

**MARYLAND COMMISSION ON KIDNEY DISEASE  
OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA ZOOM  
THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2022**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Maryland Commission on Kidney Disease held an Open Meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2022 via Zoom, a virtual platform.

Chairman Dr. Adam Berliner, called the meeting to order at 2:03 P.M.

Commissioners present: Dr. Sumeska Thavarajah, Dr. Donna Hanes, Dr. Sonal Korgaonkar, Dr. Nadiesda Costa, Susan Leon, RN, Andrene Townsend, RN, Jacqueline Hires, LCSW NSW-C, Jerome Chiat and Tisha Guthrie, LMSW. Commissioners Harris and Yospin were absent.

Staff present: Donna Adcock, RN, Nurse Surveyor  
Commission Counsel present: Leslie Schulman, AAG

MDH staff present: Carol Manning, Chief Kidney Disease Program  
OHCQ representatives: Evidelia House, RN, Dianna Roy Cassie, RN and Julie Capinpin, RN  
Renal Network 5 representative: Renee Bova-Collis, MSW, LCSW

**The Commission expressed its appreciation acknowledging virtual attendees representing the renal healthcare provider community.**

**I. RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF  
January 27, 2022**

Commissioner Thavarajah motioned to ratify the approval of the Public Minutes from the January 27, 2022 session. Commissioner Korgaonkar seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to ratify the approval of the Minutes of the January 27, 2022 Public Session.

**II. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dr. Berliner discussed home dialysis renal fellowship programs. He reported that surveys indicated that 94% of nephrologists would choose Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) as their dialysis modality of choice but still only 10% of patients are on PD. He noted that education and socio-economic barriers along with comorbidities may play into patient choices but a tremendous discrepancy exists. Dr. Berliner stated that 84% of fellows reportedly felt that they didn't have enough training in PD. CMS mandates are pushing dialysis providers to move patients to home therapies. It is important that the nephrologists provide patients with dialysis treatment modality education. He reported that the fellows choosing the home dialysis renal fellowship program would receive an extra year of training dedicated to home modalities and become experts in the area of home dialysis.

Discussion ensued.

**III. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dr. Thavarajah discussed the nursing shortage. She noted that there are some scary issues tied to inadequate staffing. By 2030 reports indicate that there will be a deficit of 900,000 nurses. Since 2004 a 5%-7% deficit of renal nurses exists. The pandemic has added additional stressors. She questioned how we stop the decline in the nursing population and people choosing nursing as a career which is a worldwide concern.

Discussion ensued including concerns regarding work environment, hours, lack of support, covering multiple positions and the feeling of lack of team atmosphere. Some suggestions were voiced including have nursing students participate in clinical rotations in outpatient dialysis. Commissioner Leon reported that ANNA is also joining the forum to increase interest in nephrology nursing.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**• HB 218 Dialysis Technicians**

Mrs. Adcock reported that this legislation has passed. Specifics regarding the implementation of the change from CNA-DT to CDT are not yet available. Ms. Mooney stated that she feels this legislation will ease the burden on the dialysis facilities regarding recruitment of candidates for patient care.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Kidney Disease Program (KDP)

Carol Manning reported that the printed stats are still unavailable due to MDH's network security incident. She noted that the servers are back online and that the KDP paid \$643,000 to providers this month. Electronic claims are being updated and the provider portal is back online. She stated that they are awaiting the KDP website update and that the processing of patient applications is up to date.

### B. Network Update

Renee Bova-Collis provided the Network update. She reported that the Networks' next contract cycle begins May 1<sup>st</sup>. Facilities will be notified of their projects. Ms. Bova-Collis reported focus on Healthcare Disparities and noted there are modules available on the Network website (QIRN5.org) including continuing education opportunities. All facilities are expected to be working towards Network goals. The E-Alert Newsletter is the Network's primary source of communication with the Renal Community. Individuals not receiving the Newsletter can subscribe on the Network's website or contact the Network for more information.

### C. Bed Bug Recommendations for Dialysis Facilities

Mrs. Adcock directed the guests' attention to the provided attachment from the Network regarding bed bugs. The Commission has received complaints from patients that are exposed to bed bugs by other patients. Facilities should follow the recommendations outlined in the attachment. The CDC reports that bed bugs do not pose a health risk. Discussion ensued.

### D. Commission Recertification Information

Mrs. Adcock reported that the Commission is working to move to an electronic payment system for the annual renewals. The system will be able to accept credit cards and should be ready for this year's annual recertifications. Information will be sent to the providers in early May.

### E. New Facility

Dr. Berliner reported that FKC Waldorf West has been certified by the Commission.

### F. Citation Free Facilities

Dr. Berliner congratulated the following facilities for achieving citation free surveys:

- IDF Chestnut Square
- Davita Briggs Chaney
- Davita Kidney Home Downtown

### G. Categories of Complaints

Dr. Berliner reported that in the past quarter the following complaints were reviewed and internally resolved by the Commission:

#### a. Written

- Patient complaint regarding concentrate shortage
- Physician complaint regarding patient care
- Facility reporting closure for a day due to staffing (no nurse)
- Facility reporting sentinel event

#### b. Verbal

- Complaint regarding facility staffing (2)
- Complaints regarding patient placement in the community (2)
- Patients complaints regarding bed bugs at a facility
- Patient complaint regarding care at a facility (2)

**H. Commission Approval/Disapproval for KDP Out of State Transplant Reimbursement**

Dr. Berliner reported that the Commission received and approved the following out of state transplant prior approvals for KDP reimbursement purposes:

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Refused</b>
Georgetown University Hospital	2	0
Christiana Transplant Center	1	0

**I. Surveys (17)**

**Citations**

<b>Citations</b>	<b>April 2022</b>	<b>Jan 2022</b>	<b>Jul/Oct 2021</b>	<b>April 2021</b>
Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations	0	0	0	0
Infection Control	11	11	18	11
Water and Dialysate Quality	6	8	8	5
Physical Environment	8	8	8	6
Patient Rights	0	0	0	0
Patient Assessment	0	0	0	0
Patient Plans of Care	0	1	2	1
Care at Home	0	0	0	0
Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement	0	0	0	0
Laboratory/Affiliation Guidelines	0	0	0	0
Personnel Qualifications/Staffing	8	10	11	10
Responsibilities of the Medical Director	2	0	0	0
Medical Records	2	0	2	2
Governance	1	2	4	0

The categories and total number of citations are reported above and trended for informational purposes. Dr. Berliner summarized the citations and noted that infection control continues to be the leading area for improvement followed by Physical Environment and Personnel Qualifications/Staffing.

**J. Surveys Completed**

The following 17 facilities have been surveyed since the January 2022 meeting:

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Davita Kidney Home       | IDF Chestnut                |
| Davita Cedar Lane        | Davita Odenton              |
| Davita Wheaton           | Davita Windsor              |
| Davita Annapolis         | Davita Laurel               |
| Davita Largo Town Center | Davita Friendly Farms       |
| Davita Briggs Chaney     | Davita Gaithersburg         |
| Davita Germantown        | Davita Kidney Home Downtown |
| Davita Glen Burnie       | Davita Baltimore County     |
| Davita Lanham            |                             |

Late Addition – Commissioner Guthrie reported that the NKF’s Sante, A Taste of Baltimore fundraiser would be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Baltimore Museum of Industry from 6pm-9pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting – July 28, 2022

Dr. Berliner reported that the July meeting will take place on a virtual platform.

There being no further public business, upon motion made by Commissioner Hanes and seconded by Commissioner Guthrie, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the Open Meeting Session at 3:00 P.M.