
DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
Legislative Hall – Tatnall Bldg
150 Martin
Dover, DE 19904
Final
Meeting of January 21, 2020
Minutes

Commission member(s) present: Lisa Furber, DNHRQAC Chair; Hooshang Shanehsaz; Cheryl Heiks; Kyle Hodges; Lorraine Phillips, Ph.D., Representative Kim Williams; and Catherine Hightower.

Commission members not in attendance: Karen Gallagher; Christina Kontis, Esquire; Lt Governor Bethany Hall-Long; Dr. Michela Coffaro, Psy.D; Norma Jones and Amy Milligan. Karin Volker, Esquire, DOJ was also not in attendance.

Others Present: Margaret Bailey; Mark Letavish, DHCQ; Tomi Morris, DHCFA; Mark Brainard, Jr, JLOSC; Paul Hyland, DPH; Charlotte Gjerloev, Qlarant; Bonnie Horvath, Qlarant and Dr. Melissa Winters, DSAAPD.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM by Lisa Furber. All attendees introduced themselves.

1. Approval of the Minutes for the meeting of:

The meeting minutes' draft of January 8, 2019, March 19, 2019, May 21, 2019, July 16, 2019, September 17, 2019 & November 19, 2019 were not voted upon due to lack of quorum.

3. Discussion of:

Department of Labor, Office of Occupation & Labor Market Information

Tom Dougherty, Acting Chief for the Office of Occupation & Labor Market Information, provided presentation materials. Due to an unforeseen conflict, Mr. Dougherty was not able to attend this meeting and instead plans to attend March 2020 DNHRQAC Meeting to present on Delaware's occupation and labor market.

Medical Marijuana Program (MMP)

Paul Hyland, Director for the Office of Medical Marijuana, provided an update about Delaware's Medical Marijuana Program: Chpt 49-A Delaware Code Title 16. This program took effect July 1, 2011.

In order to qualify for a Medical Marijuana card, individuals must meet the following qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older or be a pediatric patient with parental consent.

- Diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition
- Physician Certification from a Delaware licensed MD or DO
- Delaware resident with proof of residency
- Pay non-refundable application fee

Most common qualifying medical conditions:

- Pain (63%)
- PTSD (14%)
- M.S./Spasms (10%)
- Cancer (9%)

A complete list of qualifying conditions appears on Delaware Public Health's MMP webpage: <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/medmarfaq.html>.

Applications are processed within 45 days. ID cards are valid for one year from the date of issue. Individuals can elect to submit a renewal application.

Currently, there are 9,000 Delaware users and 450 designated caregivers. Until 2019, males prevailed as MMP users.

There are six Medical Marijuana Compassion Centers in Delaware:

- First State Compassion -Wilmington
- First State Compassion - Lewes
- Columbia Care Delaware - Smyrna
- Columbia Care Delaware - Wilmington
- Fresh Cannabis – Newark

*MMP plans to add another Medical Marijuana Compassion Center in 2022

Other pertinent facts:

- Patients are limited to purchasing up to three ounces within 14 day period.
- Delaware law protects patients and caregivers who follow possession limits
- Physicians who certify patients are protected under DE Law
- Patients under 18 years of age can only receive non-intoxicating pediatric oils
- Patients may not consume marijuana in a vehicle or public place

A designated caregiver is selected by a qualifying patient who is authorized, on the patients behalf:

- to possess and obtain from an authorized dispensary
- dispense and assist in the administration of medical marijuana

Designated caregivers:

- Must apply for a registry card

- Obtain a State & Federal background check - good for three years
- Issued an identification card that allows them to purchase up to three ounces of medical marijuana on behalf of their patient
- Required to have an ID for each patient (may have up to five patients)

Long-term care facilities employ professional caregivers, which is different than designated caregivers.

For more information about the Office of the Medical Marijuana Program, contact: 302.744.4749.

Qlarant

Bonnie Horvath, MHSA, FACHE, CSSGB Senior Director, Healthcare Quality & Patient Safety Program Director & Charlotte Gjerloev, BSN Project Manager, Long Term Care provided an overview of Qlarant's scope of work.

Contact info:

Bonnie Horvath: 410.872.9673
Charlotte Gjerloec: 410.872.9610

November 7, 2019, Centers for Medicare and Medical Assistance (CMS) awarded Qlarant with a five year Federally funded Medicare Quality Innovation-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) initiative.

Qlarant serves Delaware, Maryland and District of Columbia in Medicare quality initiatives through community coalitions and nursing home quality care collaborations.

Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative:

- Improve quality scores
- Improve behavioral health outcomes
- Decrease opioid prescribing
- Infection prevention
- Reduce adverse drug events and ED visits

Partners have access to educational programs, resource library, webinars, echo sprints and peer-to-peer learning.

Qlarant is using CY19 as benchmark.

Staffing Report

Mark Letavish, DHCQ Deputy Director provided the 3rd Qtr 2019 Staffing Report. The cumulative hours per resident was 3.72. The required hours to resident per Eagles law is 3.28.

Ms. Bailey asked about Delaware Veteran's Home staffing hours for 'Sunday' which totaled 3.12. Mr. Letavish will check as to why this day appears to be lower than required hours and provide feedback to the commission.

QART Report

Mark Letavish, DHCQ Deputy Director provide commission members with 3rd Qtr 2019 QART Report results. In this quarter of 2019 the QART reviewed six surveys involving a 'G' level deficiency. After review, none of the 'G' level citations were upgraded or downgraded.

Ms. Bailey asked if the Division would kindly provide a brief description of each deficiency. Mr. Letavish will forward the brief descriptions to the Commission.

4. Old/New Business:

FY 18 & 19 Annual Report

DNHRQAC 2018/2019 Annual Report draft was forwarded to members for review. Due to lack of quorum, the annual report could not be finalized.

DNHRQAC By-Laws - draft

This agenda item discussion was tabled until March 2020 meeting.

Conflict of Interest Policy

This agenda item discussion was tabled until March 2020 meeting.

Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee (JLOSC)

Ms. Furber reminded commission members that DNHRQAC was selected for JLOSC Review in CY 20. DNHRQAC will have an opportunity to provide testimony regarding JLOSC review - Feb/Mar 2020.

5. Public Comment

Observances

January: National Blood Donor Month

February: Am Heart Month & Nat'l Senior Independence Month

2020 Life Conference

2020 Life Conference, hosted by Developmental Disabilities Council, will be on January 29, 2020 @ Dover Downs.

Basic IV Therapy Training

Basic IV Therapy Training will be offered March 11, 2020 @ Bayhealth, Dover. To register: 302.744.7135. Another session will be offered October 7, 2020 @ Bayhealth, Milford.

DHSS FY 21 Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Operating Budget Public Hearing

DHSS will present FY 21 Operating Budget to the Joint Finance Committee February 25 - 27, 2020. The public is able to provide comment: individuals are limited to 2 minutes; organizations are limited to 3 minutes.

6. Next meeting commission meeting will be on Tuesday March 17, 2020 at DDDS Fox Run: 2540 Wrangle Hill Rd 2nd Floor Training Room "A" Bear, DE 19701 @ 9:30 am.
7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 AM by Lisa Furber.

Attachments: January 21, 2020 meeting agenda
November 19, 2019 DNHRQAC meeting minutes' draft
2020 DNHRQAC meeting schedule draft
Conflict of Interest Policy draft
DNHRQAC By-Laws draft
FY 21 JFC Public Operating Budget Schedule
Qlarant presentation
Medical Marijuana Program presentation
3RD Qtr 2019 QART Report
3rd Qtr 2019 Staffing Report
Basic IV Therapy Training flyer