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DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION  
(DNHRQAC)

Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee

In-person & Virtual Meeting

Cisco Webex

Anchor Location: DHCFA

510 Silverside Rd Suite 51

Wilmington, DE 19809

**Meeting of January 10, 2025 @ 1:00 pm**

FINAL

Subcommittee members present: Lisa Furber, Cheryl Heiks (anchor), Mary Peterson, RN and Chris Marques, Esquire. The majority of subcommittee members attended virtually. A quorum of subcommittee members was present.

Subcommittee members not in attendance: Dr. Avani Virani, MD

Others Present: Margaret Bailey, DNHRQAC Executive Director and Kevin Andrews, Public.

1. Call to order

This meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.

2. Approval of minutes

The subcommittee meeting minutes draft of December 12, 2024 were approved as written.

3. Discussion of:

CY25 Wishlist

Subcommittee members reviewed ideas relating to legislative and/or advocacy efforts for calendar year 2025. The list included:

Memory Care Units - licensing & regulations

DNHRQAC statute

Convert casual seasonal data analyst position to full-time

Eagle's Law relating to staff and reimbursement rates

Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) clinical skills and training hours

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program – statute and location in State Government

Establish relationships with Legislators, Governor, Lieutenant Governor & Cabinet Secretaries

Background Check Center

Workforce

Annual survey consistency

Division of Health Care Quality (DHCQ) staffing complements

Previous legislative Session follow-up

### Background Check Center

As a follow-up to the last DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee meeting, Ms. Bailey contacted Delaware Justice Information Center (DELJIS) for an update relating to the Criminal Background Check Center. The following (1/8/2025) information was shared by Dominic Carretto, Acting Director DELJIS: *“DELJIS has been collaborating closely with Division of Health Care Quality (DHCQ) and have a meeting with them this Friday. The coding, which was scheduled to finish on 12/01, happy to say has been successfully completed. The product is currently in internal testing and is expected to move to DHCQ's vendor (Improving Atlanta) for integration and testing in the next 2-3 weeks.”*

Ms. Bailey will contact DELJIS monthly for an update and share with subcommittee members.

### DNHRQAC Statute

Ms. Peterson shared proposed statutory revisions with other subcommittee members. Members asked Ms. Bailey to share the proposed changes with DNHRQAC Deputy Attorney General, Patrick Smith, Esquire. The hope is to submit the proposed changes to the full commission for consideration during a future meeting. The revisions include:

- Commission name change
- Establish ED's responsibilities
- Appointment vetting
- Ability to write grants and seek donations
- Delegating authority to subcommittees consistent with the Commission's mission & goals
- Volunteer public members have the ability to serve in advisor capacity (w/o voting rights)
- Updates needed in other sections of DE Code to reflect name change

Ms. Peterson offered to make the minor revisions discussed during this meeting. There was also discussion about whether some of the proposed changes could be satisfied by incorporating them within the commissions by-laws.

Ms. Bailey will forward proposed statute changes to DAG Smith for feedback & question asked by subcommittee members relating to statute vs by-laws. Once feedback has been received, the proposed statute revisions will be presented to the full commission for consideration. After full Commission approval, the proposed statutory revisions will be shared with Sen. Mantzavinos and Rep. Morrison so they can sponsor legislative action.

### Other CY25 Wishlist Items

Memory Care Units (licensing) – Ms. Heiks offered to gather & share information on the number of Delaware buildings that would be impacted if there was a separate license for (locked) memory care units.

Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) Training – Ms. Heiks mentioned that currently the cost for facilities to purchase a separate contract through Relias to track training is expensive. Ms. Peterson suggested someone might want to look at the contract DHCQ has with Relias to see if there would be a way to create a more reasonable option for facilities to track training.

Previous Legislative Action – Subcommittee members plan to discuss legislation that was not acted upon from the previous legislative session during February 14, 2025 subcommittee meeting.

#### 4. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comments.

#### 5. Next Meeting

The next DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting will be held on February 14, 2025 @ 1:00 pm. In-person and virtual attendance options will be available. The meeting information will be posted on the Delaware Public Meeting Calendar.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Attachments: 1/10/2025 DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting - agenda  
12/12/2024 DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting – minutes draft  
Proposed statute revisions – DE Code and bullet point documents