
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 September 19, 2025 @ 10:00 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 10:01 am.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

Meeting minutes of 6/20/2025 were approved as written. The meeting minutes of 8/22/2025 were approved with minor edits.

3. Discussion of:

Subcommittee Member Updates

Legislation:

Ms. Furber provided legislative updates: SB 155 w/ SS2 (DNHRQAC statute) was signed by Governor Meyer on 8/25/2025. As a result, the changes to the Commission's statute will go into effect on November 23, 2025: name change, membership composition and other items.

Subcommittee members also discussed other legislation that was recently signed by the Governor, including HB 140. Ms. Bailey was asked to contact the bill sponsor for an update relating to the status of the regulations.

Ms. Heiks mentioned Governor Meyer created a standing order for administration of COVID19 vaccine by Delaware Pharmacists. A link to the order was shared during the meeting:

[StandingOrders_Covid_DE_Pharmacists.pdf](#).

Ms. Bailey reminded subcommittee members that Residents Rights Month is in October. Each year, DNHRQAC promotes awareness by posting articles in media outlets throughout the State of Delaware relating to residents' rights.

Memory Care:

Ms. Peterson previously shared a rough draft of legislation relating to memory care laws. Subcommittee members were asked to provide feedback and be prepared to discuss during this meeting. Subcommittee members were asked not to share the draft with anyone until presented to the full commission for consideration.

The overall intent of the legislation is to expand memory care law and clean up definitions that appear in the Delaware Code.

Subcommittee members suggested the draft legislation be forwarded to DAG Smith for review. After feedback has been provided by DAG Smith, the next step is to present the draft legislation to the full Commission for consideration and then share with other interested parties.

Ms. Furber offered to share the draft legislation with DAG Smith.

Workforce:

Ms. Heiks shared that SB 122 was recently signed by the Governor. This bill is an act to amend the Delaware Code relating to healthcare workforce planning.

Ms. Heiks mentioned that on September 24, 2025 there will be a Workforce Summit.

Ms. Bailey stated she was contacted recently by Dr. Hockstein, Chair of the DE Health Care Commission. Dr. Hockstein shared that the upcoming Workforce Summit is focused primarily on educational items and therefore industry folks have not been asked to participate. He did share that the DE Health Care Commission plans to host a retreat in November 2025 that will focus on CY26 goals and encourages the industry to join them. An invitation will be forthcoming.

Background Check Center:

Mr. Marques mentioned the Division of Health Care Quality (DHCQ) recently announced during the DNHRQAC Meeting of September 16, 2025 some amazing news relating to the service letters. Ms. Furber suggested sending a short thank you note to DHCQ Interim Director as a result.

4. Public Comment

No members of the public were in attendance.

5. Next Meeting

The next DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Friday October 24, 2025 @ 10:00 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 10:54 am.

Attachments: DNHRQAC Legislative/Advocacy Subcommittee Meeting of 9/19/2025 - agenda
DNHRQAC Leg/Advoc Meeting of August 22, 2025 minutes draft
DNHRQAC Leg/Advoc Subcommittee of June 20, 2025 – minutes draft