
Delaware Residents' Protection Commission (DRPC)

Meeting of April 17, 2026

2:30 p.m.

DRPC Legislative and Advocacy Subcommittee

Virtually via Zoom

Anchor Location: DDDS Fox Run

2540 Wrangle Hill Rd

2nd floor Conference Room

Bear, DE 19701

FINAL

Commission member(s) present: Mary Peterson; Chris Marques, Esquire (in-person); Sean Dwyer (in-person); Cheryl Heiks (in-person) and Kevin Andrews.

Commission member(s) not in attendance: Lisa Furber & Dr. Avani Virani.

Most of meeting participants attended virtually, but there were a few individuals that joined DRPC staff & members in-person. A quorum of subcommittee members was present.

Others Present: Margaret Bailey, DRPC (in-person); Ngozi Dom-Chima, DRPC; Paul Smiley, Gilpin Hall; Dave Parkinson, Lorelton; Richard Stat, Lorelton; Amanda Levering, DHCQ; Traci Ficke, DHCQ; Julie Devlin, Esquire, DHSS; James Berryhill, DHSS; Tomi Morris, DHCFA; Frank DeMarinis, Harmony at Hockessin; Tom Shea, Public and Felicia Alderson, Kutz and Lodge Lane.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Mary Peterson, called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. DRPC members were introduced, and meeting rules were shared during the beginning of the meeting.

Ms. Peterson also provided DRPC history and the purpose of the meeting. During the DRPC Legislative/Advocacy Meeting of 3/13/2026, subcommittee members unanimously voted to invite Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), in particular Division of Health Care Quality (DHCQ), to attend this meeting to discuss the proposed assisted living legislation.

Ms. Peterson emphasized that the draft legislation is simply a starting point and therefore on-going discussions will occur with stakeholders before anything is ready for the Delaware General Assembly to act upon.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

Meeting minutes of 3/13/2026 were approved as written. Two commission members abstained from voting however the majority of subcommittee members present approved the minutes as written.

3. Discussion

Assisted Living draft Legislation

DRPC forwarded a copy of the draft legislation to stakeholders in the Fall of 2025. The purpose was to provide meaningful feedback. Feedback was received from the following: DHSS, Delaware Health Care Facilities Association (DHCFA), DE Valley Chapter of Alz Assoc and LeadingAge NJ/DE.

Some of the more common responses received from the stakeholders relating to the draft legislation included:

- Workforce shortage
- Wanting to make sure the previous long term care bill package was enforced and the impact relating to those bills (some of the regulations relating to the bill package have not been promulgated yet)
- Cost

DHSS and DHCQ “supports the strengthening of dementia care services in long term care, in particular secured memory care units where residents have higher acuity and vulnerability”. They believe however “advancing the draft before regulations are finalized risks inconsistency, duplication, and the need for significant work, ultimately slowing---not accelerating---improvements to dementia care.”

During this meeting, Ms. Ficke provided an update relating to the promulgation of regulations for the previous long term care bills: “in process and safe to say they will be completed this year.” She added that the Division is currently interviewing for the RN Trainer position, which was approved in late 2025.

Ms. Levering also shared an update relating to the dementia training. She mentioned facilities will have 3 options to select from instead of creating their own curriculum.

Discussion ensued relating to Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

Additionally, Ms. Levering added that the bare minimum nurse qualifications could be a barrier, specifically, noting that they require 3 years of LTC experience. It was suggested the subcommittee may want to explore other ideas, too.

Ms. Devlin added a comment I the meeting chat that the proposed temporary staffing regulations appear in the April 2026 edition of the Delaware Register of Regulations.

Ms. Heiks mentioned that some states have embraced home and community-based living and encouraged the Commission to explore further. As a result, DRPC Legislative and Advocacy subcommittee members asked Ms. Bailey to contact Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) and ask them to join in future discussions relating to affordability and possible waivers.

The draft legislation was shared during the meeting and Ms. Peterson provided step by step explanation for attendees, so they understood the reason behind what was written in the draft legislation.

The meeting was scheduled for 1 ½ hours and started to run beyond the designated time. Subcommittee members stated they will continue the discussion of the proposed legislation during the next subcommittee meeting. Once the next meeting has been scheduled, information will be posted on the Delaware Public Meeting Calendar.

4. Public Comment

Richard Stat, Lorelton; Dave Parkinson, Lorelton; Paul Smiley, Gilpin Hall and Felicia Alderson, Kutz and Lodge Lane provided public comment. In the interest of time remaining, public comments were limited to two minutes. Attendees were encouraged to send written comments to Ms. Bailey, who will share with subcommittee members. Subcommittee members also asked Ms. Bailey to share comments that were written in the meeting chat with them, too.

5. Next DRPC By-Laws meeting

The next DRCP Legislative and Advocacy Meeting - TBD. Information about the meeting will be posted on the Delaware Public Meeting Calendar (PMC) and individuals will have the option to attend virtually or in-person.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m. by Mary Peterson.

Attachments: 3/17/2026 meeting minutes draft
4/17/2026 meeting agenda
AL Proposed Legislation (draft)