



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

February 1, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present In-Person: Dr. Nancy Fan (St. Francis), DHSS Cabinet Secretary Josette Manning, Nick Moriello (Highmark Delaware), Cabinet Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOFD), and Melissa Jones, RDH

Commission Members Attending virtually: Theodore Becker, Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours), Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN), and Stephanie Traynor (DSCYF)

Commission Members Absent: Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI) and Mike Quaranta

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Health Care Commission Staff: Dionna Reddy (Public Health Administrator I), Susan Walters (Public Health Treatment Program Administrator), and Sheila Saylor (Admin)

Anchor Location: The Chapel, Herman M. Holloway Sr. Health and Social Services Campus
1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720

CALL TO ORDER

After confirming a quorum, Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m. Public attendees were reminded to identify themselves by placing their name and affiliation in the chat box and those attending in person to sign the sign-in sheet in the Chapel.

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve January 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the January 11, 2024, meeting minutes. Dr. Fan asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, Nick Moriello made a motion to approve the minutes, and

Dr. Jan Lee seconded. No objections were made. The minutes were approved by the commissioners and are available on the [DHCC Website](#).

DHCC Revised Strategic Action Item

Dr. Fan brought to the floor to adopt the action items for the retreat.

- **DHCC Operation Principles-** Decide if the new principles should be added or modified. This is our vision and how we go about achieving our mission.
- **Healthcare Data-** Additional surveys. Additional questions upon new license and renewal of the license process for healthcare providers. Additional surveys and questions will be developed by Workforce Subcommittee Stand-up new requirements for the registration of Community Health Workers, Direct Service Providers, Certified Nursing Assistants, and other groups currently unregistered or licensed in Delaware. DHCC should work with the Division of Professional Regulation (DPR).
- **Workforce Subcommittee-** Specific short-term and long-term objectives for the subcommittee with a 3-to-5-year timetable. DHCC Chair and co-chairs of the Workforce Subcommittee will review and propose objectives for approval by DHCC Commissioners
- **Advice from DHCC to new Administration-** Commissioner Geisenberger suggested the DHCC write a white paper for the new administration in 2024. This should be completed by the end of October 2024. This matter can be discussed further at the December DHCC meeting. DHCC staff will summarize our annual report and each DHCC program will project out needs and goals for the next administration.

Dr. Fan asked if there were any questions or comments. DHCC Commissioner Melissa Jones asked about the DIDER section, item number 2, which stated that more information was needed on reciprocity. Ms. Jones confirmed that dental hygienists have reciprocity and listed the requirements. Dr. Fan clarified that this item referred to increasing our workforce and if there was any opportunity in the licensing area. Dr. Fan asked if dentist and hygienist reciprocity was an item Ms. Jones wanted to be added to the workforce discussion. Ms. Jones stated that she would like to have a general review of how efficient the process is. Dr. Fan asked for comments and hearing none, the action items were adopted as written and the DHCC will start working on the items.

Seasonal Calendar

Dr. Fan opened a discussion for approval of the DHCC Seasonal Calendar for 2024. Chris Fraser, President and Chief Executive Officer of Westside Family Healthcare, pointed out that August is National Health Center month, and he would love to give an update on our partnership with the DHCC. Secretary Rick Geisenberger suggested that if there is some sort of highlight, we add it to the calendar rather than it being ad hoc. It was recognized that the calendar has enough bandwidth that things can be added during the year. Dr. Fan asked if there were any more

comments and or modifications. Hearing none, the Seasonal Calendar was put to a motion to accept. Commissioner Dr. Jan Lee made the motion to approve, and it was seconded by DHCC Commissioner Ted Becker.

Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA) Contract

Dr. Fan provided a summary of the infrastructure support DHSA provides for the Delaware Institute for Medical Education and Research (DIMER) Board. DHSA has a subcontract with the DHCC that has been renewed every year. The DIMER board at their January meeting approved the contract renewal scope and budget. The DHCC commissioners now need to approve, and a copy of the scope and budget was sent to the Commissioners in advance to today's DHCC meeting. Dr. Fan stated that the activities have not changed very much, and the actual cost of the contract is the same. Dr. Fan asked if there were any comments or questions from the commissioners. After hearing no objections, it was put to a motion for approval. The motion was made by Dr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Becker. The new contract will commence on March 1, 2024.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Governor's Recommended Budget 2025

Cabinet Secretary Rick Geisenberger presented the highlights of the Governor's 2025 Budget as it relates to healthcare and explained that DHSS Cabinet Secretary Josette Manning would provide a deeper dive later in February (approximately February 20th or 21st).

Secretary Geisenberger first explained how the Governor approached budgeting. He explained that Delaware's revenues are more volatile than most states because Delaware does not have statewide sales or property taxes. Delaware relies on corporate franchise tax, corporate income taxes, and personal income tax which are not a straight-line sort of growth. He reviewed some budget crises Delaware had in the past which led to how the Governor budgets now. Over the last 6 years, Delaware has ended with an operating cash surplus by thinking differently about how to do the budget.

What changed in the approach to budgeting:

Responsibly managing our state budget remains a priority.

BENCHMARK SPENDING

Measuring operating budget growth against a sustainable benchmark (EO#21)

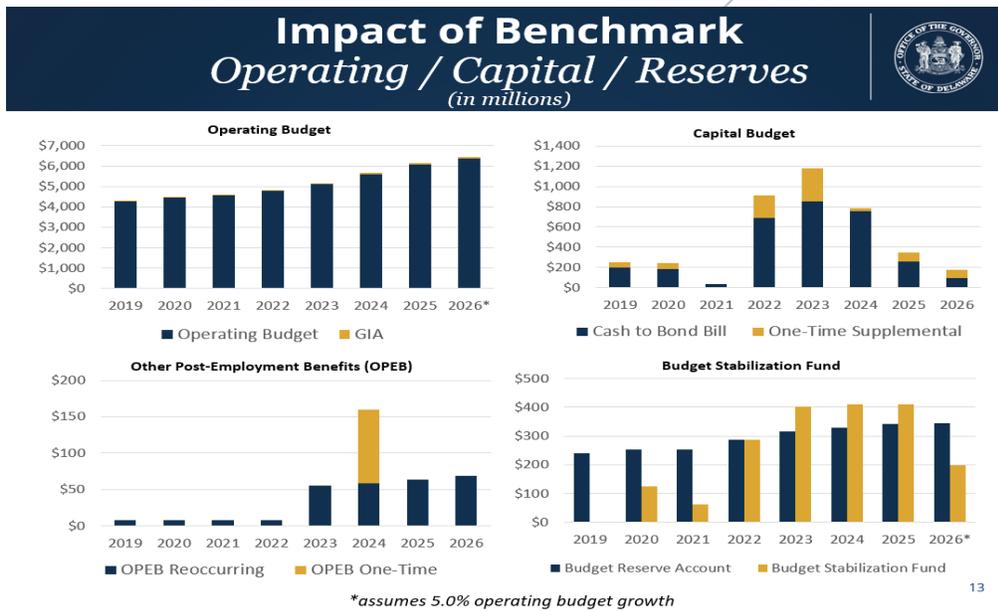
BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND

Using extraordinary revenues to build reserves available to cover future revenue shortfalls

RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING

Directing one-time revenues to one-time investments that support long-term economic growth

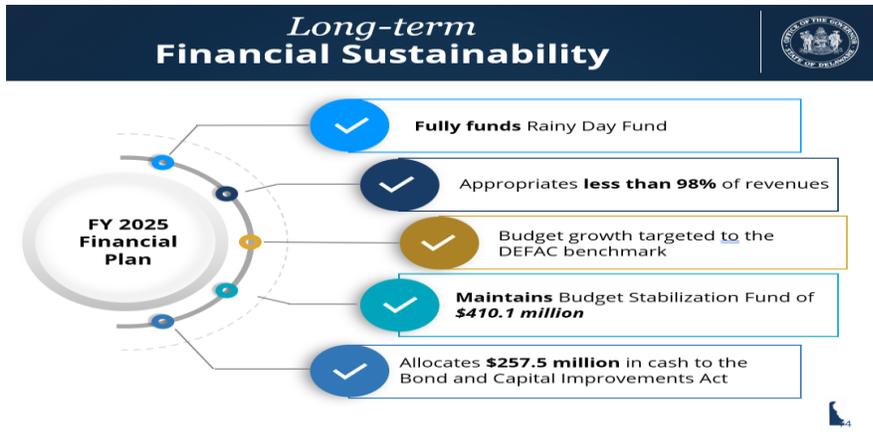
With the inception of the Budget Stabilization Fund in 2019 when Delaware has revenue bubbles, Delaware adds to the fund instead of putting the funds in the operating budget. This builds up reserves, and Delaware draws from it when there are deficits. The forecast for this year is to have a 2% negative growth and a positive 2% growth next year.



During COVID, Delaware was not able to do much with the state’s capital budget until the revenue came back. When the revenue returned, Delaware was able to catch up with one-time expenditures. Many expenditures, although, we are not sending as much cash to the bonds, are 3,4 and 5-year projects that will play out to boost Delaware’s economy well into 2027. As Secretary Geisenberger explained, that is the brilliance of the Budget Stabilization Plan. Delaware projects less capital over the next few years, but more robust capital budgets. Delaware created the Budget Stabilization Fund which requires a simple majority vote vs. the

Rainy-Day Fund which requires a super-majority vote and must be repopulated in full the following year after use.

The budget does all the things required in the state's constitution:



Secretary Geisenberger shared the highlights of Governor Carney's FY Financial Plan and explained that nearly 65% of the total FY25 General Fund Governor's Recommended Budget growth is salary, policy, and health-related costs.

Workforce-related expenses included in the budget are \$93.9 million for State Employee Healthcare and \$4.6 million for GHIP waiting period waiver (HB 185). \$122.2 million for more competitive state wages and \$56.1 million of one-time extraordinary revenues to Other Post-Retirement Benefits (OPEB) liabilities.

Supporting healthy families related expenses include \$84.2 million for the State Share of Medicaid. \$10.4 million one-time supplement for Medicaid pending redetermination results. Factors impacting State Medicaid costs are increases in total utilization, continued increase in health service and prescription costs, Managed Care Organization capitated rates, rise in Part D drug benefit rates, and shift in FMAP. Also, \$7.9 million for DDDS state match and community services. \$1.9 million in DSAMH Substance Use Disorder services. \$627,400 in DAAD contractual services for growth in the aging population and \$508,000 in DSAMH community housing supports.

Education-related expenses in the budget are \$6.1 million for the purchase of care and expansion of family eligibility to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This will expand access to subsidized care for over 600 new children and total POC at \$83 million in FY25, up from \$32 million in FY17. Increase of \$3.5 million for a total of \$15.7 million in the Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) to expand early care and education for low-income families, adding 200 seats. \$17.3 million for mental health services for elementary, middle, and high school students and \$1.25 million for the DTCC nursing program.

Additional Investments in the Health-One Time Supplemental Act are \$2.5 million for Residential Lead Remediation, \$1.0 million for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Program, and \$207,700 for Health Care Licensing Surveys.

Additional Investment in the Health-Bond and Capital Improvement Act is \$32.8 million for the Clean Water Trust and State Revolving Funds to protect water sources and public health, \$10.5 million DHSS minor capital, equipment, maintenance, and restoration, \$3.2 million for Conservation Cost Share to expand water quality improvements and protect human health and \$1.2 million for Delaware Medicaid Enterprise System (DMES).

Dr. Fan commented regarding the increased cost of Medicaid that the Delaware budget allocates 1 billion for the state share but there is a federal share of 2 billion making Medicaid dollars 3 billion.

Secretary Geisenberger commented that Delaware's budget is essentially health and education, and we will need to make draconian decisions that may involve cuts to some high-cost drugs like other states have adopted.

There was further discussion regarding the healthcare trend by Dr. Fan. Secretary Geisenberger and David Bentz (DHSS Deputy Director of Healthcare Reform) stated that the spending we are doing is not reflected in the outcomes and most of the funding is being spent on SDOH.

Nick Moriello (Highmark Delaware) had a comment and a question. He commented that other states and Delaware are grappling with high-cost drugs but some drugs such as weight loss, diabetic medication, and bariatric surgeries increased costs now will have a better long-term cost impact because of the dramatic result that these medications are having. He asked Secretary Geisenberger if Healthy Communities were going to be a line item in the budget. Dr. Fan confirmed that it would be a line item.

Secretary Geisenberger was asked if, at the next meeting, he could share information for states that are similarly situated in terms of population and revenue (Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming, Vermont) if they are spending the same percentages in their budget for the 2 categories as Delaware. Secretary Geisenberger stated that he could probably share that information in April as the collaboration with the budget office can be facilitated by then. The Commission discussed the advantages and disadvantages of looking at other states. Secretary Geisenberger's full presentation can be viewed on the [DHCC Website](#)

UPDATES

DIMER

Dr. Lee, DHCC Commissioner and DIMER board member liaison, provided a DIMER update. The current DIMER legislation was passed in 1997 and updates are needed. The DIMER board

approved the requested legislative changes at the September 18, 2023, meeting which included changes in board composition, changes in the method of selection of Chair and Vice Chair, and term limits. The requested changes are expected to be introduced in this legislative session. At the January 17 DIMER board meeting, a motion was entered to alter the recommendations for board composition. After discussion, the board voted not to adopt the motion, as it would delay the introduction and passage of other changes. There was also a motion to nominate Dr. Neil Jasani as the permanent Board Chair. Dr. Fan has acted as DIMER Chair since the passing of former DIMER Chair, Sherman Townsend, over a year ago. The current DIMER statute states the DIMER Board Chair is appointed by the Chair of the DHCC. Dr. Fan has asked DIMER board member, Dr. Kathy Matt, to serve as Chair until the new legislation passes and the board can elect its Chair.

At the DIMER board meeting on January 17, Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) presented on the Jefferson Physician Shortage Area Program. The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) and SKMC provided an update on the class of 2028. All programs are strong – enrollments of Delaware students in both SKMC and PCOM exceed the number of reserved DIMER slots. Kent and Sussex Counties continue to be less well represented compared to New Castle County.

Delaware Health Sciences Alliance provided an update on their medical education and DIMER engagement activities – seeking to develop a strong pipeline that begins with high school outreach and extends through college advising, MCAT prep, and ongoing engagement with DIMER students.

The residency programs gave updates – ChristianaCare, Bayhealth, Beebe and St. Francis all have strong and growing programs with a strong focus on the primary care specialties and emphasis on diversity.

Dr. Fan asked if there were any questions. Secretary Geisenberger asked about the legislation what would it do and do we have any concerns. Dr. Fan stated that it is a revision from 1997 and that the Commission supports the legislation.

Health Workforce Subcommittee

Dr. Kathy Matt provided an update for the Health Workforce Subcommittee.

Dr. Matt spoke about the upcoming summit in May to have productive conversations about the Health Workforce and take our initiatives and pull them together rather than working in silos. Subcommittee member, Tim Gibbs, is spearheading the organizing of the summit. Mr. Gibbs is putting together a committee that includes some members of the Health Workforce Subcommittee, members of the Delaware Health Care Commission, and people for the larger area that will be looking at different health professional's areas by topic. One area of particular

concern is data on the health workforce and what areas we need to invest in to bring about improvements.

Dr. Matt spoke of a meeting that she attended that was planned by Dr. Fan which was the Delaware Division of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Workforce Subcommittee member, Nicole Moxley, presented the data collected on maternal-child issues. She was able to show the area where health professionals are practicing and overlay it with a map of the areas of need. She may be able to get federal dollars and perhaps state dollars because she can show areas of need that bring us to health outcomes. This is the type of strong data we need. We have information on licensure but how much are those professionals practicing, are they practicing in this state and where and how does it map with areas of need?

Dr. Matt speculated on investing in innovations in healthcare not just in the drug area but telehealth, hospital at home, cutting hospital stays and what are the things we can do in terms of investing in technology and innovation that have the promise of cutting healthcare costs.

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan provided an update on the January 22, 2024, PCRC meeting. The PCRC is trying to formalize strategic priorities for the Collaborative and determine the processes and implementation for the premier care delivery model. To determine the strategic priorities, Health Management Associates (HMA) performed stakeholder interviews. The interviews were with organizations or individuals who do not necessarily sit on the board. HMA is completing the responses and is going to formulate a few recommendations that will be voted on at the February PCRC meeting.

Dr. Fan then reviewed a synopsis of the interview questions which included the interviewee's understanding of PCRC, SB120, and their thoughts on how to improve primary care investment.

Dr. Fan reviewed the Primary Care Environmental Scan and the findings as well as an overview of state programs with prospective payments and examples of program activities and how Delaware compares.

PUBLIC COMMENT

DHCC Commissioner Nick Moriello commented on the ending of the Marketplace open enrollment and that enrollments were high. There were 52 plans to choose from and the Marketplace has grown considerably over the last several years from roughly 20K to over 40K. Dr. Fan explained the Marketplace and its function. Steven Constantino, DHSS Director of Health Care Reform, commented the enrollment period is extended for participants that are going through Medicaid renewals.

Public attendee, Jennifer August, commented on solvable trauma using professional art therapists. She would like the Commission to support putting out a job title for Art Therapist in every hospital, every school, and every community center. Dr. Fan let her know that this was out of the scope of the Commission and that she would put her in touch with the correct avenue.

ADJOURN

The DHCC meeting slides are posted on the [DHCC website](#). The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next DHCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The anchor location for the meeting:

The Chapel
 Department of Health and Social Services
 Herman Holloway Campus
 1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720

**Public Meeting Attendees
 February 1, 2023
 Public Meeting Attendees (Virtual)**

Anthony Onugu	United Medical
Bria Greenlee	302 Strategies
Brian Frazee	Delaware Healthcare Association
Brian Olson	Livanta LLC
Ceil Tllney	
Cheryl Heiks	Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
Chris Fraser	Westside Family Healthcare
Christina Bryan	DHA
Christina Farmer	
Christina Haas	DOI
Christopher Otto	DE Nurses Association
Cristine Vogel	DOI
David Bentz	DHSS
Delaney McGonegal	MACHC
Elizabeth Lewis	Hamilton Goodman Partners
Helen Arthur	DPH
Jennifer August	

Jess Luff	
Judith Butler	League of Women Voters
Kathy Matt	University of Delaware
Lisa Gruss	Medical Society of Delaware
Lori Ann Rhoads	Medical Society of Delaware
Maggie Bent	Westside Family Healthcare
Melissa Marlin	Department of Finance
Michele Jamison	
Nicole Freedman	Morris James
Nicole Moxley	DHSS
Pam Price	Highmark Delaware
Pamela Gardner	Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
Rachel Hersch	LA Red Health Center
Richard Holaday	DHSS
Sherry Nykiel	DHSS
Shonettesha Quail	DHSS
Stephanie Hartos	DHR
Steven Constantino	DHSS
Susan Jennette	DOI
Tanisha Merced	DOI
Victoria Brennan	Office of Controller General
Wayne Smith	Smith Capitol Advisors