



DELAWARE HEALTH FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE HEALTH FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HFAC) November 6, 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 noted that the Committee had completed the full round of applicant presentations for this funding cycle and emphasized the unusually large number of new applicants this year. She acknowledged the complexity this adds to the Committee's deliberations.

III. Presentation Summary (Agenda Items I–III)

- University of Delaware – MotherSHIPP (Mothers Support & Health in Pregnancy & -Parenting)
- UD Center for Drug & Health Studies
- Delaware Technical Community College (DelTech)
- St. Francis Hospital
- Healthy Communities Delaware
- Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League
- More Than Fitness
- Planned Parenthood of Delaware
- SL24 – UnLocke the Light
- Speranza Digital Therapeutics
- Health Literacy Council of Delaware
- Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families (DSCYF)

IV. Committee Discussion of Scenario Spreadsheet

Secretary Young shared a funding scenario spreadsheet previously distributed to the Committee. She summarized the goal established at the prior meeting: to target approximately \$20–\$21 million in total spending to avoid drawing down the Fund's carryover balance while ensuring funding remains focused on: - Tobacco prevention and control - Cancer programs -

Programs aligned with the statutory purpose of the Health Fund - A deliberate reconsideration of legacy grantees and the creation of room for high-impact new applicants

Secretary Young reviewed major components of the draft scenario:

- Approximately \$10 million for the core cancer programs.
- \$4.7 million for tobacco prevention and control programs (largely state agency programs), fully funded.
- Workforce programs: \$4.6M requested; \$3M funded last year; scenario proposes ~\$2.3M (about half the request).
- Survey program funded at its historical level.
- Service delivery programs largely funded at FY26 levels.
- Innovation Fund funded at \$1.2M (last year's amount, not the FY27 request).
- \$500,000 for certain recurring programs funded in prior years.
- \$2.5M reserved for selected new programs.
- Cancer Council and Healthy Communities Delaware funded at their FY26 actual levels.

Committee members were asked to provide initial reactions to whether this scenario aligns with the Committee's shared direction.

V. Committee Member Discussion and Feedback

A. Reserve Protection and Spending Targets

Members reaffirmed support for:

- Maintaining the reserve fund balance.

- Avoiding structural reliance on reserves as MSA revenue declines.
- Ensuring long-term sustainability of the Fund.

B. Statutory Clarification: DPAP Funding

A question was raised regarding whether the DPAP (prescription drug assistance) program must be funded by the Health Fund. After review by DHSS and the Attorney General's Office, Secretary Young confirmed there is no statutory requirement that DPAP be funded by MSA/Health Fund dollars. The state has submitted a request for DPAP funding in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

C. Funding of New Programs

Members discussed the proposed \$2.5M allocation for new programs:

- Secretary Young confirmed this amount was not derived from a formula—rather, it reflects what remained after preserving priority programs.
- Members expressed interest in selecting individual new programs for partial funding, rather than applying a universal percentage.
- Marshala reiterated a longstanding challenge: the lack of a rubric for choosing among new applicants.

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.