
DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
Virtual Meeting
Cisco Webex
FINAL
Meeting of May 19, 2020
Minutes

Commission member(s) present: Lisa Furber, DNHRQAC Chair; Hooshang Shanehsaz; 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/>.

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

