschalla Clarke	DHSS
Frank Pyle	Department of Insurance
Jeff Schott	Department of Insurance
John Dodd	
Jose Tieso	Gainwell Technologies
Judith Butler	
Lincoln Willis	Medical Society of Delaware
Liz Brown	DHSS
Lizzie Lewis	Hamilton Goodman
Lori Ann Rhoads	Medical Society of Delaware
Mike Kempiski	
Mollie Polland	Nemours
Nichole Moxley	DHSS
Nick Conte	DHSS
Nora Hoban	
Pamela Gardner	Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Richard Holaday	DHSS
Shay Scott	Henrietta Johnson Medical Center
Stacey Hassel	DHIN
Steven Costantino	DHSS
Susan Jennette	Department of Insurance
Tyler Blanchard	Aledade
Victoria Brennan	Office of Controller General
Wayne Smith	Smith Capitol Advisors