Commission member(s) present: Lisa Furber, DNHRQAC Chair; Hooshang Shanesaz; Cheryl Heiks; Kyle Hodges; Lorraine Phillips, Ph.D., Representative Kim Williams; Christina Kontis, Esquire; Lt Governor Bethany Hall-Long; Dr. Michela Coffaro, Psy.D; Norma Jones and Amy Milligan and Catherine Hightower. Karin Volker, Esquire, DOJ was also in attendance.

Commission members not in attendance: Karen Gallagher and Catherine Hightower.

Others Present: Margaret Bailey, DNHRQAC Executive Director; Mark Brainard, Jr, JLOSC; Denise Robinson, State of Delaware; Meggan Townes, State of Delaware; Sheila Grant, AARP; Kathleen Dougherty, DMMA; Staci Marvell, DMMA and Andrea Wozney, 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 & January 21, 2020 were approved as written.

3. Discussion of:

DNHRQAC commission staff & members shared brief updates during COVID-19. As of today, 60 - 65% of Delaware deaths related to COVID-19 are residents of long-term care facilities.

Margaret Bailey

- Participating in bi-weekly calls with State Health Operation Center for LTC providers
- Newsletter to commission members May 2020
- Receiving multiple phone calls, emails, etc. from families & facilities
- Reaching out to multiple State agencies and providers to create on-going dialog
- Virtual Coffee with Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 5/18/2020
- Virtual Coffee with US Senator Chris Coons scheduled 5/29/2020
- Participating in multiple webinars, advocacy efforts, etc
- Attended Alzheimers Assoc, DE Valley Chptr Conference call 4/28/2020
- Guest presenter with UD School of Nursing 5/6/2020
- Attending multiple virtual meetings
Lisa Furber

- Participating in bi-weekly calls with State Health Operation Center for LTC providers
- Virtual Coffee with Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 5/18/2020
- Virtual Coffee with US Senator Chris Coons scheduled 5/29/2020
- Guest presenter with UD School of Nursing 5/6/2020
- Shared personal experience with family member during COVID-19 pandemic
- Attending multiple virtual meetings
- Community Legal Aid Society advocacy efforts for mental health clients

Norma Jones

- Shared experience as a resident in a Delaware LTC facility.
- Mentioned staff is checking resident’s temperature each shift. She expressed that residents should not be woken up during third shift to have temperature check if they are sleeping.
- Brought up about the importance of creative visitation during the State of Emergency Orders.

Amy Milligan

- Mentioned COVID-19 testing in Wilmington senior housing
- Expressed importance of providing education to vulnerable populations including: individuals with substance abuse, mental health, cognitive or multiple comorbidities.
- Shared that a few Life Center of St Francis participants currently living in LTC facilities have been exposed to COVID positive roommates.
- 240 Life Center community clients are being served at home since day program is closed
- Two COVID positive participants: one recovering at home and one hospitalized with complications

Lt. Gov Bethany Hall-Long

- Mentioned she has been involved with multiple projects during pandemic
- Wanted to thank the commission and individuals working to help with vulnerable aging population in Delaware
- PI for Medical Reserve Corp thru position at University of Delaware
- Lt Gov Office is available to answer questions regarding COVID-19 data, etc

Rep. Kim Williams

- Interacting with constituents and others regarding pandemic
- Connecting with multiple State agencies and legislators to address concerns, figure out solutions, etc
- Participating in Zoom meetings throughout the state
- Involved on conference calls with Re-Opening Schools committee
- Concerns early on in pandemic with: LTC reporting, testing, data, PPE, etc. Representative Williams suggested this group meet in future to see what we learned during pandemic & look at what worked, what did not, etc.
- General Assembly working on going back in session next week

Lorraine Phillips

- Facilitating on-line learning for UD nursing students
- Research shut down but might be opened up at UD in future
- Invited Lisa Furber and Margaret Bailey to guest present during two family nursing classes May 6, 2020 (Family Health & Wellness)
- Philanthropy effort with UD School of Nursing for LTC facility staff (Go Fund Me)

Hooshang Shanehsaz, RPH

- Shared that we were not prepared in many area’s for the pandemic
- Added that resident rights and restrictions imposed due to Emergency Orders has been difficult to navigate for residents living in LTC facilities
- Provided a follow-up about vitamin D or Zinc: Unfortunately, cannot set a policy for unproven treatments or administer medication/therapies such as vitamins to treat residents
- DSAAPD has been working hard with testing residents, infection prevention, etc.
- Four cycles of medication was filled in anticipation of the pandemic

Kyle Hodges

- Shared that State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) met virtually yesterday (full council) and invited DHCQ, SHOC and DDDS leadership to provide updates regarding COVID-19. The council plans to submit recommendations to the Governor. Kyle mentioned SCPD is concerned about death rate in licensed facilities, testing, visitations, etc.

Dr. Michela Coffaro

- Asked about vitamin D or Zinc supplements. The question about vitamins/supplements will be posed to SHOC during 11:00 am call today.

Christina Kontis, Esquire

- Shared that Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is involved with remote training with HHS & OIG for anticipated fraud schemes.
- 17 staff members rotating in/out of office during pandemic. The remainder are working remotely. Cases are being assigned.
- Referrals are coming in for Medicaid fraud, abuse, neglect and financial exploitation
- Calls often with DHCQ and DMMA about resident concerns.
Cheryl Heiks

- Bi-weekly calls with State Health Operations Center and LTC providers
- Bi-weekly calls with hospitals and LTC facility Medical Directors (partnered with AMDA to include assisted living facility medical professional, too)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for LTC facilities
- CMS and CDC Infection Prevention Training
- Workforce concerns
- Resident testing
- Staffing testing

4. Old/New Business:

**FY 18 & 19 Annual Report**

DNHRQAC 2018/2019 Annual Report draft was approved as written.

**DNHRQAC By-Laws - draft**

DNHRQAC By-Laws were approved as written.

5. Public Comment

**Joint Legislative Oversight & Sunset Committee JLOSC**

The Commission was scheduled to present before the Joint Legislative Oversight & Sunset Committee on March 17, 2020. Due to State of Emergency Orders regarding COVID-19, the 3/17/2020 DNHRQAC presentation was postponed. Ms. Bailey will remain in touch with JLOSC and let everyone know when the presentation will occur in the future.

**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)**

WEAAD will be June 15, 2020. The Senior Protection Initiative (AG’s Office) will be distributing flyers throughout the state to promote awareness.

**Delaware General Assembly**

The General Assembly will resume sessions via Youtube livestreaming starting May 27, 2020. Channel information is available: [https://legis.delaware.gov/](https://legis.delaware.gov/).

**Observances**

**May:** Older Americans Month, National Mental Health Month, National Nurses Week (May 6 - 12)
June: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15, 2020), Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month, National Safety Month

6. Next meeting commission meeting will be on Tuesday July 21, 2020 @ location to be determined.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM by Lisa Furber.

Attachments: May 19, 2020 meeting agenda