



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

July 1, 2021

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

### **Meeting Attendance and Minutes**

**Commission Members Present:** Theodore W. Becker (Mayor of Lewes), Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours), Melissa Jones, Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS), Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF), Nick Moriello (Highmark), Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI), and David Roose (DOF surrogate for Cabinet Secretary Geisenberger)

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

**Commission Members Absent:** Cabinet Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Richard Heffron, and Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN)

**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 9:01 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](mailto:dhcc@delaware.gov)).

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

#### **ACTION ITEM: Approve June 3, 2021 meeting minutes**

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the draft June 3, 2021 meeting minutes. There were no comments or changes. Ted Becker made a motion to approve, and Nick Moriello seconded. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The approved minutes are available on the [DHCC website](#).

## **ACTION ITEM: Approve State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) Awards**

Board approval is required to approve the SLRP awards. The commissioners received a document from the DHCC staff prior to the meeting that contained proposed awards for the March 15, 2021 application cycle. Dr. Fan asked the commissioners if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, she asked for a motion. Ted Becker made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Navarro seconded. Hearing no opposition, the awards were approved. Dr. Fan asked DHCC staff if the award information would be shared. Elisabeth Massa confirmed deidentified information will be posted on the DHCC website once contracts with the recipients are finalized.

## **Strategic Retreat Planning**

Dr. Fan and the commissioners discussed planning a fall Strategic Retreat. Dr. Fan suggested the Retreat be held in October instead of November. She asked the commissioners their thoughts. She would like to discuss a number of the DHCC's new initiatives (ex. State-sponsored loan repayment program and primary care). Ted Becker commented he was supportive moving the Retreat to October. Secretary Magarik commented the DHSS budget is due in October and legislative discussions are already happening by November. She was supportive moving the Retreat to earlier in the fall. Commissioner Navarro agreed it was also beneficial to move the Retreat to October from the Department of Insurance (DOI) perspective because DOI meets with the industry to discuss the legislative agenda in November. Nick Moriello asked if previous DHCC retreats created policy recommendations. He thought the previous Retreat's developed strategic goals around the Commission and the work the DHCC would like to take up in the coming year, not legislative priorities. Dr. Fan agreed, but said some strategic goals may have policy implications. Dr. Fan noted the retreat would still be a public meeting and board members could bring forward areas of focus. She suggested the retreat could be a half-day. An email will be sent to the commissioners before the September DHCC meeting to poll their availability and start the planning process.

## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Advanced Practice Provider Survey**

Dr. Fan introduced Rebecca Gross and Dr. Susan Conaty-Buck with the University of Delaware to present a summary of the results of the 2020 Advanced Practice Provider Survey that was prepared for the Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Planning and Resource Management.

Ms. Gross kicked off the presentation with background information about the survey. The survey is a follow-up to the 1998 survey of Delaware Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) and collected data from Delaware Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners as well as an expanded group of APPs (Certified Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Anesthetists, Certified Nurse Midwives, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Physician Assistants). In the timeframe March to June 2020, Delaware APPs were contacted by mail to complete an online survey. Of the 2,649 APPs contacted, 532 APPs responded for a response rate of 20%. In hindsight, it was not an ideal time for the survey because of the COVID pandemic. Ms. Gross shared information about the demographics of the respondents, employment, certifications of the respondent group, hours worked, time devoted to direct patient care, and what type of patients APPs serve.

Next, Dr. Conaty-Buck provided an overview of where the APPs care setting. With respect to primary care, 49% of the APPs that work in a Delaware clinical setting and provide direct care do not provide primary care. Dr. Conaty-Buck highlighted what type of payment models APPs accept. The survey asked about practice barriers and barriers proving care for chronic care patients. Dr. Conaty-Buck concluded the presentation by sharing observations and final take away points.

## Observations

- Delaware currently licenses 2,649 individual APPs. Of these, 244 providers are either retired, unemployed, or employed outside of a health-related field. The total number of APPs working as an APP within Delaware is 2,140. Another 265 APPs are employed full-time in another state.
- There were indications that APPs work may be allocated less efficiently than desirable. 10% of APPs report not engaging in any direct patient care and 48% report that a quarter of their workload is spent on practice management/paperwork, suggesting that some review is needed.
- Nearly 30% of APPs pointed to a lack of understanding about how APPs should be utilized, and 16% were concerned about the administrative tasks they were asked to assume.
- Today, 42% of the APPs are under 50 years of age. APPs between 50 and 69 years of age account for 55% of the group. It appears that there is a need to recruit and train a significant number of new APPs and encourage existing experienced nurses to be trained to meet this need.
- The data suggests that a significant portion of the current group of APPs (37%) is expecting to leave the field in the next five years. Given that 59% of APPs are age 50 or older, it may be prudent to increase efforts to recruit the younger cohort and improve retention rates for existing APPs.
- To ensure the workforce matches the growing need for APPs, it is recommended DPH monitor trends in this workforce on an annual basis.

Dr. Fan thanked Dr. Conaty-Buck and Ms. Gross for their presentation. She asked how colored the observations and takeaways might be based on the timing of the survey. Dr. Fan said sometimes surveys are skewed typically to those who like to respond to surveys. Dr. Conaty-Buck commented that they would not want to do a survey again during a pandemic and agreed with Dr. Fan that the response could have been very different if the survey was conducted during a different time. Dr. Fan suggested it might be more useful to conduct a follow-up survey in 2022 and shorten the survey to focus on certain goals such as workforce. Kathy Collison with the Division of Public Health commented she thought the University of Delaware did a wonderful job and would be happy to continue dialogue on what can be done in 2022.

Secretary Magarik added she was surprised to see just one person of the respondents being in mental health. She also asked for clarification about the low health literacy in the 19% was that concentrated in a certain part of the state. Dr. Conaty-Buck replied they do not have that information because their data is de-identified.

Dr. Roger Harrison asked about the race and ethnic breakdown and if information was collected about languages. Ms. Gross shared that information was collected about languages and the survey asked multiple questions on this topic. The survey, however, did not have a racial breakdown on respondents, but that it could be done in future surveys. Dr. Conaty-Buck also commented there are very few mental health providers licensed in the state. Dr. Harrison commented that until we have a health care workforce that matches the demographics of the populations that Delaware serves, Delaware will miss big opportunities to address health care disparities. Dr. Fan added she would find it very hard to use this report as a springboard because of when the survey came out and that a future survey should be shorter. Dr. Conaty-Buck said she would be happy to work the Commission on a future survey.

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

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

from Collison, Katherine (DHSS) to everyone: 9:40 AM  
Wonderful presentation, I have nothing to add. Thank you!

from cheryl Heiks to everyone: 9:47 AM  
Thank you for the presentation. Happy to share the survey (if asked) amongst the long term care industry - where Advanced Practice Providers play a very important role. Cheryl Heiks, Delaware Health Care Facilities Assoc.

from Ledogar, Leslie (DOI) to everyone: 9:48 AM  
This is a great presentation. I appreciate the analysis concerning opportunities for workforce development. Highlighting opportunities for alternative ways access to care may help with keeping costs in check.

from cheryl Heiks to everyone: 9:54 AM  
Repeating this (not during a pandemic) and shortened as much as possible to encourage individuals to participate.

from Collison, Katherine (DHSS) to everyone: 9:56 AM  
Rebecca - great point, thank you!

from Collison, Katherine (DHSS) to everyone: 10:01 AM  
Link to the APP Report <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dph/hsm/files/advancedpracticeprovreport.pdf>

from maggie norris bent to everyone: 10:01 AM  
Westside Family Healthcare is grateful to all the partners involved to make HB48 possible. This is very exciting and so critical to our ability to recruit primary care providers. I am hopeful that we consider something similar in the future for dentists.

from cheryl Heiks to everyone: 10:03 AM  
Would other settings besides hospitals be able to contribute to the loan repayment program? Thinking of those interested in the geriatric fields.

from Nancy to everyone: 10:11 AM  
thx cheryl. when we set up the advisory committee, we will make sure you can provide that input

from Ledogar, Leslie (DOI) to everyone: 10:13 AM  
Big shout out to all who helped on the passage of SS 1 for SB 120! The OVBHCD is looking forward to working with all stakeholders as we build out the program and continue this critically important work!!

from Roger Harrison he/his to everyone: 10:33 AM  
And much appreciation for reporting out the race/ethnicity data!

from Roger Harrison he/his to everyone: 10:34 AM

I think we have such a wonderful opportunity to focus on increasing Hispanic and Black representation in our medical workforce.

## **Legislative Update**

With the legislative session ending on June 30, Dr. Fan shared an update on two pieces of legislation that will affect the DHCC – HB 48 (Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP)) and SS 1 for SB 120 (Primary Care). Both bills are pending the Governor's signature. HB 48 will establish a new state-sponsored loan repayment program for new primary care providers. The program will be administered by the DHCC. Dr. Fan shared this fall the HCPLRP advisory group will be reconvened.

Commissioner Navarro asked Dr. Fan if she was going to discuss any insurance health care related bills. Commissioner Navarro shared there were about 25 bills the DOI was able to get through the legislative session, some of which were health care or health insurance related (pharmacy benefit manager, telemedicine, contraception, epi pen, and other consumer centered bills).

Next, Dr. Fan provided a summary of SS 1 for SB 120. Specifically, the DHCC will 1) monitor compliance with value-based care delivery models and 2) develop and monitor compliance with alternative payment methods that promote value-based care. Secretary Magarik congratulated Dr. Fan and other members of the Collaborative for all their hard work around the legislation.

## **UPDATES**

### **Health Workforce Subcommittee**

Nick Moriello, DHCC commissioner and co-chair for the Health Workforce Subcommittee, provided an update on the Health Workforce Subcommittee activities. The Subcommittee met on June 22 which included a presentation from the Delaware Psychiatric Center. The presentation highlighted salary comparisons for mental health practitioners employed by the state. Mr. Moriello also shared the Subcommittee discussed funding for the Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association workforce research scope of work which was approved by the commissioners at the June meeting. He also mentioned the July and August Subcommittees would be cancelled and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September.

### **DIMER and DIDER Collaborative Meeting**

Mr. Sherman Townsend, DIMER Chair, and DHCC Commissioner Ted Becker (DIDER liaison) provided an update on the DIMER and DIDER Collaborative Meeting. The [PowerPoint](#) for the meeting is available on the Public Meeting Calendar. Mr. Townsend highlighted there are two new DIMER board members and shared a summary of the [DIMER 2020 Annual Report](#). He also shared data about student demographics. DIMER is meeting or exceeding the number of slots associated with each medical school. Mr. Townsend said DIMER's partnership with the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) has been a game changer for DIMER and its marketing efforts. DIMER has also been trying to attract Delawareans from the underrepresented minority groups. This year, of the 17 students at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, 4 students are Black/African American. The demographics for race at Sidney Kimmel is not currently, and Mr. Townsend will work on securing the data. Mr. Townsend also shared

he has been in conversation with Delaware State University and sees lots of opportunity for health care education. The Collaborative Meeting minutes will be posted on the Public Meeting Calendar.

Mr. Becker commented the DIMER and DIDER Collaborative meeting was productive, and he provided an update on Temple DIDER students. Temple has done a great job accepting more Delaware students than the allocated 5 slots. DIDER is considering providing scholarships to help students take the dental aptitude tests through Kaplan. Mr. Becker shared DIDER would very much like to be part of the new state loan repayment program. Dental was not included in the legislation (HB 48). Loan repayment would significantly help address dental workforce needs especially in Kent and Sussex counties. Mr. Becker shared there is a new residency director at ChrisitanaCare. Residency programs are an effective way to recruit dental practitioners in the State. There is a need to also establish a residency program down State. DIDER is also looking to incorporate a 3-5 year curriculum with the University of Delaware undergraduate studies to help students get into the Temple dental program. Mr. Becker also mentioned DIDER would like to explore developing another relationship with a dental school – possibly Maryland.

Dr. Khan with the DHSA provided a few short comments about the DHSA DIMER activities. This fall, there are outreach activities planned with high school, college, and medical school students.

### **Health Resources Board**

Dr. Fan shared the Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee (JLOSC) issued a [Final Report for 2021](#). The HRB will be held over until 2021. This fall, the DHCC will be required to submit progress reports to the JLOSC on September 1 and December 1.

### **ADJOURN**

Dr. Fan asked if there was any public comment. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned. The August DHCC meeting is cancelled. The next DHCC meeting will be held on September 2, 2021 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

### **Public Meeting Attendees July 1, 2021**

Lori Ann Rhoads	Medical Society of Delaware
Leslie Ledogar	Department of Insurance
Pamela Gardner	Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Omar Khan	Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Anthony Onugu	United Medical ACO
Brian Olson	La Red Health Center
Pat Redmond	Nemours
Sherman Townsend	DIMER
Kathy Collison	Division of Public Health
Nick Conte	Division of Public Health
Richard Holaday	Division of Medicaid and Medical Services
Kimberly Clawson	Joint Commission

Jules Villecco  
Bryan Gordan  
Chris Otto  
Joanne Haase  
Paula Roy  
Emily Vera  
David Roose  
Cheryl Heiks  
Maggie Norris Bent  
Mollie Poland  
Katie Macklin  
Nicole Freedman  
Delaney McGonegal  
Nora Hoban  
Susan Conaty-Buck  
Rebecca Gross  
Raman Kaur  
Pam Price  
Megan Williams  
Wayne Smith  
Krissy Yurkanin  
Alex Parkowski

Delaware Health and Social Services  
ChristianaCare  
Delaware Nurses Association  
League of Women Voters of Delaware  
Roy Associates  
Mental Health Association in Delaware  
Department of Finance  
Delaware Health Care Facilities Association  
Westside Family Healthcare  
Nemours  
Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter  
  
MACHC  
MACHC  
University of Delaware  
University of Delaware  
University of Delaware  
Highmark Delaware  
Delaware Healthcare Association  
Delaware Healthcare Association  
AB&C  
AB&C