
DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
(DNHRQAC)

Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee

In-person & Virtual Meeting

Cisco Webex

Anchor Location: DE CLASI Dover

840 Walker Rd

Dover, DE 19904

Meeting of December 12, 2024 @ 1:00 pm

FINAL

Subcommittee members present: Lisa Furber (anchor location), Cheryl Heiks, 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 1:09 pm.

2. Approval of minutes

The subcommittee meeting minutes draft of November 1, 2024 were approved as written.

3. Discussion of:

CY25 Wishlist

Subcommittee members shared ideas relating to legislative and/or advocacy efforts in 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

Action Item: Subcommittee members ask Ms. Bailey to contact Spencer Price, Delaware Justice Information Center (DELJIS), for an update on the Criminal Background Check Center. It was suggested to ask for monthly updates until this project has been completed.

Recap of DHSS FY 26 Public Budget Hearing

Ms. Peterson mentioned the FY 26 Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Public Budget Hearing was held on November 15, 2024. At the hearing, members of the public had an opportunity to submit oral and/or written testimony. The Department outlined their FY26 priorities. Ms. Peterson raised concern about the Departments priorities, noting Secretary Manning stated that if there are additional funds available, they would like to use the funds to address the backlog of surveys (DHCQ).

FY26 Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Budget Hearing Schedule

Ms. Bailey mentioned she was contacted by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) staff regarding FY 26 JFC budget hearings. During upcoming FY26 budget hearings, DNHRQAC and other non-judicial agencies will have an opportunity to present their budget requests - Thursday February 20, 2025 @ 12:45 pm. DHSS will be presenting on February 25, 2025 & February 26, 2025.

A copy of the FY26 JFC Public Hearing Schedule was forwarded to the full Commission.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Andrews wished everyone a happy holiday and said he would send an email with his feedback.

5. Next Meeting

The next DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting will be held on January 10, 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 2:14 pm.

Attachments: 11/1/2024 DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting - agenda
12/12/2024 DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting – minutes draft