



The Delaware Health Care Commission Meeting

March 7, 2019 - 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair); Dr. Kara Odom Walker (DHSS), Theodore W. Becker (Mayor of Lewes); Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Dr. Kathleen Matt (UD), Trinidad Navarro (DOI), Dr. Edmondo Robinson (CCHS), and Dennis Rochford (Maritime Exchange for DE River & Bay)

Commission Members Absent: Robert Dunleavy (DSCYTF), Richard Heffron, and Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN)

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Health Care Commission Staff: Elisabeth Scheneman, Executive Director and La Ronda Moore, Executive Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Approval – February 7, 2019

The meeting convened at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Del Tech Terry Campus in the Corporate Training Center located at 100 Campus Drive, Dover, Delaware. Dr. Fan welcomed all who were in attendance and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Dr. Fan requested that the commissioners review the draft minutes from the meeting held on February 7, 2019. Dr. Fan motioned for the meeting minutes to be approved. All commissioners present were in favor. Motion carried. View the approved February 7, 2019, meeting minutes here: <https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/Meeting/60994>

BOARD BUSINESS

Letters of support policy

The commissioners discussed how to best process requests for letters of support from stakeholders and various non-state organizations. Elisabeth Scheneman shared the Health Care Commission currently does not currently have a policy. In terms of timing, some requests have a quick turnaround, while the deadline for other requests is further out.

Dr. Walker shared the Health Care Commission (HCC) would like to provide letters of support for research requests and other types of initiatives that are aligned with the HCC mission. The HCC is asked often enough to provide letters of support that there should be a streamline process in place.

Dean Matt asked if there was a template letter. If there was a template, it could be used for requests and sent via email, however, for requests that required a more extensive letter, a longer timeline would be needed. Dean Matt stressed these letters can make a really big difference and help organizations receive grants. She suggested perhaps a small subcommittee could work on these requests.

Dr. Fan asked if the commissioners could decide at a board level how the process could be handled expeditiously. Because there is not a policy in place, all requests currently should come to the board for a full vote. To make the process more expeditious, the board would have to make a new policy.

Dr. Robinson commented the HCC should make the process very clear. He would prefer as much as possible that requests come to the Commission as a whole and a sub-process be used to address emergency and last-minute requests.

Dr. Fan suggested a process could be, if an organization is requesting a letter of support that is aligned with the mission of the HCC, the request would be approved at the next board meeting. If a request needed a quick turnaround, it would be reviewed by a subcommittee, but the commission would need to decide what that process would look like. The Commission cannot vote electronically.

There was a discussion what should be the procedure if the letter of support does not commit the HCC to financial or staffing obligations. Could requests that were pro forma use a standard template? What if there was an obligation of time or money – would it need to be reviewed by the Commission? There was concern expressed by the commissioners that there could be an ideological disagreement within the Commission to support a request. It was also discussed that the Commission should check with the Commission's Deputy Attorney General (DAG) to see if statutory changes can be made to allow for electronic voting. If the commission could vote electronically, it would have to be unanimous.

Dr. Fan summarized that next steps were for the Commission to agree on standard qualification for what at minimum would be required to issue a letter of support. Requests that meet the standard qualification could use a template letter. Working guidelines should be developed so requester would know that requests need to be made 6-8 weeks in advance. For requests that require some sort of initiative and pro-action on part of the HCC, regardless whether it is financial or manpower, the request should come to an open discussion before the commission. In summary, deliverables for the next HCC meeting include a list of standard qualifications, establish a framework/policy procedure, create a template letter, and check with the DAG about electronic voting.

Transparency of Information Sharing

The commissioners discussed how as a public board they should best share documents or information passed on to the commission by stakeholders and non-state organizations. One idea was a landing page could be developed on the HCC's website to share documents and materials. There was some concern among the commissioners that this could be a slippery slope or used as propaganda.

Dr. Fan suggested the commissioners should set up a framework. Dr. Robinson suggested because the HCC meetings are public and there is a public comment period that would be an appropriate time to have those conversations. There was agreement among the commissioners that the public comment period would be the best. Meeting minutes (posted on the State Public Calendar) reflect public comments. If a document is associated with a public comment, it can be attached to the meeting minutes which are accessible to the public.

Development of a State of Delaware Loan Repayment Program

At the commissioners' November 2018 strategic retreat, there was a brief discussion about developing a "state" loan repayment program, separate from the current Federal State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) that the HCC administers. A state loan repayment program that is administered under the purview of the state could help not just primary care, but also address the physician workforce in Delaware. Dr. Fan suggested the Commission should look at timelines and the State budget cycle when thinking about developing a "state" loan repayment program. She added that Rhode Island's loan repayment is from private sources.

During this segment, the HCC program manager for SLRP, Eschalla Clarke, provided an overview of the current federal program. Her presentation can be found here:

<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/slrppresent030719.pptx>

The commissioners asked Eschalla a few questions regarding how payments are administered to loan recipients, what is a recipient's term of service, and what happens if a contract is broken.

Next, Dean Matt provided a summary of the 2012 "DIMER, DIDER, and State Loan Repayment Program Report" prepared by Tom Ferry, the former CEO at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital. The HCC brought Mr. Ferry on board as a consultant to look at DIMER, DIDER, and the SLRP programs effectiveness as well as physician recruitment and retention. Mr. Ferry's 2012 PowerPoint presentation can be found here:

https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/dimer_dider_slrppwwami.ppt

The commissioners discussed Mr. Ferry's PowerPoint and came to a consensus that it would be helpful for the Commission to look at data since 2012 and that more data analysis is needed on the Delaware SLRP awardees. The commissioners would also like to track SLRP awardees.

The commissioners were also interested in learning more about the WWAMI program, the University of Washington School of Medicine one-of-a-kind, multi-state medical education program. The acronym, WWAMI, stands for the states served by the UW School of Medicine: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

Public Comment:

Joanne Hasse (League of Women Voters) – Expressed concern that the Federal program only addresses shortage areas because it is getting increasingly worse in New Castle County.

Marc Jacobs (Delaware Health Information Network) – Commented if there is some way we could offer incentives to physicians to try to learn how to improve clinical documentation better would be fantastic.

Wayne Smith (Delaware Healthcare Association) – Expressed his support for the commissioners having a SLRP conversation and encouraged the state to continue to explore a state loan repayment program that has a state version. DHA is working on a proposal with others and the Primary Care Collaborative and thinks it is a very immediate focus of the state.

Concept Systems SIM Quarter 4 Report

Prepared by Concept Systems, Inc., the purpose of the report is to provide insight to the HCC about the status of the system. The goal is to provide information that HCC can use to try and strengthen, stabilize, and optimize the system in its effort to achieve the goals for AY4. The information for the report comes from data and insight gleaned from meeting observations, committee presentations, meeting minutes, and qualitative data collected on the SIM stakeholder survey.

Dr. Fan asked if the commissioners if there were any comments. She noted how much green there was in the report indicating on schedule/adequate progress. There was little discussion from the commissioners except it was asked about what is happening with SIM sustainability. Elisabeth mentioned the final report from Concept Systems, which includes a stakeholder survey, will likely be shared with the Commission later this spring.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

“Primary Care Physicians in Delaware 2018” Report

Dr. Fan introduced Tibor Tóth, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Biden School of Public Policy & Administration and Associate Director, Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research with the University of Delaware. Dr. Tóth presented on the report prepared of the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health. The report is entitled, “Primary Care Physicians in Delaware 2018.” His full presentation can be found here:

<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/primarycaresurveyreport031119.pptx>

Executive Summary of the Report: The Primary Care Physician in Delaware 2018 survey is in its eighth round and provides timely and up to date insights into the primary care profession within Delaware. The current report is an update of the report published in 2013. It supplements and updates the data on primary care physicians from 1995, 1998, 2001, 2006, 2008, 2011, and 2013. While the state has exact information on the number of physicians who are licensed to practice in Delaware, data and information on physicians actively providing direct patient care, their practice characteristics and their demographic profile is only available through these regular reports. These results are used to help local and state governments along with employers and educational institutions, to plan for an adequate supply of health professionals in Delaware. By learning where physicians practice, the form and setting of their employment, and how long they plan to stay active in their profession, resources can be targeted to ensure adequate health care for Delaware’s residents.

The commissioners engaged in some discussion following Dr. Tóth’s presentation. Dr. Robinson proposed that the commission develop a recommendation to the Division of Professional Regulation that as part of licensure, a survey be done, and that the location of practice should be specified.

Primary Care Collaborative

Dr. Fan provided an update on the recent series of February Primary Care Collaborative meetings. The meetings took a deeper dive into the recommendations that were made in the Primary Care Collaborative January 2019 report https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/collabrpt_jan2019.pdf Dr. Fan shared that there was a lot of discussion around funding models for payment reform that would be able to sustain primary care and hopefully improve primary care. More information about the Collaborative including meeting materials and minutes can be found here: <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/collab.html>

ADJOURN

Dr. Fan asked if there was any new or old business to discuss.

Dr. Robinson – Announced today is the first National Hospitalist Day.

Secretary Walker – Highlighted that progress has been made moving up the Tobacco age to 21. There was a large press conference about the bill and the bill was heard by the Senate Health Committee. She thanked the members of the public for their support.

Secretary Geisenberger – The DEFAC benchmark subcommittee will have its first meeting at Buena Vista Conference Center on March 18, 2019 at 3pm.

Hearing no other business, Dr. Nancy Fan adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next HCC meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Del Tech Terry Campus.**

Public Meeting Attendees

Anthony O.	UMACO
Beth Jeter	PACE Inc.
Bill Howard	Life Pulse 360
Brian Olson	La Red Health Center (LRHC)
C. Bancroft	DTCC
Cheryl Heiks	Webster Consulting
Elizabeth Brown	Division of Medicare and Medicaid (DMMA)
Erin Goldner	N/A
Erin Ridout	DCADV
Jill Fredel	DHSS
Joann Hasse	League of Women Voters
Joe Leary	Lab Corp
Jose Tieso	N/A
Kathy Collison	Division of Public Health (DPH)
L.L	AmeriHealth C.
L. Willis	N/A
Lori Ann Rhoads	MSD/Mednet
Maggie Bent	Westside Family Health
Mark Jacob	DHIN
Mary Fenimore	Medical Society of Delaware (MSD)
Michelle Seymour	Mednet
Pam Price	Highmark
Paula Roy	Roy Assoc. /DCSN
R.W. Munson, Jr.	UM
Regina H.	ALDE
Robin Taylor	Department of Insurance (DOI)
Shay Scott	Henrietta Johnson Medical Center (HJMC)
Tibor Toth	UD
Victoria Brennan	Legislative Hall
Wayne Smith	DHA
Yvette Santiago	Nemours