



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

September 1, 2022

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

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

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

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Commission Members Absent: Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF)

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

CALL TO ORDER

It was determined a quorum was present Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 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 September was Suicide Prevention Month and highlighted the General Assembly passed legislation this year for mental health services. September is also Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. She mentioned that while there is no screening for either one, awareness is a good term for it.

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve July 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the draft July 7, 2022, meeting minutes. Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro stated there was a typo in Secretary Geisenberger's section. It said the budget surpassed 5 million for the first time, instead of 5 billion. Elisabeth Massa noted the correction will be made.

Dr. Fan asked if there were any other corrections that needed to be made. Hearing none she motioned for the minutes to be approved with the correction made. Dr. Roger Harrison made the motion to accept. Commissioner Navarro seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was accepted by all commissioners present. The approved minutes are available on the [DHCC website](#).

Strategic Retreat Planning

Dr. Fan shared historically the DHCC Strategic Retreat has been held in November, however, last year, it was at the end of October. Dr. Devona Williams has served as the facilitator for the Retreat. If possible, Dr. Fan would like to Dr. Williams facilitate again.

Dr. Lee shared she had a conflict at the end of October. The commissioners agreed a doodle poll should be sent to the commissioners to find a date that works for a majority of the group, Dr. Fan summarized the Retreat will be held in the afternoon for 3-4 hours and will be in-person with a virtual option to attend as well.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Fiscal Year 2023 Final Budget

Secretary and DHCC Commissioner Rick Geisenberger provided a summary of the final budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. At the July DHCC meeting, the Secretary gave a detailed review about the FY 2023 budget. His presentation at today's meeting focused on the outlook for the budget that they have begun preparing for FY 2024. In a short review, the DHSS General Fund Budget for FY 2023 had a 5.6% growth. The Secretary shared the timeline for Delaware's Annual Budget Cycle. The November public hearings will be conducted differently this year. All the materials will be posted online and go straight to public comment. Cabinet Secretaries will have just a few minutes to highlight their proposals.

Next, Secretary Geisenberger reviewed the financial overview for FY 2024 and the various general fund revenues. He explained one of the challenges of putting Delaware's budget together has been historically the volatility of Delaware's revenue streams. Delaware relies on more volatile revenue streams like personal income tax, which is influenced by capital gain. Delaware does not have a sales tax and the property tax is relatively modest at the local level. On the FY 2024 Financial Overview slide, the yellow is described as tepid growth, the green is strong to extraordinary growth, and the red is negative or flat growth. Delaware had some very

strong years the past 4 out of 5 years. With pressures on the budget, revenues fell off with the increasing demand for Medicaid, school enrollment, and funding the pension plan yearly.

FY 2024 Financial Overview

- **General Fund Revenues Remain Structurally Volatile**
 - FY 17 +1.7% / + \$68M *Weak corporate income and franchise tax*
 - FY 18 +9.5% / +\$380M *Strong economic growth/RTT & FT tax increases*
 - FY 19 +4.5% / +\$199M *Moderate economic growth & FT increase tail*
 - FY 20 -1.4% / - \$66M *COVID (Lottery/GRT/Excise taxes/Tax Date deferral)*
 - FY 21 +19.1% / +\$865M *Tax deferral tail, big cap gains, IPO & realty sales*
 - FY 22 +8.2% / +\$440M *13% Gross b4 rebate, Across the board extraordinary growth*
 - FY 23 -0.3% / - \$15M **Forecast** - CIT/RTT/Cap Gains return to earth & CFT flattens
 - FY 24 -0.4% / - \$25M **Forecast** - Corp. franchise drops/other sources stabilize
- **Typical Door Openers**
 - Medicaid
 - Schools - Enrollment growth, special needs and opportunity funding
 - Pension plan and debt service
 - Required personnel costs (e.g., salary steps/collective bargaining agreements)



FY 2024 Financial Overview (cont.)

- Despite low to negative revenue growth, barring a major economic surprise, the State is well positioned to address regular budget demands:
 - Significant one-time spending in FY23 not mandatory in FY24
 - Strong reserves
 - Revenues may outperform due to extraordinary federal/state supports
 - ARPA, Inflation Reduction Act, Student Loan Forgiveness, Large Delaware "bond bills"
 - Revenues may underperform due to the same factors
 - Inflation, rising interest rates, weakened stock market, global instability and the ability of policy makers to engineer a soft landing
 - Advisory budget benchmark index may be higher than has been typical



Secretary Geisenberger also highlighted the benchmark index components in relation to FY 2020, 2021 and 2022. He shared information about the State's ARPA health projects. These projects are centered around mitigating the COVID-19 spread, improving public health operations, or making transformative investments in health care delivery systems to improve outcomes in communities most impacted by COVID.

Dr. Fan asked if the commissioners or public had any questions. Hearing none, she thanked Secretary Geisenberger for his presentation.

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

Health Trends

As part of the DHCC seasonal calendar, the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) presents an update on health trends in Delaware. DHCC Commissioner and Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik kicked off her presentation sharing that Secretary Geisenberger's budget presentation helps frame her presentation on health trends in Delaware. Unfortunately, there is not funding for everything, and DHSS cannot forget the commitments already made to services. The Secretary shared we have made smart decisions with our budget and thanked Secretary Geisenberger for his leadership and support.

Secretary Magarik's presentation provided a high-level overview of core health trends in Delaware. She shared data on the following items:

- Quality benchmark for tobacco use
- High school student who ever used electronic vapor products
- Current use of different tobacco products
- Quality benchmark for high school students who were are physically active
- High school student who were obese
- Prevalence of Delaware adults diagnosed with diabetes by race
- Prevalence of Delaware adults diagnosed with hypertension
- Cancer screenings: mammogram, "Screening for Life" clients, colorectal cancer
- Maternal and child health: preterm births, infant mortality, adverse childhood experiences, developmental screening, Body Mass Index (BMI) of children, adolescent well visit, and neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Substance misuse and mental health: reversing the opioid crisis, suspected non-fatal drug overdose emergency rates, and mental health emergency rates

Highlights included:

- The benchmark for tobacco use showed a downward trend and down 30.0% since 2011. Areas the State continues to look at is youth and vaping.
- According to the 2021 Behavioral Risk Survey, 41.2% of high school students reported being physically active for 60 minutes daily/ 5 days per week. During the pandemic, this went down 43%.
- Obesity among high school students in Delaware and across the United States has seen a 71% increase. In Delaware alone, there has been a 17.1% hike in high school students.
- Prevalence of Delaware adults with hypertension has risen from 27.2% in 2001 to 36.9% in 2019. The overall trend is upward and needs to be monitored.
- COVID is linked to increased severe illness and negative outcomes to obesity, pre-diabetes, diabetes, and hypertension. COVID illness is also linked to new onset diabetes, these numbers could go up in the coming years.
- The pandemic caused people to stop getting their regular health screenings, including cancer, colon, cervical, and mammogram. This is a major health priority, and Delaware must work to get people back on track. Looking at this from an economic standpoint, by

the year 2030, the national cost of cancer care will be \$245 Billion which is a 30% increase from the year 2015.

- Preterm births are defined as less than 37 weeks gestation. There are very large disparities between White, Hispanic, Latino, and Black babies born in Delaware. There has been progress in infant mortality, but Delaware still has a way to go.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences has negative impacts on people throughout their lifespan. Not just from a mental health perspective. The State must consider household dysfunction exposure to substance abuse, mental illness violent treatment of a parent or guardian, and criminal behavior. The prevalence of two or more ACEs decreased by 3% points across the U.S. In Delaware, that number is a small decrease of those with two or more ACEs. One of the ways to help get this number down is to have at least one positive adult in the household, involved in the child's life.
- Developmental screening is an evidence-based screening tool that is in pediatricians' offices to monitor the growth of children ages birth to three. These numbers decreased during the pandemic for various reasons. The numbers are slowly rising during difficulties such as short staffing of providers, and a rush of people flowing back into the system after working from home.
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome is defined as a group of problems that occurs when the newborn is exposed to addictive illicit or prescription drugs.
- With respect to the opioid crisis, Delaware continues to have an issue in the state. Looking at the death certificates, the rate of opioid overdose was 42.5% per 100,000 in 2020. In looking at the heroin and stimulant numbers, they vary by season, they peak in the summer and get lower in the winter.
- To help prevent Mental Health Emergency Rates, Delaware is increasing access to services. Providers are stepping forward and doing things differently. Delaware has seen a 23% increase in disaster related mental health emergency visits. Suicide related emergency visits have been declining. From 2020 to 2021, Delaware saw a 15% decrease. There is a new suicide hotline number, 988, that can be easily accessed for help.

Dr. Fan thanked the Secretary for her presentation. She shared from her perspective the infant and maternal mortality and morbid rates is highly reflective of the health inequity issues – it is a recurrent theme in all the health trends and a great area of opportunity for all health sectors to address.

Secretary Geisenberger asked how the Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson decision could impact Delaware. Secretary Magarik thought it could depend on what surrounding states do and their level of access. There could be a push of patients into Delaware as a regional safe haven.

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

UPDATES

Health Workforce Subcommittee

Nick Moriello, DHCC commissioner and co-chair of the DHCC Health Workforce Subcommittee provided an update on the recent Subcommittee meeting which was held on August 17. During the meeting, Tim Gibbs with the Delaware Academy of Medicine shared a presentation, a dashboard of the report. The report is intended to be a living and breathing on-going report. Entities can use the report for their goals. Moving forward, there will be a need for fine-tuning, for example what are we missing, etc.

Secretary Magarik and Dr. Fan thanked Secretary Geisenberger and Nick for all their hard work with the Subcommittee.

From the Chat Box:

from Magarik, Molly to everyone:

<https://www.helpshere.com/mental-health#get-help-now>

from Magarik, Molly DHSS to everyone:

Bridge Clinic info is on this site

from Magarik, Molly DHSS to everyone:

Sources for the COVID-19/severe disease section: Sources:1. Yang, J, Hu, J, Zhu, C. Obesity aggravates COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis. J Med Virol. 2021; 93: 257– 261. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.262372>. Smith, SM, Boppana, A, Traupman, JA, et al. Impaired glucose metabolism in patients with diabetes, prediabetes, and obesity is associated with severe COVID-19. J Med Virol. 2021; 93: 409– 415. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.262273>. Yanbin Du, Nan Zhou, Wenting Zha, Yuan Lv, Hypertension is a clinically important risk factor for critical illness and mortality in COVID-19: A meta-analysis, Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases, Volume 31, Issue 3, 2021, Pages 745-755, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.numecd.2020.12.009>.

from Lolita Lopez to everyone:

Great presentation Molly. Thank you for all you do.

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan provided an update on the recent Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC) activities. First, she gave a special shout out to DHCC staff member, Stephanie Hartos, for her stellar work managing the PCRC program as well as other duties at the DHCC such as loan repayment.

Dr. Fan shared the PCRC's third workgroup for developing Delaware's Primary Care Payment Model, Quality Measures and Benchmarks, began meeting in July. The workgroup has been very active and present. The group is charged with developing quality metrics that will go into the new Primary Care delivery model that PCRC is building in the form of a value-based payment associated with both value-based care and alternative payment models. The goal is to put forward a prospective payment model and streamline some of the metrics that have been used in the past to help make primary care sustainable. The Payment and Attribution and Care Coordination Workgroups met for a joint meeting on July 25 to begin adding more detail to this model. The workgroups will continue meeting throughout 2022 with the goal of having a PC Model Version 2.0 finalized by early 2023.

The next PCRC meeting is scheduled for September 12. Dr. Fan's presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#).

Loan Repayment

Stephanie Hartos, DHCC Public Health Administrator and the current loan repayment program manager, provided an update on the two loan repayment programs administered by the DHCC. These programs are geared towards health care providers: the federal program, State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and the state-sponsored Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCLRP). Both programs are currently accepting applications for the fall cohorts. SLRP has a rolling deadline while HCPLRP's deadline is October 1.

Ms. Hartos shared there are currently 7 newly qualified applicants who will hopefully begin their contracts in the next few weeks. These are two-year contracts with the option to extend another two years, giving these providers the option to work for 4 years while receiving loan repayment.

Out of these participants, 3 of them are family nurse practitioners, 1 is a clinical social worker who works for the State of Delaware, 1 is a licensed professional counselor and 2 are physicians. Along with our 7 new applicants, we have 2 current awardees who are in their final year of their contracts; however, they do have the option to roll into another 1 or 2 years if they so choose.

Ms. Hartos shared the DHCC began accepting HCPLRP applications in late May/early June. To date, there have been 8 interested primary care providers who have started the application process. Two of the 8 have been completed. Of those two, one decided to enroll in a different loan repayment program and the other one is being reviewed by DHCC staff for eligibility. As of this date, no awards have been made for the HCPLRP Program.

Dr. Fan added typically the commission provides the final approval for the SLRP awards, however, to be as timely as possible and with the Commission not having an August commission meeting, internally it was decided to move forward on the applications in order to

have the health care professionals under contract as soon as possible. Moving forward, the commissioners will have the opportunity to review and vote on the final awards.

Dr. Fan thanked the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance for their efforts to share information about HCPLRP with their stakeholders.

Secretary Geisenberger asked if President Biden’s announcement on loan forgiveness an effect on the loan repayment will have programs. Secretary Magarik and Dr. Fan shared they thought income level restrictions may affect some of the physicians. Ms. Hartos added the DHCC did not see this having a great impact on the loan repayment programs. Many of the applicants have much more than the \$10,000 or \$20,000 in loan debt. Secretary Magarik encouraged those that may qualify for the loan forgiveness to remember there is an application borrowers must complete.

From the Chat Box:

from Sherman Townsend to everyone:
DIMER Chair, Sherman Townsend sends a special “Thank you” to Elisabeth Massa for her continued staff report to DIMER during this transition period of staff changes assigned to support DIMER's mission during the summer and Fall season for the start of another academic year for our medical students.

from Massa, Elisabeth (DHSS) to everyone:
Thank you for the kind words, Sherman! There is a great team helping me at the DHCC.

ADJOURN

Before adjourning, Dr. Fan asked if there were any additional comments from the commissioners of public. Secretary Magarik added that she would like to thank the team at the Division of Public Health for assisting with the Health Trends slide deck.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. The next meeting will be held October 6, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Public Meeting Attendees
September 1, 2022**

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|------------------------|---|
| Brian Olson | La Red Health Center |
| Carolanne O’Brien | |
| Charlene Hrivnak | |
| Cheryl Heiks | Delaware Health Care Facilities Association |
| Chris Otto | DE Nurses Association |
| Christina Crooks Bryan | Delaware Healthcare Association |

Delaney McGonegal
Janet Bailey
Jill Fredel
Joanne Landry
Jose Tieso
Julie Saville
Kathy Collison
Lauren Pigeon
Lincoln Willis
Lolita Lopez
Maggie Bent
Mollie Poland
Nicholas Conte
Nina Figueroa
Paul Kiefer
Paula Roy
Pamela Gardner
Richard Holladay
Sherman Townsend
Steven Costantino
Tyler Blanchard
Victoria Brennan
Wayne Smith

Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
Gainwell Technologies
DHSS
Highmark
Gainwell Technologies
MeadowWood Hospital
DHSS
ChristianaCare
The Willis Group
Westside Family Healthcare
Westside Family Healthcare
Nemours
DHSS
DHR
DHR
Roy Associates
Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
DHSS
DIMER
DHSS
Aledade
Office of Controller General
Delaware Healthcare Association