



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

October 6, 2022

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

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present: Ted Becker, Dr. Nancy Fan (St. Francis), Cabinet Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Rich Heffron, Melissa Jones, Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN), Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS), and Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF)

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Commission Members Absent: Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI), Nick Moriello (Highmark Delaware), and Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours)

Health Care Commission Staff: Stephanie Hartos (Public Health Administrator), Latoya Wright (Manager of Statistics and Research), and Elisabeth Massa (Executive Director)

CALL TO ORDER

It was determined a quorum was present Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:03 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 shared October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the beginning of a new Supreme Court session. She also announced the meeting agenda will be modified slightly with the DIDER update first on the agenda.

UPDATES

DIDER

Dr. Lou Rafetto, DIDER chair, provided an update on the DIDER program and highlights from the most recent DIDER meeting that was held on October 5th. At the meeting, Temple provided an update on the application pool and students enrolled. Among the application pool this year, there is one Underrepresented Minority (URM) student who is Hispanic. The trends tend to be more females than males, with a disproportionate number of Asian females. More of the

Delaware applicants this year come from institutions out of state where in the past they come from University of Delaware. DIDER would like to continue having two lunch meetings per year with Temple with the possibility of expanding in the future.

Also at the meeting, the DIDER board approved a Dental Aptitude Prep Scholarship Program that will be modeled after the MCAT Program that is funded by the Star Group. DIDER would like to request from the Delaware Health Care Commission \$5,000 to support the pilot which would allow three (3) identified, qualified URM students to take a Dental Aptitude prep course which roughly costs \$1,500 per person. If approved, DIDER would need to get the word out to as many institutions as possible. Dr. Rafetto shared the ChristianaCare General Practice Dentistry had 8 enrolled individuals who have applied to take the State clinical exam, which means hopefully they will stay in Delaware.

Dr. Rafetto shared highlights from Tibor Tóth, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, University of Delaware, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration) manpower and student survey.

- Less than half the dentists practicing in Delaware grew up in Delaware.
- There is a shortage of dental assistants and dental hygienists. Kent County seems to be more underrepresented than Sussex County.
- Student debt and loan repayment is at the top of the list.

Dr. Rafetto asked if there were any questions. Dr. Fan mentioned the Medical Society has formulated a high school outreach program for students who are interested in becoming physicians and having a shadowing program. Dr. Fan suggested maybe the DIDER board or Dental Society may be interested in doing something similar. If interested, Dr. Fan can connect Dr. Rafetto with the Delaware Youth Leadership Network, who partnered with the Medical Society to formulate that program.

Rich Heffron asked if the problem with dental hygienists and assistants is that we do not train enough in the State or aren't enough people interested? It is a popular program at DelTech. Dr. Rafetto stated there are very few formalized programs for dental assistants and the only dental hygiene program in the State is at DelTech which in and of itself cannot produce enough people to keep up with the need.

Melissa Jones commented work-based school learning programs in Sussex County, Sussex Tech, and Cape Henlopen School District for those interested in the dental profession and do work-based learning has shown much success. The Brittingham family expanded the Herman Oscar Brittingham Scholarship for the dental profession. From a workforce standpoint, Ms. Jones suggested the expanding the Dental Hygiene program and maybe that is something the Federally Qualified Health Centers would be interested in partnering with. She added the workforce and auxiliary staffing issue is one of the biggest problems in dentistry right now. Dr. Rafetto agreed. Dr. Fan felt there is an overlap in the shortage in the medical and dental field.

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve September 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the draft September 1, 2022, meeting minutes and if there were any corrections that needed to be made. Hearing none, Dr. Fan asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ted Becker made the motion to approve. Secretary Magarik 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 announced the Strategic Retreat will be held on Friday, November 4, 2022, from 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. tentatively at the Hilton Wilmington/Christiana. The commissioners received a draft agenda in their meeting materials. Dr. Fan stated the theme this year is “Resetting and Transforming Health Care in Delaware” and the meeting format will be similar to year’s past. Dr. Fan asked if the commissioners had any items that should be added to the agenda. Hearing none, please send an email to Elisabeth Massa or Dr. Fan if there is a suggestion. The November 3rd Health Care Commission meeting is cancelled due to the retreat.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Delaware Infant and Maternal Health, Access, and Workforce

Dr. Khaleel Hussaini, an epidemiologist with the Division of Public Health, presented on key trends and emerging issues around infant and maternal health especially as it relates to access and workforce. He disclosed that the views expressed in his presentation are his and are not an official position of the Delaware Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Family Health Systems and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Hussaini’s presentation included the following: 1) trends in Delaware, 2) maternal health access in Delaware, 3) Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSAs) for Delaware’s medical and allied health professional workforce, and 4) Maternity Care Target Areas (MCTAs).

Trends in Delaware

Dr. Hussaini shared the following data points:

- Low birth weight and preterm births in the U.S., Delaware, and by Delaware Race and Ethnicity, 2010-2020
- Delaware and U.S. Infant Mortality Rates 2010-2020
- Delaware, 5-year Infant Mortality Rates by County and Race, 2016-2020
- Infant mortality rates per 1,000 live births by census tracts in Delaware, 2010-2020
- Severe maternal morbidity in Delaware, 2010-2020
- Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and Prevalence is defined as a diagnosable mental, behavior, or emotional disorder including a serious functional impairment that interferes with one or more major life activities. The 2020 National Survey on Drug Use

and Health estimates SMI represents one in 20 of all U.S. adults, being higher in females (7%) versus males (4.2%).

Maternal health access in Delaware

Dr. Hussaini shared the following data points:

- Timing of prenatal care by race and ethnicity in Delaware, 2010- 2020.
- Health care visits and types of visits (12 months before pregnancy in Delaware 2016 - 2020)
- Health care provider discussion 12 months before pregnancy in Delaware, 2016-2020
- Early prenatal care and reasons for not getting prenatal care in Delaware, 2012-2020
- Postpartum depressive symptoms prevalence in Delaware, 2012 -2020
- Postpartum check-up prevalence in Delaware, 2012 -2020

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSAs) for Delaware's medical and allied health professional workforce

Dr. Hussaini highlighted the HPSA scoring formula for Primary Care and Mental Health. Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of Delaware is in a high HPSA designation and also correlates with areas of high infant mortality rates. He also provided an overview of Delaware's healthcare workforce. With respect to active license, a large portion of the workforce is in nursing. He shared a map of Delaware that showed where eligible OB/GYNs are in Delaware in 2022.

Maternity Care Target Areas (MCTAs)

Dr. Hussaini shared in the most recent Maternity Care Target Areas according to Section 332 of the Public Health Service Act that have a shortage of maternity care health professionals, for the purpose of providing maternity health care assistance to such health professional shortage areas

Rich Heffron commented the map of Wilmington Dr. Hussaini shared looks almost the same as when he was in city government 30 years ago. He asked Dr. Hussaini if one woman has multiple births where there is a death, do you count them all the same? Dr. Hussaini replied when mothers have multiple pregnancies and how are we counting infant deaths. from an infant mortality rate for any time or period specified the number of infant deaths regardless of if the mother has a previous infant death does not matter. Mr. Heffron asked if the focus is on the fact that there are a certain number of women or specific women who continually have this problem? Dr. Hussaini responded that in terms of health care programming, women who participated in these programs had much better outcome than women who did not.

Dr. Fan thanked Dr. Hussaini for his presentation. She suggested we look at takeaways from a policy standpoint, we must come back to the data and use that to support what we are trying to do and why we are trying to do it.

From the WebEx Chat Box:

from Anthony to everyone:

Question for Dr Khaleel. We have a 'Hispanic-owned' PCP practice in the zip code identified in your ppt, as well as an OBGYN practice; what changes can a PCP practice make in the way they see/manage this population, considering their role is limited?

Dr. Fan replied there needs to be a systemic answer as well as an individual grassroots answer. She asked if there were any other questions or comments. Secretary Magarik thanked Dr. Hussaini and commented there is a lot of hard work going on wanted to give credit for all the hard work to move the dial on the numbers. She added how critically important it is to have a diverse workforce that also looks like and understand the lived experiences of the communities.

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

UPDATES

DIMER

DIMER Chair, Sherman Townsend, was unable to attend the meeting and asked Elisabeth Massa to provide an update on the recent DIMER board meeting which was held on September 21st. Ms. Massa provided a high-level summary of the DIMER meeting. The meeting included 70+ slides and Ms. Massa provided a high-level summary of the meeting:

- Reviewed Annual Reports from Delaware affiliated medical schools and the ChristianaCare Branch Campus
- Residency Match Report update from health systems
- Delaware Health Sciences Alliance update
- Delaware Health Care Commission update

Ms. Massa shared admissions data from the affiliated medical schools, Sidney Kimmel Medical College and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. This included a breakdown of the Class of 2022 and the current class of 2023. The Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) continues to support DIMER activities and provide outreach. DHSA is up for a contract renewal. Their focus would be on enhancement for pipeline entrance through outreach and awareness events, on-going engagement with current DIMER students and the 2023 annual report. The proposed scope of work was approved by the DIMER board. Dr. Fan asked the commissioners if there were any questions. Hearing none, Dr. Lee made a motion to approve and Rich Heffron seconded. The motion to approve the DHSA contract was accepted by all commissioners present.

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

From the WebEx Chat:

from Pamela Gardner to everyone:

Thank you all for your continued support of DHSA's work and partnership with DIMER and HCC.

Marketplace

Commissioner Navarro was unable to attend the meeting and Frank Pyle, the Department of Insurance (DOI) Special Deputy Commissioner provided an update on the Marketplace. Mr. Pyle started his update announcing there are two new issuers that have joined the Individual ACA Marketplace plans for year 2023 – Aetna Health, Inc. and AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Next, Inc. For Plan Year 2023 Highmark BCBS will have a 5.5% rate increase. There are many new plans (39 medical plans) with the new carriers joining the Marketplace. Mr. Pyle shared the Small Group rate increases for Plan Year 2023. All carriers had an increase. The DOI approves/disapproves all health insurance rates following a comprehensive review of all Issuer filings, including requests for rate increase. Information on health insurance rates for Plan Year 2023 is located on the DOI's website at insurance.delaware.gov.

Mr. Pyle asked if there were any questions. Dr. Fan shared from the WebEx chat box, there was a question, "What about Centene?" Mr. Pyle replied they did not enter the Marketplace. Secretary Magarik shared they are one of the new Managed Care Organizations (MCO) that successfully went through the Medicaid procurement process and will be a new MCO starting on January 1, 2023, however, they are not on the Marketplace.

Dr. Fan asked if DOI foresees any changes regarding enrollment timelines or marketing? Mr. Pyle shared there has been a big push federally to help with the "junk plans" marketing and fraud. DOI continues to remind people to understand what they are reading before they sign and send their payment. Dr. Fan asked Mr. Pyle to clarify the enrollment dates. Mr. Pyle shared enrollment is November 1, 2022 – January 15, 2023.

Public Comment

Steven Costantino shared a few clarifications. The Biden enhanced subsidies have been extended for three years which helps the Marketplace be more affordable and is extremely important and critical in terms of enrollment. What that means is the amount of subsidy is enhanced and how much over the poverty guidelines one will receive of that subsidy. Mr. Costantino also shared there is going to be an unwinding of Medicaid Continuous Enrollment requirement. For the last three years, states could not do redeterminations which mean states had to keep everyone on Medicaid. At some point, it is unclear when that will be, at the end of the Public Health Emergency, states will have to redetermine their Medicaid population in a 12-month process. This will mean that many on Medicaid will not be on Medicaid anymore. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is really pushing them to be on the Marketplace. The Marketplace navigators just received their annual funding, which is a critical piece of moving Medicaid beneficiaries onto the Marketplace.

Rich Heffron asked why there was a 6% variance with Aetna in the small group? Mr. Pyle shared he did not have all the details, however Aetna tends to be a little bit different than Highmark. Mr. Pyle suggested Mr. Heffron could call him and they can discuss further.

Lolita Lopez commented Steven provided a good description of what is going on in the Marketplace. The Westside Family Healthcare team is gearing up for the upcoming open enrollment and well-funded to assist with enrollment. Westside is about to launch a very comprehensive marketing plan.

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

From the WebEx Chat:

from Anthony to everyone:
What about CENTENE?

from Anthony to everyone:
Its in their documentation

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan provided an update on the recent PCRC activities. The most recent quarterly meeting was held on September 12th. At this meeting, the Maryland Primary Care Program Executive Director presented on Maryland's Primary Care Payment Model which has been a large influence in the development of Delaware's new Primary Care (PC) Payment Model. The meeting also included an update on the PCRC workgroups – recommendations of the Payment Attribution workgroup for the PC Model, plans for the Care Coordination workgroup, and an update on the Quality Measures and Benchmarks workgroup. The Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery presented an update on rate filings and how to meet the required 8.5% primary care spend for this calendar year.

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

ADJOURN

Before adjourning, Dr. Fan asked if there were any additional comments from the commissioners or the public. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1st 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. The November meeting is cancelled in lieu of the Strategic Retreat.

Public Meeting Attendees
October 6, 2022

Adara Scholl	
Anthony Onugu	United Medical
Beverly Mahon	
Brian Olson	La Red Health Center
Carolyn Richardson	
Cheryl Heiks	Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
Christina Haas	Department of Insurance
Christopher Otto	DE Nurses Association
Collison, Katherine	DHSS
	Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
Delaney McGonegal	
Emma Braun	
Frank Pyle	Department of Insurance
Fredel, Jill	DHSS
Joanne Landry	Highmark
Jose Tieso	Gainwell Technologies
Khaleel Hussaini	DHSS
Lincoln Willis	The Willis Group
Lolita Lopez	Westside Family Healthcare
Louis Rafetto	DIDER
Maggie Norris Bent	Westside Family Healthcare
Megan Williams	Delaware Healthcare Association
MKM	
Mollie Poland	Nemours
Nichole Moxley	DHSS
Nicole Freedman	Morris James
Pam Price	Highmark
Pamela Gardner	Delaware Health Science Alliance
Paula Roy	Roy Associates
Sarah Stowens	
Steven Costantino	DHSS
Tyler Blanchard	Aledade
Victoria Brennan	Office of Controller General