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*Delaware Nursing Home Residents  
Quality Assurance Commission*

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**DNHRQAC Meeting of June 17, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Virtually via Cisco Webex**

**Anchor Location: DE CLASI – Georgetown**

**20151 Office Circle**

**Georgetown, DE 19947**

**FINAL**

Commission member(s) present: Lisa Furber, DNHRQAC Chair; Cheryl Heiks; Norma Jones; Mary Peterson; Kori Bingaman, RN, NHA; Hooshang Shanehsaz, RPH; Chris Marques, Esquire and Brandon Williams, proxy for Senator Spiros Mantzavinos.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Patrick Smith, Esquire was not in attendance.

Commission members not in attendance: Dr Avani Virani, MD; Jennifer McLaughlin, OT; Brian Frazee and Representative Eric Morrison.

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

Others Present: Margaret Bailey, DNHRQAC; Tiffiney Butcher, DNHRQAC; Ngozi Dom-Chima, DNHRQAC; Kevin Andrews, Public; Staci Marvell, DMMA; Paul Smiley, Gilpin Hall; K Bumgamer, Public; Sean Dwyer, DE Valley Chapter Alz Assoc; Robert Stewart, Public; Alexa Wolf, DHCI and Clara Desper, Public.

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 9:47 am by DNHRQAC Chair, Lisa Furber.

2. Executive Session

Executive Session was held 9:51 am - 10:16 am to discuss employment related items. A motion was made, seconded and roll call vote was conducted. As a result, 7 members voted “yes” and 1 member “abstained”. The vote carried.

3. Approval of Background Check Center Letter – draft

The DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Members shared a draft letter with the full commission relating to the Background Check Center. Members made a few edits and then the letter was brought forth for consideration. A motion was raised, seconded and roll call vote was conducted. 7 members voted “yes” & 1 member “abstained”. As a result, the vote carried. A special thank you to Mr. Brandon Williams for rejoining the meeting so the Commission could vote on this item.

The letter will be sent to Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Cabinet Secretary, Delaware General Assembly members (all legislators), Department of Labor Secretary, Delaware State Police and Division of Health Care Quality (DHCQ) outlining concerns relating to the Background Check Center.

4. Old Business/New Business

### Artificial Intelligence (AI) Reader

It appeared a member of the public began using AI software during this meeting to record and transcribe details of the meeting. Commission members opposed and rejected the ability for an external participant from doing so during a commission meeting.

Mr. Marques further raised concern with an external member using AI software, especially during a commission meeting that also participates in an executive session.

### DNHRQAC Statute Legislation

Ms. Furber shared updates she received regarding Senate Bill (SB) 155 w/Senate Substitution (SS) 1. It appears the bill sponsors received feedback from several sources and are trying to figure out the next steps.

### FY 26 Budget

Lisa Furber & Ngozi Dom-Chima shared updates regarding DNHRQAC Fiscal Year (FY) 26 budget.

Additionally, it was mentioned that DNHRQAC will be receiving \$15,200 of Grant In Aid (GIA) funds during FY 26 to conduct a resident, family and staff satisfaction survey/questionnaire.

Ms. Dom-Chima provided an overview of the satisfaction survey that will be conducted in Delaware SNFs and Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) in the coming months. Currently, the timelines are being finalized and further details will be forthcoming.

### DNHRQAC Subcommittee Updates

#### DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy:

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on June 20, 2025 @ 10:00 am. There are several items this group has been discussing including the background check center and Senate Bill (SB) 155, regarding changes to DNHRQAC statute.

A spreadsheet this subcommittee uses to track legislation was shared with commission members.

#### Eagle's Law Waiver Application:

Ms. Furber advised members that since the January 1, 2025 waiver application implementation date, there have not been any applications submitted. DNHRQAC Waiver Application Decision Subcommittee has a weekly standing meeting scheduled, posted on the Delaware Public Meeting Calendar, to review applications and provide feedback on application's disposition to the full Commission. The waiver application decision disposition meetings are cancelled, at least 2 days in advance, if there are no applications in process.

Ms. Heiks offered to add information about the staffing ratio waiver application to the Delaware Health Care Facilities Association newsletter.

DNHRQAC members also suggested it might be a good idea to have this added to the DHCQ quarterly meeting of August 6, 2025 @ 11:00 am with Delaware skilled nursing facilities (SNF).

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

Ms. Bailey mentioned WEAAD was honored in both Delaware General Assembly chambers on June 12, 2025. DNHRQAC Chair and staff members joined legislators to commemorate WEAAD. This year's theme: Dignity, safety and justice for all". Ms. Bailey had an opportunity to provide testimony on the House floor about WEAAD. The commission provided purple lapel ribbons to symbolize awareness. A copy of the commission's brochure was disseminated to legislators, too.

Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 97 was sponsored by DNHRQAC members: Senator Mantzavinos and Representative Morrison.

#### 5. Public Comment

Mr. Paul Smiley thanked commission members for crafting a letter relating to the background check center and asked whether DNHRQAC's webpage can highlight events such as certified nursing assistants (CNA) week.

6. Next DNHRQAC Meeting – July 15, 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.

#### 8. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.

Attachments: DNHRQAC Meeting of 6/17/2025 - meeting agenda  
DNHRQAC Meeting of 5/20/2025 - minutes draft  
Background Check Center Letter - draft