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DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION  
(DNHRQAC)

Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee

In-person & Virtual Meeting

Zoom

Anchor Location: DE CLASI Dover

840 Walker Rd

Dover, DE 19904

**Meeting of July 11, 2025 @ 9:30 am**

FINAL

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

Subcommittee member(s) not in attendance: Dr. Avani Virani, MD.

Others Present: Margaret Bailey, DNHRQAC and Ngozi Dom-Chima, DNHRQAC.

1. Call to order

This meeting was called to order at 9:46 am.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

Meeting minutes of May 28, 2025 and June 13, 2025 were approved as written.

3. Discussion of:

During a previous subcommittee meeting, topics of interest were identified, approved and prioritized. Subcommittee members assigned themselves a specific topic and began discussions regarding the following:

Previous/Current Legislation Wrap Up

Ms. Furber shared updates relating to recent & previous legislation. An Excel worksheet was prepared by DNHRQAC staff and status updates continue to be sent to subcommittee members. There was a discussion as to whether the Judicial Information Center (JIC) supports the use of Dropbox, Box, One Note, Google Drive or a shared drive for members to be able to access “real-time” status updates relating to introduced/pending legislation.

Previously, Ms. Bailey inquired about a shared drive with JIC. At that time, it appeared securing and gaining access of information using a shared drive was not permitted for non-State personnel.

Ms. Bailey will contact JIC about other sharing options and report back to the subcommittee.

Additionally, Ms. Furber mentioned Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Patrick Smith, Esquire is inquiring about changes that will need to occur because of Senate Bill (SB) 155 w/ Senate Substitution (SS) 2. This bill made changes to DNHRQAC statute including a name change and added 2 more membership seats to the Commission. The bill was passed in both chambers and currently awaiting Governor's action.

Ms. Heiks suggested SCR 110 be added to the legislative Excel spreadsheet. This bill recognizes September 7 – 13, 2025 as national assisted living week.

### Workforce

Ms. Heiks mentioned SB 122 regarding healthcare workforce planning was passed in both chambers and awaiting the Governor's action. Subcommittee members were advised this bill will be implemented by the Division of Professional Regulation. A questionnaire is being developed by members of the Delaware Health Care Commission's Workforce sub-committee to collect workforce data during licensing renewal time.

Finally, it was mentioned SB147 Dentists and Dental Hygienists Compact Bill did not progress. Ms. Heiks believes there are other issues in dental care due to lack of dental hygienists and reimbursement issues. "The reason this was brought up is because there is one primary provider, Senior Dent, that provides dental services in Delaware Nursing Homes." Per Ms. Heiks.

Mr. Marques stated this subcommittee might want to look at workforce on a broader scope.

Ms. Peterson shared that the Division of Professional Regulation does not manage certified nursing assistants (CNA) certifications. The certification or recertification process for CNAs falls under the Division of Health Care Quality (DHCQ). Discussion ensued around the Board of Nursing and the fact that they have experience with approving schools/curriculum and approve Limited Lay Administration of Medications (LLAM).

It was suggested it might be helpful to ask CNAs for demographic information during each 2-year rolling recertification. Ms. Heiks will ask for the list of demographic questions already created for registered nurses (RN) and send to DNHRQAC legislative/advocacy subcommittee members. The subcommittee will then submit a recommendation to the full commission, asking DHCQ to include the demographic questions going forward at rolling recertification time.

### Background Check Center

Mr. Marques recapped the letter DNHRQAC sent to State officials and Members of the General Assembly on June 25, 2025 regarding the Background Check Center (BCC). The letter outlined concerns relating to BCC: project under construction for a long time; service letters possibly going away and Rap-back feature, to name a few.

Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) Cabinet Secretary Manning responded to the letter. Mr. Marques summarized her response.

Ms. Peterson mentioned Senator Hoffner introduced SB 67 w/ Senate Amendment (SA) and mentioned perhaps the Commission may want to contact her and see if we can work together on this issue.

Subcommittee members asked Ms. Bailey to reach out to the Department of Labor and ask them to join a future subcommittee meeting to discuss “Service Letters”.

#### Memory Care Legislation (draft)

Ms. Peterson shared a draft proposal to the group relating to memory care units. Ms. Heiks asked if she could share it with her association. She was asked not to share at this point. It was provided to the subcommittee for review and comment and would be shared at a later date when appropriate. Ms. Peterson asked subcommittee members to digest, discuss and make changes of the draft prior to sending to the industry for comments.

#### 4. Public Comment

No members of the public were in attendance.

#### 5. Next Meeting

The next DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting date/time is TBD. 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 11:08 am

Attachments: DNHRQAC Leg/Advoc Meeting of 7/11/2025 agenda  
DNHRQAC Leg/Advoc Subcommittee of May 28, 2025 - minutes draft  
DNHRQAC Leg/Advoc Subcommittee Meeting of June 13, 2025 – minutes draft  
Excel Spreadsheet - Legislation