



The Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) Meeting

April 7, 2022

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

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

Commission Members Present: Dr. Nancy Fan (St. Francis), Secretary Rick Geisenberger (DOF), Richard Heffron, Melissa Jones, Cabinet Secretary Molly Magarik (DHSS), Nick Moriello (Highmark), Theodore W. Becker (Mayor of Lewes), Jan Lee (DHIN), Dr. Richard Margolis (DSCYF), and Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (DOI)

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Nancy Fan (Chair)

Commission Members Absent: Dr. Roger Harrison (Nemours)

Health Care Commission Staff: Elisabeth Massa (Executive Director), Stephanie Hartos (Public Health Administrator), Eschalla Clarke (Social Services Senior Administrator), Latoya Wright (Manager of Statistics and Research), and Tynietta R. Congo-Wright (Administrative Specialist III)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fan called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. via WebEx. Dr. Fan asked public attendees to virtually sign-in by placing their name and affiliation in the chat box or by sending their name and contact information to the DHCC Resource Account (dhcc@delaware.gov).

BOARD BUSINESS

ACTION ITEM: Approve March 3, 2022 meeting minutes

It was determined a quorum was present. Dr. Fan asked the commissioners to review the draft March 3, 2022, meeting minutes. Ted Becker moved to approve the minutes. Secretary Magarik second the motion to approve. The motion to approve was unanimously accepted by all commissioners present. The approved minutes are available on the [DHCC website](#). Dr. Fan added one more item to the board business.

Before moving to the feature presentation “CostAware Launch,” Dr. Fan took a few minutes to discuss with the commissioners the future format for board meetings as we enter what is hopefully an endemic stage of the pandemic. She asked the commissioners to send her and Elisabeth Massa an email with their thoughts on the structure of future meetings (virtual, hybrid, and/or in-person).

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Cost Aware Launch

Secretary Magarik provided opening remarks to announce the launch of the DHSS initiative, CostAware. The initiative was launched to help Delawareans better understand how their health care dollars are spent. The DHCC and Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) have spent over a year building the site which uses the 2019 medical claims from the Delaware Healthcare Claims Database (HCCD) – Delaware data. The claims reflect the actual average cost that Delawareans and their insurers paid for the procedures and the services that are listed on the website. In this initial version of CostAware, the health systems as well as the Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are not identified. DHSS hopes with updates to the website, that information will be added.

Secretary Magarik shared a hallmark of the healthcare innovation work under the Carney Administration has been to increase transparency and awareness. CostAware is a website that is designed for consumers, health care providers, policy makers, and businesses. Costaware is also another tool to pair with the DHSS’s spending and quality benchmark work to peel back the layers and really understand where the health care dollars are going. She added, we want good value for the health care dollars we spend and for Delawareans to be as healthy as possible. The Secretary thanked the DHCC and DHIN staff for their efforts around this exciting project.

Jonathan Mathieu, with Freedman Healthcare, provided national context about the project. Minnesota, New Hampshire, Maine, and Maryland have similar initiatives to share comparative cost, quality, and other information with the public. In a summary about the initiative, Mr. Mathieu added CostAware version 1.0, launching later today, will feature quality information taken from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services) specifically Hospital Compare and the Medicare Shared Savings Program. DHSS intends to build into the website additional quality information and measures that will be identified in stakeholder dialogue with payers, providers, and other interested parties in Delaware. He also shared a timeline for stakeholder engagement as DHSS works towards a CostAware 2.0 version slated to release in the fall of 2022.

Mr. Mathieu provided a website demonstration. He walked the audience through the website and highlighted the various sections (episodes of care and services) and features.

After the demonstration, Dr. Fan asked as a provider, if it would be too granular to have a statement on the website regarding some of the differential costs is based on contracts, health plan, contracts between provider, whether the primary health care system, or an individual provider and practice and the payer? Mr. Mathieu replied it is not prominent on the website and that the team could certainly talk about ways to make that more obvious for users of the website. It is described in some level of detail in the methodology document.

Dr. Lee asked if the order of the bars in the graphs throughout the website are always the same hospital and ACO? Mr. Mathieu replied it varies by service and varies by episode. Dr. Lee also added a comment, that this type of transparency is very important and that some things are shoppable in theory, but in reality, we have an access problem in this state. It is untrue to say you can shop for a primary care as it is hard to find providers taking new patients.

Secretary Magarik shared transparency benefits multiple players in the healthcare ecosystem and there is no one-solution to why the U.S. health care system is the way it is and how we get from where we are now to where we all want it to be.

Nick Moriello echoed the previous comments that CostAware is a step in the right direction to helping us be more informed around data in the State and also an opportunity to do things differently moving forward.

Dr. Gurpreet Kaur with DHIN, provided an overview of the methodology and data enhancement tools.

Secretary Magarik made concluding remarks. Looking ahead to CostAware 2.0, DHSS would like to add provider information, additional sites of care, more episodes and services, and geographic details.

The CostAware website will be “live” at noon on April 7. The website address, <https://costaware.dhss.delaware.gov/>. Public comments can be sent to the DHCC at DHCC@delaware.gov. The CostAware launch presentation is available on the [DHCC website](#).

From the WebEx Chat Box:

Chris Otto to everyone:

Agreed, Dr. Lee. Such an important distinction and critical from the consumer perspective.

Nancy Fan to everyone:

yes, one tool for achieving quality care and at what cost

Tori to everyone:

What policy issue do you think might need to be modified or reviewed as a result of this discussion?

from CHEiks to everyone:

Confirming that I heard correctly, the individual providers are not identified at this time?

from CHEiks to everyone:

Also that the pandemic related impact will be coming in when? Did you say fall of 2022?

(Mr. Mathieu shared DHSS anticipates having results for 2019, 2020 and 2021 data in the fall of this year. Claims processing takes time as well as data submission.)

from Tori to everyone:

Who is in charge of this meeting and what is their title and credentials?

DHSS COVID Funding Dashboard

Jill Fredel, Director of Communications for DHSS, provided an overview of a new DHSS webpage, <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/arpa/>. The website shares how the federal Cares Act funding and now the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is being distributed and spent across Delaware. As funding is committed, DHSS will share those details on the website. The page is divided into several buckets – for example home and community-based services, health care relief fund, to continued COVID-19 response.

Secretary Geisenberger inquired if the DHSS website is being coordinated with the Governor's office and the State's central ARPA webpage. Ms. Fredel confirmed the page was coordinated with the Governor's office and will add a link to the DHSS page to link to the Governor's page. He also asked Ms. Fredel if she knew if the money was being coded to the State's central checkbook. Secretary Magarik shared it depends, directly ARPA or a block grant. Secretary Geisenberger said the State is doing the best possible job to be transparent with the funds and provide information as centralized as possible.

Rich Heffron spoke about an economist that highlighted the challenges of trying to follow the money to track where it is being distributed and shared, he is confident Delaware will do better than most states.

The website is available on the DHSS website,

<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcc/files/coviddashbrd040722.pdf>

From the WebEx Chat Box

from Massa, Elisabeth C (DHSS) to everyone:
<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/arpa/>

from Massa, Elisabeth C (DHSS) to everyone:
<https://governor.delaware.gov/rescue-plan/>

UPDATES

Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program (HCPLRP)

Dr. Fan shared an update on the HCPLRP start-up. Under House Bill 48 with House Amendment I, the DHCC may award qualifying clinicians up to \$50,000 per year for a maximum of four years. Certain qualifications must be met. Dr. Fan shared information about the application process, weighted criteria scoring, and funding allocations. A marketing vendor (Aloysius Butler & Clark) developed a program logo which was shared with the audience. Marketing materials and a tool kit are also being created. Dr. Fan also shared that after each application cohort, de-identified information on the awards will be shared with the Commission and public.

Dr. Fan's slides are available on the [DHCC website](#).

From the WebEx Chat Box

from Maggie Norris Bent Westside Family Healthcare to everyone:
Is it possible to clarify the eligibility? Based on what I am hearing, it sounds like providers who serve at FQHCs are ineligible for the HCPLRP because they are eligible for the State Loan Repayment Program.

from Maggie Norris Bent Westside Family Healthcare to everyone:
Is this correct? Or, did I misunderstand?

from Dr. Liz Brown she/her to everyone:
And how is the "end of training" defined? Residency graduation? What about fellowships?

from Maggie Norris Bent Westside Family Healthcare to everyone:
Thank you for clarifying. That makes sense!

from Maggie Norris Bent Westside Family Healthcare to everyone:
Yes, thank you so much!

Primary Care Reform Collaborative (PCRC)

Dr. Fan provided an update about the recent PCRC activities. The Collaborative has formed two workgroups - Payment and Attribution and Care Coordination. The Payment and Attribution team held their first meeting and Care Coordination will be meeting on April 14. Dr. Fan shared they are trying to keep the workgroups very nimble, not having any more than 5 people. The workgroups we are working to align with being able to have a viable value-based care model that health plan payers can use to promote greater participation in a value-based care and moving people away from a fee for service-based model of a payment. Dr. Fan shared the Department of Insurance Office of Value-Based Healthcare Delivery posted updated regulations on March 1 and are set to be finalized by next month. Dr. Fan asked Commissioner Navarro if he would like to add any comments. He shared DOI is in the process of hiring a new director to lead this work and would be onboard soon.

The next PCRC meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2022.

Dr. Fan's slides are available on the [DHCC website](#).

ADJOURN

Before adjourning, Dr. Fan provided some additional clarifications around the loan repayment programs. If there are questions, please contact the DHCC, Elisabeth Massa and/or Eschalla Clarke.

Rich Heffron thanked the staff and providers at ChristianaCare for their assistance during his recent hospital stay.

Dr. Fan asked if there was any new business from the commissioners. Hearing none, the meeting adjourned.

Public Meeting Attendees April 7, 2022

Brian Olson
Bruce Matthews
Cheryl Heiks
Chris Haas
Christina Crooks Bryan
Chris Otto
David Roose
Delaney McGonegal
Frank Pyle

La Red Health Center
DIDER
Delaware Health Care Facilities Association
Department of Insurance
DHA
Christiana Care
Department of Finance
Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
Department of Insurance

Frank Pyle	DOI
Gurpreet Kaur	DHIN
Jill Fredel	DHSS
Joann Hasse	League of Women Voters of Delaware
Jonathan Mathieu	Freedman Health Care
Juan Arjona	DHIN
Juliann Villecco	DHSS
Kathy Collison	DHSS
Katie Macklin	Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter
Kiki Evinger	DHSS
Kim Hammond	Highmark
Lincoln Willis	The Willis Group, LLC
Liz Brown	DHSS
Lizzie Lewis	302 Strategies
Lolita Lopez	Westside Family Healthcare
Lori Ann Rhoads	Medical Society of Delaware
Maggie Norris Bent	Westside Family Healthcare
Mashiya Williams	DELFCF
Melanie Anderson	Highmark
Mollie Poland	Nemours
Nicole Freedman	Morris James
Nicole Moxley	DHSS
Nina Figueroa	DHR
Pam Price	Highmark
Richard Schroder	DHIN
Richard Holladay	DHSS
Ryan O'Connor	Freedman Healthcare
Sally Frechette	DOI
Sarah Noonan Davis	DHSS
Sherman Townsend	DIMER
Stacey Schiller	DHIN
Steven Costantino	DHSS
Victoria Brennan	Office of Controller General
Wayne Smith	DEHA
MBittle	
Carmen Olariu	
Stacey Worthy	
Tori Harris	
Russ Larson	
Mary Kate McLaughlin	
Jessica Luff	