



**DELAWARE HEALTH FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Public Meeting**

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**Thursday, September 25, 2025**  
**2:00pm-3:00pm**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Present:** Senator Nicole Poore  
Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha  
Dr. Marshala Lee  
Mr. Don Fulton  
Mr. Perry Patel  
Dr. Cimone Sylver  
Ms. Elisabeth Massa  
Ms. Autumn Tuxward

**Absent:**  
Representative Stephanie T. Bolden  
Senator Bryant Richardson

**A G E N D A**

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
  - a. Chair Steven Blessing, Director of the Division of Public Health
  - b. James Berryhill reviewed the agenda and explained the health fund advisory council meeting ahead of November 15.
  - c. Julie Devlin, Chief of Staff, explained that the meeting is being chaired by Director Blessing because of the change in cabinet secretary.
- II. Department of Public Health Presentation by Dr. Hesse NaaDede**
  - a. The slides for this presentation are posted along with the recording of the meeting.
- III. Office of Management and Budget Presentation by Andrea Godfrey**
  - a. The slides for this presentation are posted along with the recording of the meeting.
- IV. Application Process Discussion**
  - a. James Berryhill explained that over the next three meetings of the Health Fund Advisory Committee, approximately ten applicants will be asked to present at each meeting for approval and to respond to members' questions. He also asked whether the committee would like to discuss reviewing new applications this year.
  - b. Don Fulton expressed interest in considering new and innovative applications.
  - c. Representative Chukwuocha inquired how many new applications were received this year.
  - d. James Berryhill estimated that there were five to six new applications.
  - e. Victoria Brennen asked how much funding is available for FY 2027.
  - f. James Berryhill stated that he believed the amount was roughly \$13.4 million (later noted to be inaccurate).

- g. Marshala Lee stated that she believed it was premature to exclude new applications at this time.
- h. Autum Tuxward asked why the committee would not consider new applications.
- i. James Berryhill explained that, as he understood it, the Health Fund Advisory Committee excluded new applications from the FY 2026 review process.
- j. Don Fulton noted that he had recently become a primary resident of Florida, though he lives in Delaware only five months of the year. He asked if this required him to resign from the committee.
- k. Julie Devlin stated that she would consult with the Office of the Governor.
- l. James Berryhill reminded members that anyone with a conflict of interest related to new applications should recuse themselves from votes on those items.

**V. Public Comment**

- a. Aleks Casper, American Lung Association, stated that funding for tobacco control and cessation was the original intent of the Delaware Health Fund, and emphasized that this funding is even more important given the recent federal cuts to the CDC's smoking cessation programs. The commenter encouraged members to remain focused on this tobacco control and smoking cessation.

**VI. Adjournment**