



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

July 6, 2023

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

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present In-Person: Theodore Becker, Dr. Nancy Fan (St. Francis), Dr. Stephanie Traynor (DSCYF), Richard Heffron, Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik, Nick Moriello (Highmark Delaware), and Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI)

Commission Members Attending virtually: Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours), Cabinet Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), and Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN)

Commission Members Absent: Melissa Jones

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

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

Anchor Location: The Chapel, Herman M. Holloway Sr. Health and Social Services Campus
1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720

CALL TO ORDER

After confirming a quorum, Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. Dr. Fan asked public attendees to identify themselves by placing their name and affiliation in the chat box and those attending in-person to sign the sign-in sheet in the Chapel.

Dr. Fan opened the meeting by highlighting the month of July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness month. For a lot of minority groups mental health is usually dismissed not only by their own culture but by the health care system. So recognizing that minorities might actually have other mental health issues as related to both structural racism as well as systemic

racism is very important in being able to address their health care needs in equity and healthcare.

BOARD BUSINESS

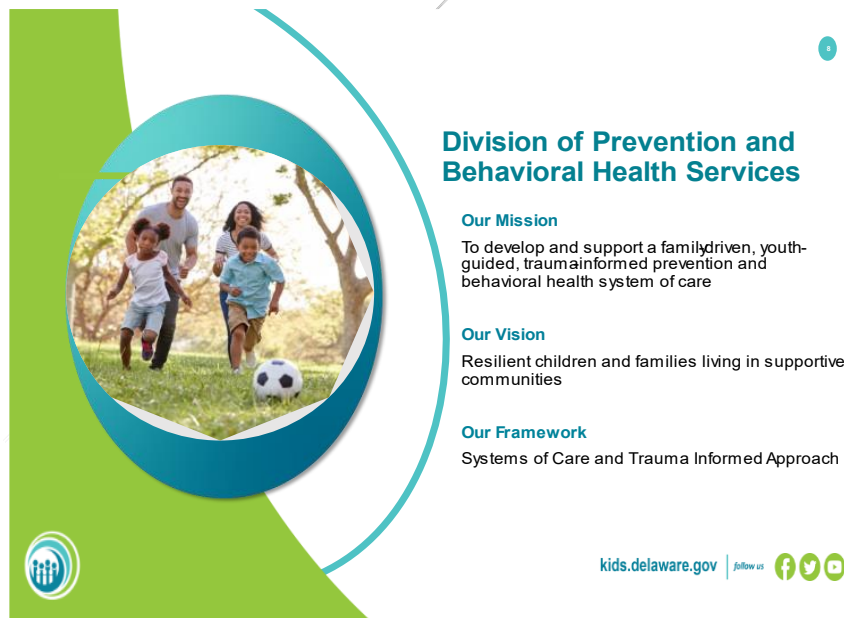
ACTION ITEM: Approve June 1, 2023, meeting minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the June 1, 2023, meeting minutes. Dr. Fan asked if there were any comments. Ted Becker motioned to have the minutes approved. Nick Moriello second the motion. No objections were made. The minutes were approved by the commissioners and are available on the [DHCC Website](#).

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Children’s Behavioral Health

Dr. Stephanie Traynor, PsyD, MBA, Deputy Director, Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health presented an update on the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families, Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (PBHS). Dr. Traynor provided a brief history on the Division, its mission, vision, and framework.






Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services

Our Mission
To develop and support a familydriven, youth-guided, traumainformed prevention and behavioral health system of care

Our Vision
Resilient children and families living in supportive communities

Our Framework
Systems of Care and Trauma Informed Approach

kids.delaware.gov | follow us   

Dr. Traynor shared the services and eligibility requirements for the behavioral health prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for Delaware children such as:

- Prevention services

- Block grants and SOR funding
- Promoting Safe and Stable Families
- Families and Centers Empowered Together
- Gang Violence prevention programming
- Suicide prevention campaign
- Early intervention based on referrals from early learning centers and schools
 - Early childhood mental health consultants
 - Family and student interventionists
 - Behavioral health consultants (in 31 middle schools)
- Crisis intervention (mobile crisis)



- Treatment services for Delaware children covered by Medicaid or uninsured

Dr. Traynor shared with the Commission some recent challenges over the last 12 months PBHS experienced:

- Increase in referrals for youth with high levels of aggression
- Periods of inpatient beds not being available
- Longer wait time for admission
- Increase youth presenting to the emergency departments for behavioral health crisis
- Increased referrals for youth with co-occurring intellectual and/or developmental disabilities

Dr. Traynor shared with the Commission how PBHS is working to rectify the challenges.

- Monthly hospital collaboration meetings
- Strategic grant applications that will hopefully lead to more bed/staff
- Substance use needs assessment and evaluation of current continuum
- Expansion of services
 - More crises beds
 - Diagnostic and stabilization program
 - Transforming the Terry Center and revitalizing Wharton Hall on the DSCYF administrative campus to better meet the needs of today's youth
 - ABA for conditions other than autism

The Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families launched a Suicide Prevention Campaign in January 2023. The target of this campaign is teens and caregivers of teens. These ads can be seen on:

- Billboards
- Print ads
- Social media
- Streaming
- Radio
- Bus exteriors/interiors/shelters
- Posters/keychains/pins/widow clings/door tags

The overall impact of this campaign is over 5.6M impressions, 25K clicks, and 45% CTR. This shows that there is traffic visiting the social media and looking for information.

The initial implementation of 988 began in July 2022 with Contact Lifeline accepting the calls. In looking at the data collected since 988 began, the number was dialed 435 times with 321 answered calls of those 69 were transferred meaning, the call was not picked up in 45 seconds and redirected to another site to be answered, and 45 abandoned meaning the person hung up before the call could be answered.

Contact Lifeline, DSAMG, and DPBHS maintains the current crisis numbers. DSAMH applied to be the credentialed NSPL backup for Delaware and is targeted to start handling the calls in the summer of 2023.

Monthly meetings between Contact Lifeline, DSAMH, 911 and DPBHS will be held to discuss/review call data and high-risk calls.

In looking at next steps for 988, implementation will look like:

- Establishing a Behavioral Health Crisis Communications Center
- Establishing a contract for managing text/chat features
- Developing and implementing DSAMH-SPBHS 988 media campaign
- DSAMH an PBH phasing out other crisis numbers

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

Questions/Comments:

Dr. Fan asked if there were any questions. Nick Moriello asked about inpatient beds and the demands exceeding the beds or the staffing. He asked how many beds there are and how many more would be needed. Dr. Traynor responded she did not have the number off the top of her head, but there are times when areas are not open because of lack of staffing. When those

issues occur, the emergency departments will work to get the client stabilized there before sending home.

Mr. Moriello's second question was regarding the 30-days for outpatient treatment. Is this something that can be altered at the State level? Dr. Traynor stated that is something that could be changed but will need to be addressed.

Secretary Geisenberger referenced the section about 988 and House Bill 160 (the 988 surcharge). Dr. Traynor did not speak on that as she was not part of those conversations. Secretary Geisenberger spoke on the possible \$.60 surcharge that will show up on every cell phone bill, every landline, etc. These funds will go toward funding the dispatch centers, all infrastructure, additional contracting needed to take on responsibility, and immediate response. Secretary Magarik shared this is a little different than the 911 structure. These funds will provide services for behavioral health needs throughout the State. The goal of 988 is to raise awareness and have one number for people to call.

Dr. Liz Brown, with the DHSS Division of Public Health and Medicaid and Medical Services, clarified the 30 outpatient units covered in the MCO benefits, it is 30 outpatient treatment units, which means, visits, treatments, etc. It was a state decision and not a federal requirement.

Dr. Fan spoke on the integration of services and inquired what kind of integration is there once individuals are out of the PHBS services? Dr. Traynor stated they do not currently receive behavioral health information from other sources. It requires the sending organization to sign the appropriate agreements and so far, this has not happened.

Chris Frazier from Westside Family Healthcare asked are there any areas that need to be highlighted and is there a percentage of uninsured care that is provided? Dr. Traynor stated they rarely have anyone that comes in that is uninsured. If they do and are eligible for Medicaid, they are referred. If they are not eligible, services are still provided. As far as areas served, PBHS is statewide.

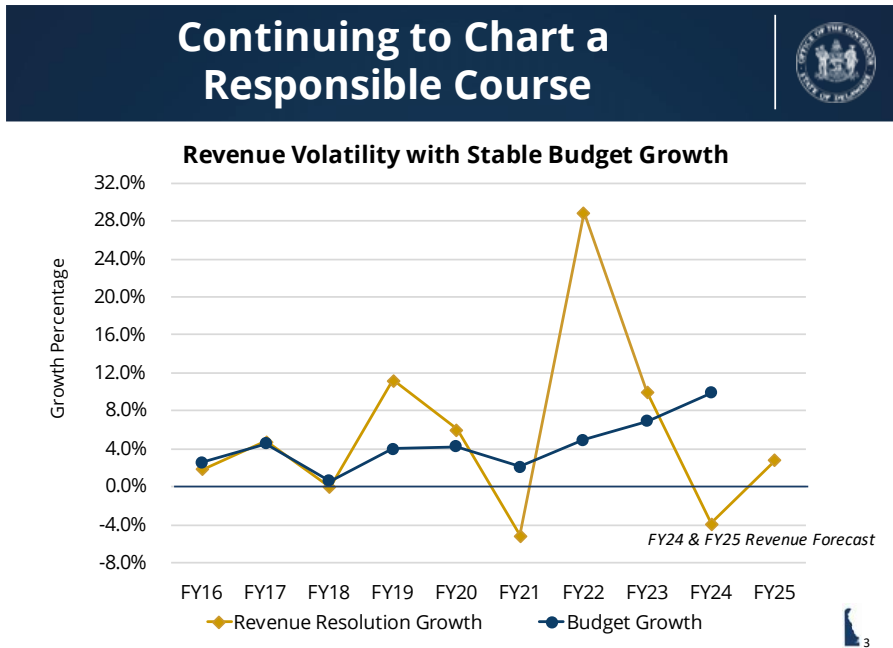
Ted Becker commented about Sussex County and the shortage of beds there. He asked how many crisis beds they have there. Dr. Traynor stated the need must be demonstrated more strongly the beds are needed there and more beds are needed as well.

The next question Mr. Becker had was about the 988 number. Mr. Becker asked if they utilized the libraries to help spread the number. Secretary Magarik stated this is an ongoing initiative and they are working on really embedding it into the public and partners to really get it out there. Dr. Traynor stated that getting libraries involved is a good strategy and that is something that will be addressed.

Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget

Secretary Rick Geisenberger, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Finance presented the final approved budget for fiscal year 2024. Below are some of the highlights:

The volatility of stable budgeting shows Delaware's growth. The chart below shows the ups and downs of working to obtain a more stable budget with a revenue cushion.



Secretary Geisenberger reviewed the priorities in the 2024 budget:

- Compensation and pay equity
- Opportunity funding investments
- Affordable housing
- Economic development and infrastructure
- Clean water and other environmental initiatives

Funds have been budgeted for supporting healthy families, early childhood development, additional investments in health, and improving roadway safety.

Secretary Geisenberger shared the budget breakdown process for fiscal year 2025:

FY 2025 BUDGET PROCESS



July -
December

Governor Carney and cabinet members develop the FY2025 budget draft.

Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council (DEFAC) meet in October and December to **project revenue**. DEFAC will update their projections in March, May and June.

January

January 25: Governor Carney proposes FY 2025 recommended budget.

February -
March

Joint Finance Committee (JFC) and Bond Bill Committee Hearings
Committee members consider Governor Carney's recommended operating budget and hold hearings to discuss budget items with agencies and advocates.

April - May

Mark-up: JFC reviews budget proposals.

June 30

The **General Assembly passes** the budget and bond bills, and the **Governor signs** the bills by June 30.

The **new fiscal year begins July 1**.



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

UPDATES

Delaware Institute for Medical Education and Research (DIMER)

Dr. Fan, Acting DIMER Chair, shared updates from DIMER's board meeting held June 7, 2023.

- 2023 DIMER Annual highlights were presented by the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
- Sidney Kimmel admissions updates:
 - 20 DIMER students committed to enroll (10 men, 10 women)
 - 18 students from NCC, 1 from Kent and 1 from Sussex
- DIMER Board discussed draft legislation to revise the Board composition

The next DIMER meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023. Dr. Fan's presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#).

Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP)

Dr. Fan shared Senate Bill 98 with House Amendment 1 passed on June 28, 2023, and is now at the Governor's level for action. This act will allow dental clinicians possessing a DDS or DMDs to participate in the HCPLRP. It also extends the time which a provider may apply for HCPLRP grant from six months to two years following completion of their graduate education. These changes

will open the applicant pool, and the DHCC anticipates receiving more applications from qualified health care provider.

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

Nick Moriello asked if there was a set amount in the State budget for the HCPLRP. Secretary Magarik stated one million dollars was added to the base budget, the challenge is if it is not expended, OMB will take it. That is why some of these changes were necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Dr. Fan thanked Secretary Magarik for all she has done for DHSS and the Health Care Commission. She has been a valuable voice.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m. with Secretary Molly Magarik sharing a few parting words. She took a few moments to say thank you to all the commissioners as well as all the stakeholders that show up month after month. The work that is done to assure the attention and the discussion is equivalent to the gravity and impact of the spending is equally important, being intentional about the dollars we are spending. Secretary Magarik hopes to be able to work with the Commission in some capacity in the future.

UPCOMING MEETING

The August DHCC is cancelled. The next DHCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023, 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
July 6, 2023**

Public Meeting Attendees (In-Person)

Chris Frazier	Westside Family Healthcare
Pattie Wright	Highmark Health Options

Public Meeting Attendees (Virtual)

Cheryl Heiks	DE Health Care Facilities Association
Chris Haas	DOI
Christina Harkness	AGNP student Univ of Cincinnati
Christopher Otto	Delaware Nurses Association
Cristine Vogel	DOI
Kathy Collison	DPH
Delaney McGonegal	MACHC
Eschalla Clarke	DSSAPD
Janice James-Webb	Univ. of Delaware
John Dodd	
Judith Butler	League of Women Voters
Lisa Gruss	Medical Society of Delaware
Lori Ann Rhoads	Medical Society of Delaware
Lincoln Willis	The Willis Group
Liz Brown	DHSS
Lynze Shilling	
Maggie Norris-Bent	Westside Family Healthcare
Nick Conte	DPH
Nichole Moxley	DPH
Megan Williams	Delaware Healthcare Association
Pamela Price	Highmark Delaware
Paula Roy	Roy Associates
Nicole Freedman	Morris James
Reid Millius	DPBHS
Sarah Stowens	ChristianaCare
Sherry Nykiel	DMMA
Susan Jennette	DOI
Wayne Smith	Smith Capitol Advisors