



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

March 5, 2020

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair), Theodore W. Becker (Mayor of Lewes), Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Richard Heffron, Melissa Jones, Molly Magarik (surrogate for DHSS Secretary Dr. Kara Odom Walker), Nick Moriello (Highmark), and Trinidad Navarro (DOI)

Commission Member Absent: Robert Dunleavy, LCSW (DSCYF), Dr. Jan Lee (DHIN), and Dr. Kara Odom Walker (DHSS Secretary)

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Health Care Commission Staff: Elisabeth Massa (Executive Director) and Marques Johnson (Administrative Specialist III)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m. at the Del Tech Terry Campus in the Del-One Conference Center located at 100 Campus Drive, Dover, Delaware.

Dr. Fan introduced the Commission's newest member, Melissa Jones, who shared some information about her background and professional experience as a dental hygienist.

Approval of February 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the February 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Ted Becker motioned to approve the minutes and Secretary Geisenberger 2nd the motion. All members present approved the minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS

Dr. Fan shared that the Commission's 2019 Annual Report is under review with the DHSS Office of the Secretary and will be on the agenda at a later date. In lieu of a discussion about the Annual Report, an update on coronavirus has been added to the agenda.

Coronavirus/COVID-19

Dr. Fan shared that DHSS has created a website with detailed information, resources, and fact sheets about the virus, <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/>. The DHSS Division of Public Health (DPH) has also opened a call center in Smyrna that anyone from the state can call for more information about coronavirus. Dr. Fan shared on the CDC website there are four countries with level 4 travel advisories (China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran). No one should travel to these countries at this time, and if they have, when they return to the United States, they should self-quarantine for 14 days. Dr. Fan shared the three primary symptoms of the virus are shortness of breath, cough, and fever.

Molly Magarik added additional comments about the virus. She thanked the health care partners and spoke about the actions DHSS is taking in response. She advised that we all should be very vigilant and follow the public guidelines. There are currently no cases in Delaware and nine people under investigation. Secretary Geisenberger complimented the work that DHSS and other agencies have done in response to the crisis. He asked if the state had any power to enforce involuntary quarantines if needed. Ms. Magarik mentioned there are active conversations with the Governor's office legal counsel and the DHSS Deputy Attorney General around quarantining and the state's authority. Secretary Geisenberger also asked about what was being done to protect the nursing home communities. Ms. Magarik mentioned that DHSS has been in constant contact with such facilities and making sure they are putting policies in place to help protect that community including infection control policies. Visitation policies are also being reviewed.

Public Comment:

John Dodd mentioned he works with volunteer, non-profit organizations that help communities in need and asked if there was any guidance being given to those organizations. Ms. Magarik shared DHSS is working with DANA (Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement) to share guidance to those organizations.

Ted Becker asked if DHSS thought about the library systems. Ms. Magarik said they have and are working with the Department of State.

Health Resources Board – Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee Review

Dr. Fan provided a brief update regarding the Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee process. The Health Resources Board is under review. The Health Care Commission is scheduled to make a presentation to the Committee on March 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The presentation meeting is open to the public. The recommendations report from the Committee will be shared with the Commission when released and discussed at a future Health Care Commission meeting.

Governor's Recommended Budget

Secretary Rick Geisenberger (Finance) presented an overview of the Governor's Recommended Budget as well as highlights of the health care budget. A copy of his presentation is available at, https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/dhcc_presentations2020.html.

The Secretary shared the Governor has hosted several townhalls throughout the State where he has discussed the changes and approach to how the budget is developed. Over the past 20 years it has been observed that many of the State’s revenues are not sustainable revenues. The State has been working with Delaware Economic Financial Advisory Council (DEFAC) to define a sustainable level of budgetary growth. This year, that number has come out as 4.1% which is the starting point for the Governor’s Recommended Budget. Below are the top-line numbers for the Governor’s budget:

FY 2021 Financial Package

General Fund Operating Budget	\$4,629.5 m
<i>GF Operating Budget Growth 3.99%</i>	
Grants-In-Aid	\$55.1 m
Bond and Capital Improvements Act	\$892.8 m
State Capital Projects (\$233 m Cash)	\$525.2 m
Transportation	\$367.6 m
One-Time Supplemental	\$9.9 m



The Secretary also discussed the Budget Reserves. The Rainy Day Fund sets aside 5% of revenues. There are Constitutional requirements to use the Rainy Day Fund. He also highlighted the Budget Stabilization Fund, created two years ago by the General Assembly. The Fund is a usable reserve if revenue forecasts go down or if the State hits an economic recession. The Secretary also shared budget highlights in education, workforce, and other major investments. His presentation also included highlights of the health care budget:

Department of Health and Social Services (\$ thousands)

Medicaid “Growth”	(\$10,216.8)
DDDS Community Placements & Graduates	\$5,855.0
Child Care Provider Rate Increase	\$3,000.0
DE Healthy Children Program (CHIP)	\$2,769.2
DE Birth to Three Program	\$2,369.4
DSAAPD/DVI Growth in Community Services	\$1,875.0
Behavioral Health	\$1,060.0
DHSS Business Operations (IT, Security, etc.)	\$1,024.0
Benchmark, Staff Dev., Technical Assistance	\$553.1
Health Care Provider State Loan Repayment Program	\$500.0

GF Budget: \$1,247,827.8
1.1% growth



The Secretary highlighted that Medicaid costs are not growing. More Delawareans are working now (20,000 more since the Governor took office). The State saw a \$14 million decline in Medicaid costs and a \$4 million increase with the addition of dental health services. Also included in the budget is \$500,000 to support a state-sponsored student loan repayment program that will be administered by the DHCC pending the passage of legislation in the General Assembly.

Deputy Secretary Molly Magarik spoke about the ongoing concern across of the spectrum of how DHSS devises rates to reimburse providers, partners, and organizations. Kicked off in Fiscal Year 2020 budget, DHSS is reviewing the department's provider rate methodologies across the entire department. DHSS is working with Burns & Associates who has done this work with other states along with the Controller General's Office and the Office of Management of Budget.

Secretary Geisenberger shared the next steps in the budget process. DEFAC will meet in March, May, and June. It could be a bumpier ride than anticipated because of COVID-19 and economic impact. The Department of Finance has recently participated in conference calls with California and Washington, and these states have seen impacts on their revenues, especially in their port facilities. Based on DEFAC's forecast, there will be a JFC mark-up in May and a final budget in June. Senator McDowell, who is retiring this year from the Senate and is the long-time co-chair of JFC, has stated that one of his goal's is to have the earliest completed budget in the history of the State which would be around June 21.

Secretary Geisenberger also shared there will be three GEAR (Government Efficiency & Accountability Review) town hall public meetings in March. GEAR is working to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Delaware's government. This year, GEAR is conducting a mandatory regulatory review with a report due to the Governor and General Assembly in December 2020. The last review was in 2016.

UPDATES

Primary Care Collaborative

Dr. Fan gave a brief update about the Primary Care Collaborative. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17. At the last meeting in February, the meeting featured a presentation from Johns Hopkins that looked at hospital cost spending specifically comparing the cost of hospital spending for commercial insurers in Delaware using Medicare as a benchmark. The analysis used public information and compared each health care systems' operational margin to the rest of the country and the percentage they were above Medicare payments. The analysis also compared the health systems to Delaware's surrounding states. The questions from the Collaborative members centered around the accuracy of the data used for the study. The "charge" to the Collaborative members is to come back next meeting with concepts on how to fund primary care without increasing total cost of care which will be one of the topics at the March 17 meeting. Also, per SB 227, the Collaborative is to submit an annual report with updates, goals, and recommendations. The report will be shared with the Health Care Commission.

Marketplace

DHCC Commissioner Nick Moriello shared some enrollment period final numbers for the Marketplace. The grand total of enrollees was just over 25,000. Relative to this time last year, the number of enrollees were 23,800. The breakdown of enrollees per plan is available from Highmark. This year, the bronze and the silver plans were almost even with the highest number of enrollees.

ADJOURN

Secretary Geisenberger announced the DEFAC subcommittee will meet on April 20 to review the benchmark metrics of Calendar Year 2021 and on May 18 the DEFAC committee will meet to vote on the final benchmark recommendation.

Dr. Fan encouraged attendees to check the [State of Delaware Public Calendar](#) for DHCC meeting location and date updates.

Hearing no other business or public comment, Dr. Fan adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:16 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next DHCC meeting will be held on April 2, 2020 at the Chapel on DHSS Herman Holloway Campus: 1901 N. Du Pont Highway, New Castle, Delaware 19720 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Public Meeting Attendees 03/05/2020

Randil Munson	United Medicaid LLC
Brian Olson	La Red Health Care
N. Moxley	BHPRM
Leslie Ledogar	Department of Insurance
Carl Brunoy	Department of Insurance
Robin Taylor	Department of Insurance
Mary Fenimore	Medical Society of Delaware
Mary Perkins	MACHC Goeins-Williams Associates
Kiki Evinger	DHSS
Bill Howard	BDC – Health
John Dodd	BDC – Health
Christiana Bryan	Delaware Healthcare Association
Lincoln Willis	TWG
Anthony Onugu	UMACO
Lolita Lopez	Westside Family Healthcare
Maggie Bent	Westside Family Healthcare
Shay Scott	Henrietta Johnson Medical Center
Nick Conte	DHSS, DPH
John Gentile	Senator Carper