

DELAWARE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION  
JANUARY 4, 2007  
DELAWARE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
CONFERENCE CENTER, ROOM 400 B  
DOVER

MINUTES

**Commission Members Present:** John C. Carney, Jr., Chair; Matthew Denn, Insurance Commissioner; Joseph A. Lieberman, III, MD; and Dennis Rochford, President, Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

**Members Absent:** Theodore W. Becker, Jr.; Richard Cordrey, Secretary of Finance; Carol Ann DeSantis, Secretary, Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families; Jacquelyne W. Gorum, DSW; Vincent Meconi, Secretary, Delaware Health and Social Services; and Lois Studte, R.N.

**Staff Attending:** Paula Roy, Executive Director; Sarah McCloskey, Director of Planning and Policy; Marlyn Marvel, Community Relations Officer; and Linda G. Johnson, Administrative Specialist III.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman John Carney called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2006 MEETING**

Action on the December 5, 2006 meeting minutes was deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROGRAM (CHAP) EVALUATION**

James Gill, MD, MPH, of Delaware Valley Outcomes Research, presented an overview of the Delaware Community Health Care Access Program (CHAP), its objectives, focus, evaluation and timelines.

The objectives of CHAP include:

- Provide a medical home for low income, uninsured persons in Delaware
- Improve access, quality and outcomes of care
- Reduce hospital emergency department (ED) visits and hospital stays
- Improve patient health status and satisfaction with care

Past evaluations of CHAP:

- Previously focused on the entire CHAP population
  - Preventive care (cancer screening, lipid screening)
  - Hospital utilization: ED visits and hospitalizations
  - Satisfaction with care
- Compared geographic location of CHAP enrollees with CHAP physicians

Action on the December 5, 2006 meeting minutes was deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

A presentation of new evaluation components "CHAP Future Objectives" was given by James Gill, MD, MPH, of Delaware Valley Outcomes Research.

New areas of focus for CHAP include:

- High risk populations
  - Diabetes
  - Asthma
  - Hypertension
  - Age 50 and older
- Outreach

CHAP's new focus for evaluation includes:

- Measure quality of care for persons with high risk conditions,
- Measure improvement in quality after CHAP enrollment, and
- Geo map to determine if CHAP enrollment matches area of highest need.

In 2006 the CHAP evaluation:

- Identified enrollees with targeted high risk conditions
  - First two months of enrollment identified 298 persons with high risk
  - Examined quality of care at baseline
- Evaluated service areas with Geo mapping
  - Compared areas of greatest CHAP enrollment with areas of highest poverty concentration
  - Identified areas of "under-penetration"
    - High need, low enrollment

The following is the plan for 2007 and future evaluation:

- Examine care for high risk persons at enrollment for one year period
  - Use baseline Health Risk Assessments
- Examine improvement in care after enrollment for high risk persons
  - Use one year follow-up Health Risk Assessments
- Examine quality of care at health home for high risk patients
  - Review charts at CHAP health homes six months after enrollment
  - Measure care against national guidelines
- Analyze geographic distributions using different demographics
  - Population at 100 – 200% federal poverty level
  - Distribution of race/ethnicity
- Evaluate Outreach Programs by analyzing increases in enrollment in catchment areas of geographically targeted outreach

The following is a proposed timeline for the CHAP evaluation.

- Analyze care at baseline for one year of CHAP enrollees from May 2006 through May 2007.
  - Present preliminary results at the Commission's September 2007 retreat
  - Present full results in April 2008

- Examine improvement in care one year after enrollment using one year follow-up surveys
  - Develop and initiate surveys in May 2007 (one year mark)
  - Present preliminary results at the Commission's September 2007 retreat
  - Present full results in April 2008
- Conduct chart reviews on a sample of CHAP enrollees
  - Begin chart reviews in February or March 2007
  - Present preliminary results in April 2007
  - Present next set of results in September 2007
  - Present full results in April 2008
- Conduct Geo mapping to examine different demographics and present the results in April 2007
- Conduct Geo mapping to determine whether CHAP enrollees are increasing in geographic areas of outreach program
  - Plan development in Fiscal Year 2007
  - Implement, collect, analyze and present data in Fiscal Year 2008

Dennis Rochford asked how many of the 19,000 Delawareans with incomes between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level who are eligible for CHAP are actually enrolled. Betsy Wheeler responded that, as of November 30, 2006, there were 3,493 people enrolled in CHAP. People rotate in and out of the program based upon need and their circumstances. A total of 10,935 people have been enrolled in CHAP since the program's inception.

**UPDATE: DELAWARE HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK (DHIN)**

Gina Perez introduced Rob White, the new chairman of the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) Board of Directors.

Ms. Perez reported that the DHIN system implementation continues to be on target for the planned March 30, 2007 go-live. Medicity is in the process of conducting internal quality assurance testing. DHIN will begin certification testing in February 2007. Medicity is working with physician practices to interface with those using electronic medical records. Non-electronic medical record practices will come on board in January.

The first round of interviews was conducted for the DHIN Chief Information Officer (CIO)/Senior Service Manager position. Three interviews were conducted and two candidates were selected for a second interview to be held in mid-January. The goal is to have the CIO on board in early February 2007.

University of Delaware marketing students developed DHIN logos last semester. The designs were narrowed down to four, from which one logo was chosen by the Consumer Advisory Committee, as well as a prototype for a public website.

Rob White is the new chairman of the Delaware Health Information Network Board of Directors.

The DHIN system implementation is on target for the planned March 30, 2007 go-live.

The first round of interviews was conducted for the DHIN Chief Information Officer (CIO)/Senior Service Manager position.

The web site addresses, DHIN.org, DHIN.net and DHIN.com, are now owned by the DHIN. DHIN.org will be the public site and DHIN.net will be the secure site.

Rob White said that the first rule for governance is to provide an environment in which everyone participating has a strong sense that they will have the protection that comes with being affiliated with the state government to protect them from lawsuits.

The second rule is the need for sensitivity to the needs of individual stakeholders: state government, the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), physicians and hospitals.

### **STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

The Loan Repayment Committee met on December 5, 2006 and the DIDER Board of Directors met on December 12, 2006.

The current available balance of state funds for dentists is \$271,979, which includes \$100,000 from the FY 2007 budget allocation. There is \$60,000 available in federal funds.

The following recommendations for funding were made:

#### **Westside Health Center**

Westside is requesting funds to help recruit a dentist at their Wilmington location. This site qualifies to receive federal matching funds.

#### **Recommendation**

The Loan Repayment Committee and DIDER recommend that \$70,000 be allocated to Westside Health to recruit a dentist (\$35,000 federal funds plus \$35,000 state funds). The funds will be allocated for a period of six months. If a dentist is not recruited within that time, Westside has the option to apply for an extension or the funds will revert to the available balance.

#### **Dr. Neena Mukkamala, DDS**

Capital/equipment loan application for a new practice in Dover – Site Application included.

Dr. Mukkamala recently opened “All Smiles Family & Cosmetic Dentistry” at 95 Wolf Creek Blvd. in Dover. The medical office space has been purchased and she began accepting new patients on October 23, 2006.

She is open a total of 41 hours per week:

<i>Monday</i>	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<i>Tuesday</i>	Noon – 8:00 pm
<i>Wednesday</i>	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<i>Thursday</i>	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
<i>Friday</i>	7:00 am – 1:00 pm		

A DHIN logo has been developed by University of Delaware marketing students.

She has hired one dental assistant and plans to hire a dental hygienist in the next 9-12 months. Dr. Mukkamala graduated from the University of Southern California School of Dentistry in 2003. She completed a residency at Christiana Care in 2004 and is licensed in Delaware. Dr. Mukkamala has already begun to accept Medicaid patients. She has approximately \$980,000 in capital loans and is requesting a three-year contract.

#### Recommendation

The Loan Repayment Committee and DIDER recommend that Dr. Mukkamala be awarded \$70,000 for capital/equipment loan repayment for a three-year obligation to practice in Dover.

The Commission deferred action on the loan repayment recommendations until February due to the lack of a quorum.

#### **2007 ANNUAL REPORT AND STRATEGIC PLAN**

Paula Roy reported that the Commission's Annual Report and Strategic Plan is available for review and comment. A letter will be written to the Governor, President Pro Tempore and Speaker of the House advising them that the report will be submitted in February.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Robert Frelick suggested that the areas of focus for CHAP should include obesity as a high risk population. He also suggested that missed medical appointments and educational levels of program participants be evaluated.

In response, Dr. Gill agreed that the educational issue would be interesting to evaluate. Such an evaluation would have to be conducted from scratch, as it could not be conducted in the same way as an evaluation of ethnicity or income. Obesity was not included as a risk factor, as the study was designed to identify conditions that required uniformly established standards of care. The number of missed medical appointments was reviewed once as the percentage of people who were assigned a health home but never visited.

Dr. Lieberman suggested that missed appointments might have an impact on physician participation in the program.

Joanne Hasse asked if the health centers give reminder calls to patients. She was advised that they do.

Rob White asked if the CHAP program includes a focus on behavioral health. Dr. Gill responded that it does not. Ms. Roy suggested that behavioral health is an area of opportunity for CHAP.

The Commission deferred action on the loan repayment recommendations until February due to the lack of a quorum.

The Commission's Annual Report and Strategic Plan is available for review and comment. The final report will be submitted in February.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2007, at the Delaware Technical and Community College Conference Center, Terry Campus, Room 400 B.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

***Next Meeting:***

The next meeting of the Delaware Health Care Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2007, at the Delaware Technical and Community College Conference Center, Terry Campus, Room 400B.

**GUESTS ATTENDING**

Anthony Brazen, DO  
Judy Chaconas  
Michael Day  
Barbara DeBastiani  
Robert Frelick, MD  
James Gill, MD  
Doug Gramiak  
Joann Hasse  
Katie Rosch Hegedus  
Paul Lakeman  
Lolita Lopez  
Linda Nemes  
Brian Olson  
Gina Perez  
Brian Posey  
Jose Tiese  
Betsy Wheeler  
Rob White  
Calvin Young

Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance  
Delaware DHSS/Division of Public Health  
Delaware Health Care Association  
Wheeler and Associates Management Services  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Delaware Valley Outcomes Research  
Lt. Governor's Office  
League of Women Voters  
Delaware Valley Outcomes Research  
Bayhealth Medical Center  
Westside Health Services  
Department of Insurance  
La Red Health Center  
Advances in Management  
AARP  
Electronic Data Systems  
Wheeler and Associates Management Services  
Delaware Physician's Care Incorporated  
UAW Community Healthcare Initiative