
*Delaware Nursing Home Residents
Quality Assurance Commission*

DNHRQAC Meeting of February 18, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Virtually via Cisco Webex

Anchor Location: DE CLASI – Georgetown

10251 Office Circle

Georgetown, DE 19963

FINAL

Commission member(s) present: Lisa Furber, DNHRQAC Chair; Cheryl Heiks; Norma Jones; Mary Peterson, RN, BSN; Dr. Melissa Winters, PsyD; Hooshang Shanehsaz, RPH; Representative Eric Morrison; Jennifer McLaughlin, OT; Kori Bingaman, RN, NHA; Chris Marques, Esquire; Senator Mantzavinos and Dr Avani Virani, MD.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Patrick Smith, Esquire was also in attendance.

Commission members not in attendance: Brian Frazee.

Ms. Peterson and Ms. Furber attended in-person @ the anchor location. The remainder of meeting participants attended virtually. A quorum of commission members was present.

Others Present: Margaret Bailey, DNHRQAC Executive Director; Shantanu Pandey, DNHRQAC; Kevin Andrews, Public; Jim McCracken, LeadingAge; Rob Smith, DHCQ; Jules Villecco, DE Healthcare Assoc; Sean Dwyer, DE Valley Alz Assoc; RuthAnn Landers, Public; Jen Silvestri, Public; Paul Smiley, Gilpin Hall and Staci Marvell, DMMA.

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order @ 9:32 am by DNHRQAC Chair, Lisa Furber.

2. Approval of the meeting minutes

Meeting minutes draft for 1/21/2025 were approved as written.

3. Discussion of

4. Executive Session

Commission members went into virtual executive session @ 10:15 am to discuss personnel matters. The executive session ended @ 10:24 am.

After returning to the public meeting, a motion was raised and seconded to extend a job offer to one of the candidates that applied for the f/t Administrative Specialist position. 7 commission members voted “yes” and 4 members/proxies “abstained”.

5. Old Business/New Business

Eagles Law Staffing Ratio Waiver Applications

Ms. Furber mentioned there have not been any waiver applications submitted as of this meeting.

DNHRQAC Statute Revisions

DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee shared draft language with the full commission relating to the statute. This included:

1. Change the name of DNHRQAC to Delaware Residents' Protection Commission (DRPC - A name change was suggested by the Joint Legislative and Sunset Committee).
2. Further defining the mission as including nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and memory care units.
3. Establishing the Executive Director position with responsibilities for overseeing the work of the Commission and all personnel activities. Provide the Executive Director with the authority to speak on behalf of the Commission consistent with Commission mission and goals.
4. The appointment of members by the Commission to relieve the Governor's Office of this burdensome task and ensure timely appointments/reappointments.
5. Establishing a requirement for attending meetings and action to be taken for individual members that miss meetings.
6. Granting the right of the Commission to propose and promote legislation, regulations and policies to improve the quality of care, quality of life and the safety of individuals receiving services in nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and memory care units.
7. Adding the ability to write grants and seek donations to further the mission of the Commission.
8. Permitting the establishment of committees with delegated authority to act on behalf of the Commission consistent with the Commission's mission and goals.
9. Allowing volunteer members of the public to serve on committees in an advisory capacity without voting rights.
10. Permitting staff member to host @ the in-person anchor location.

The changes better describe the Commission's responsibility to advocate for residents of nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and memory care units; work with other agencies and groups to promote systemic reform; recommend changes in the law, regulations and policy necessary to improve the quality of care, quality of life and the safety of residents unable to protect themselves; and act as an informational resource for the public.

A few sections within DE Code Title 16 will need to be updated to reflect name change.

After outlining the draft statute changes, members discussed the statute in more detail. A commission member asked a question relating to the name change, understanding that having a shortened name would be helpful. The individual added the general public would probably think “Delaware Residents’ Protection Commission” would mean protection for anyone who is a resident in the State, not a resident of a facility. Ms. Peterson mentioned that clarification appears in the statute and would also be on the Commissions webpage. Commission members were encouraged to share any ideas they may have related to a new name.

Dr. Melissa Winters suggested the commission might want to consider the name “Delaware Vulnerable Residents’ Protection Commission”.

Senator Mantzavinos mentioned commission members need to be aware that general guidelines apply to newly submitted legislation. As a result, there may be some additional changes made to the proposed legislation voted upon by commission members.

A motion was raised and seconded to approve the statute changes as written, but subject to changes: 8 members “yes” and 3 members “abstained”.

Ms. Bailey will forward the statute changes to Representative Morrison and Senator Mantzavinos. Both commission members offered to cosponsor this bill in the coming months.

FY 26 Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Budget Hearings

Ms. Furber mentioned this year, DNHRQAC and other non-Judicial agencies will have an opportunity to present their budget requests. In the past, this information was included in the Judicial Branches submission.

The non-judicial budget hearing will occur on February 20, 2025 @ 12:45 pm. Ms. Bailey will present FY26 budget request during the hearing, asking for an additional \$8,500 for office, travel and contractual expenses.

DNHRQAC Subcommittee Updates

DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy:

This subcommittee met last on 2/14/2025. A wish list of legislative and advocacy items was discussed. The meeting also included discussion of last year’s long-term care bills and the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS). During the next legislative and advocacy subcommittee meeting, subcommittee members plan to prioritize items on the list for CY 2025.

DNHRQAC Hiring Committee:

The Hiring Committee recommended commission members meet in Executive Session to discuss employment related items.

6. Executive Session

Commission members and staff exited the public meeting (Cisco WebEx) @ 9:44 am until 10:08 am (Zoom link was provided to commission members only) to discuss employment related items.

Once the Executive Session concluded, commission members rejoined the public meeting to vote on employment items discussed during Executive Session.

A motion was brought forward to extend an offer relating to the f/t Administrative Specialist position. The motion was seconded. Roll call vote: 10 members “yes” and 1 member “abstained”. The vote carried.

Ms. Bailey will contact Administrative Office of the Courts to inform the human resource manager that the Commission would like to extend an offer relating to the administrative specialist position.

7. Public Comment

No members of the public elected to comment during this meeting.

8. Next DNHRQAC Meeting – March 18, 2025 @ 9:30 am. This meeting will be conducted via virtual platform and in-person anchor location. Meeting invite and details will be forwarded to commission members & available on the Delaware Public Meeting Calendar.

9. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

Attachments: DNHRQAC Meeting of 2/18/2025 – meeting agenda
DNHRQAC Meeting of 1/21/2025 – minutes draft
DNHRQAC Statute Revisions - draft