



DELAWARE HEALTH FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE HEALTH FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HFAC) October 28, 2025

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee (HFAC) was called to order at 2:00 PM by Secretary Young.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Secretary Young welcomed members and attendees to the hybrid meeting, held both via Zoom and in the Secretary's Conference Room at the DHSS Main Administration Building.

III. Applicant Presentations

Presentations were delivered by:

- Code Differently
- Community Education
- Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition – Women's Health Screening
- Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition – Outreach Program
- Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
- Delaware Hospice, Inc. - Delaware Department of Justice
- DATE
- University of Delaware – Delaware Network for Excellence in Autism (DNEA).

IV. Budget & Projection Overview

Secretary Young led discussion on budget scenarios and projections for the coming fiscal year, including questions around available funds, reserves, and expected reductions in annual MSA receipts. Members noted the importance of sustainable spending levels and the need to protect the long-term stability of the Health Fund.

V. Committee Discussion

A. Reserve Balance and Carryover Strategy

Secretary Young asked members to provide input on whether HFAC should maintain the current reserve balance—approximately \$12 million going into FY 26—or consider spending deeper into reserves.

Don Fulton reiterated his longstanding position that the Committee should maintain or grow the reserve to support the longevity of the Health Fund. - Members generally expressed agreement on the need for caution as revenues continue to decline.

B. Approach to Legacy vs. New Applicants

Marshala emphasized the need for a strong, outcomes-focused rubric and noted that turnover on the Committee has historically delayed progress on establishing a standardized scoring system.

Autumn Tuxward expressed concern that some legacy applicants have not demonstrated evolving impact or measurable outcomes year over year.

Senator Poore agreed, adding that recurring applicants must demonstrate expansion and growth rather than submit the same application annually.

C. Metrics & Accountability

Don Fulton noted that while previous improvements to the application strengthened outcome reporting requirements, members do not always review the data collectively as a Committee—an area worth improving.

D. Scenario Planning for Final Recommendations

Secretary Young requested that DHSS staff return with funding scenarios for the next meeting, including clarification of the \$1.5 million Healthy Communities Delaware line item. She asked members to individually review the spreadsheets before the next meeting and consider arriving at a target allocation “a little above \$19 million.”

VI. Scheduling Discussion

James Berryhill explained that the next meeting includes more than ten remaining presentations, leaving limited time for deliberation. He proposed adding an additional meeting before November 15.

- Members expressed support for adding a meeting.

VII. Public Comment

Public comments were received from:

- Deb Brown, American Lung Association
- Kate Phillips - Brian Hall, Autism Delaware
- Lance Kilpatrick, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.

D. Workforce Programs

Discussion highlighted differing views regarding workforce programs:

- Workforce is considered important but may be less direct to the fund's statutory mission. - Some members suggested additional justification is needed before increasing funding.
- Any increase above the scenario (~\$2.3M) would require cutting new programs or using reserves.

E. Approach to Program-by-Program Review

Committee members, including Autumn Tuxward, expressed concern about "blanket" approvals:

- They emphasized that funding levels should be reviewed at least at the category/bucket level, with the opportunity to call out specific lines for adjustment.
- Secretary Young proposed a process for the next meeting:
 1. Review each bucket (cancer, tobacco, workforce, recurring programs, new programs).
 2. Allow members to identify specific lines for adjustment.
 3. Vote on adjustments and then vote on each bucket total.
 4. Conduct line-by-line review only for new programs and "other" programs, where deeper scrutiny is needed.

F. Considerations for Funding Decisions

Committee members identified several factors for use in next meeting's deliberations: -

Alignment with core statutory purpose.

- Degree of direct service to Delawareans ("most bang for buck").
- Evidence of program growth, evolution, or impact.
- Availability of alternative funding streams.
- Programs whose requests increased substantially despite limited demonstrated outcomes.
- Bias toward direct service and tangible community support rather than planning-only initiatives.

G. Preparation for Next Meeting

Secretary Young assigned members homework:

- Each member should complete a version of the funding spreadsheet reflecting their preferred allocations.
- James will send the spreadsheet as both an attachment and a live shared document.

VI. Public Comment

James opened the floor for public comment. Two commenters offered remarks:

- Alex Casper, American Lung Association – Emphasized the importance of continued investment in core tobacco prevention programs and youth engagement initiatives.
- Lance Kilpatrick, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network – Urged continued prioritization of cancer and tobacco initiatives and thanked the Committee for its deliberative approach.

No additional public comments were submitted via email or raised through Zoom.

VII. Additional Questions

A member asked whether the Food Bank of Delaware had presented yet. James confirmed that:

- Four organizations—including the Food Bank and YMCA—still need to present.
- They will present briefly at the beginning of the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.