



Meeting Minutes - Joint Commission on Health Care

October 23, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

House Subcommittee Room B – General Assembly Building

Members Present

Delegate Rodney Willett

Delegate N. Baxter Ennis

Delegate Cliff Hayes

Delegate M. Keith Hodges

Delegate Patrick Hope

Delegate Robert Orrock

Delegate Atoosa Reaser

Delegate Cia Price

Delegate Mark Sickles

Delegate Howard Wachsmann

Senator Barbara Favola

Senator Ghazala Hashmi

Senator Christopher Head

Senator Mamie Locke

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Senator Stella Pekarsky

Senator David Suetterlein

Members Absent

Senator Todd Pillion

Staff Present

Sarah Stanton

Jen Piver-Renna

Estella Obi-Tabot

Kyu Kang

Emily Atkinson

Agnes Dymora

Call to order and welcoming comments – Delegate Willett

Roll Call - Agnes Dymora

Executive Director Sarah Stanton informed members about Kyu Kang leaving the JCHC team to pursue another employment opportunity. She then provided an overview of the agenda and reminded members of the voting process for study policy options.

Deputy Director Jen Piver-Renna provided a summary of the *Performance of Health Care Workforce Programs* study that she presented at the last meeting and listed the policy options for the study. After some discussion, members amended the second option to include, as part of the proposed legislation, (i) direction to agencies to conduct a review of health care workforce program eligibility and screening criteria and service requirements similar to that described in the first option and (ii) a requirement that the plan developed by VHWDA and Virginia Works include information about any additional resources agencies might require to implement strategies to increase capacity for data collection and reporting. The members then voted to unanimously adopt both policy options.

Kyu Kang presented the first two parts of the Strategies to *Extend Health Care Access to Vulnerable Populations* study. First, she described what mobile health clinics are and how they are used in communities across the Commonwealth. She also spoke about the barriers to mobile health clinic operations. She presented three policy options on the topic and answered member questions.

Next, Ms. Kang presented the second part of the report on community paramedicine programs. She described how these programs are comprised and run in different parts of Virginia. Ms. Kang discussed the benefits and limitations of community paramedicine and listed five policy options to reduce barriers to utilization. Lastly, she answered members' questions.

Estella Obi-Tabot presented the next section of the report, home visiting programs. She provided the parameters of the program and positive outcomes from the use of the programs by eligible families. She spoke about funding and qualification requirements for federal funds. Ms. Obi-Tabot provided two policy options to optimize the programs in Virginia. She answered a member question.

Subsequently, Ms. Obi-Tabot presented the topic of community health workers. She described the duties of community health workers and listed the benefits they provide to individuals in their communities. She discussed the funding needs and spoke about the ways Medicaid MCOs can be used for payments. Lastly, she spoke about retention efforts. Six policy options were presented to further support community health workers. Ms. Obi-Tabot answered members' questions.

Emily Atkinson briefed members on the last section of the report speaking about telehealth. She provided an overview of current telehealth services in Virginia. She provided some challenges affecting access to telehealth and ways in which they can be eliminated with eight targeted policy options. In conclusion, Ms. Atkinson answered member questions.

Delegate Willett summarized the discussion in the Executive Subcommittee meeting and named the studies that the members voted to pursue in 2025.

- Policy Solutions to the Commonwealth's Fentanyl Crisis (mandated by HJR 41)
- Strategies to Address Transportation-Related Barriers to Health Care
- Strategies to Address Pharmacy Deserts

Delegate Willett thanked and congratulated Ms. Debbie Oswalt, Executive Director of Virginia Health Care Foundation, on her retirement from her position.

Meeting adjourned.