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DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION  
Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee  
In-person & Virtual Meeting  
Cisco Webex  
Anchor Location: Juniper (The Vero @  
Newark)  
924 Barksdale Rd Newark, DE 19711  
**Meeting of May 3, 2024 @ 1:00 pm**  
FINAL

Subcommittee members present: Cheryl Heiks, Mary Peterson, RN, Chris Marques, Esquire. 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 (in-person).

1. Call to order

This meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm.

2. Approval of minutes

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

3. Discussion of:

Ms. Bailey mentioned the letters prepared by this subcommittee to support legislation, oppose legislation, or support legislation with edits were sent to House/Senate members for consideration relating to Senate Bill (SB) 215, SB 216 and SB 217. The full Commission had voted on & approved the letters during DNHRQAC Meeting of April 19, 2024.

Additionally, Ms. Bailey shared the following regarding House Bill (HB) 300 relating to “mandatory accreditation”, sponsored by Representative Kendra Johnson:

“This bill was heard in House Health and Human Development Committee last week. Several members of the public and Long-Term Care (LTC) industry professionals provided testimony.

The Committee hearing ran longer than anticipated and therefore many committee members left before voting on whether to move this bill out of Committee. The Committee Chair, Representative Evelyn Harris, advised she would “walk” the bill to (absent) Committee members to see if there was enough support to move the bill out of committee.

Representative Johnson mentioned during the Committee hearing that she would change language in the bill to state facilities could “volunteer” to be accredited instead of being “mandated” to do so. She further added that she would reach out to individuals that provided testimony on the bill, too.”

Subcommittee members briefly discuss other pending legislation or proposed regulation:

HB 140 – End of Life, Representative Baumbach

SB 150 – Dementia Care Services, Senator Mantzavinos

SB 151 – Mandatory Disclosure of Information relating to Dementia Services, Senator Mantzavinos

Marijuana Rules and Regulations, Office of Medical Marijuana – comment period closes June 3, 2024

Subcommittee members agreed to discuss the other pending legislation and proposed regulation during the next subcommittee meeting. Ms. Bailey will forward any applicable links to members in advance of the next meeting.

Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) – Section 49 Report (non-judicial agencies)

Ms. Bailey advised DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee members that AOC Court Administrator reached out 4/19/2024 and discussed options on future placement with DNHRQAC Chair and Executive Director. The options presented: remain located under AOC or move to Department of Justice Legal Defense Unit with the other non-judicial agencies. DNHRQAC chair conveyed this information to full Commission via email and members provided input. The preference conveyed back to AOC was to stay where we are within AOC, Judicial Branch and remain autonomous. There has not been any further follow-up provided at this time.

Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee (JLOSC) Report

Ms. Bailey shared there haven't been any updates about JLOSC's draft and/or final report regarding non-judicial agencies placement. It was the non-judicial agencies understanding that JLOSC would be creating their own report in tandem with AOC's Section 49 Report, which was due February 1, 2024. Section 49 refers to epilogue language that was added to FY24 budget granting AOC authority to prepare the report.

4. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

5. Next Meeting

The next DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 14, 2024 @ 9:30 am. 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 1:35 pm.

Attachments: 5/3/2024 DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting - agenda  
4/12/2024 DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting - minutes draft