

**MARYLAND COMMISSION ON KIDNEY DISEASE
OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEET
THURSDAY JULY 28, 2022**

MEETING MINUTES

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

Vice-Chairman Dr. Sumeska Thavarajah, called the meeting to order at 2:06 P.M.

Commissioners present: Dr. Donna Hanes, Dr. Sonal Korgaonkar, Dr. Nadiesda Costa, Dr. Jeremy Yospin, Susan Leon, RN, Jacqueline Hires, LCSW NSW-C, Jerome Chiat and Tisha Guthrie, LMSW.

Commissioners Berliner, Harris and Townsend were absent.

Staff present: Eva Schwartz, Executive Director, Donna Adcock, RN, Nurse Surveyor
Commission Counsel present: Leslie Schulman, AAG

MDH staff present: Carol Manning, Chief Kidney Disease Program
OHCQ representatives: Evidelia House, Program Coordinator
Renal Network 5 representative: Renee Bova-Collis, MSW, LCSW and Phyllis Haas, LMSW

**I. RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF
APRIL 28, 2022**

Commissioner Korgaonkar motioned to ratify the approval of the Public Minutes from the April 28, 2022 session. Commissioner Costa seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to ratify the approval of the Minutes of the April 28, 2022 Public Session.

II. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Thavarajah welcomed everyone to the meeting. She discussed dialysis facility staffing and the shortage of nephrology nurses. Dr. Thavarajah noted that even with bonuses and pay increases dialysis facilities are experiencing staffing issues. There seems to be a larger issue including a level of commitment. She noted that for years there has been less and less people entering into nephrology practice. Dr. Thavarajah emphasized the importance of identifying the issues relating to why people are choosing not to enter into nephrology.

Commissioner Leon reported that the American Association of Nephrology Nurses (ANNA) have been offering mentoring, student discounts and panel discussions at colleges. She reported that ANNA is also experiencing a decrease in membership.

Discussion ensued.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Kidney Disease Program (KDP)**

Ms. Manning reviewed the KDP budget. She noted the \$3.2 million balance and explained that last year 250 KDP beneficiaries became eligible for medical assistance through a special program that expires 7/31/22. She expects KDP expenses to rise after the program expires and noted that the fiscal year 2023 budget will be \$9.3 million.

B. **Network Update**

Ms. Bova-Collis announced a new Network collaborative with eight pediatric dialysis facilities including two facilities in Maryland. She reported that the collaboration provides the opportunity for those programs to share information and provide support.

Ms. Bova-Collis reported that updated Network goals and recommendations would be posted on the Network's website next week. Facilities have the ability to log in and review how they are progressing in achieving the goals.

The Network is requesting that facilities join the Health Disparities and Equities program which will begin in August. The modules offer opportunities for RNs, Social Workers and Dietitians to obtain CEUs. The Network is working on CEUs for the PCTs. More information is available on the Network's website.

Ms. Bova-Collis reported on facility involuntary discharges of patients. She noted that the involuntary discharges are mostly related to severe threats in the facilities. She reported that the Networks' Decreasing Dialysis Provider training is being revised and will be released in 3 new 15-minute modules.

C. **Facility Refusals to Readmit Administratively Discharged Patients**

Ms. Bova-Collis reported that the Network is experiencing increased complaints from hospitals regarding the placement of patients that have been discharged from dialysis facilities as lost to follow up. She noted that some facilities are discharging patients as lost to follow up if they are out of the facility for 30 days. The facilities are then refusing to readmit the patients when they present in the emergency rooms for dialysis. Ms. Bova-Collis reported the conditions for coverage do not support the discharge of patients for non-compliance/loss of follow up. The Network will share information in a new document that will outline facility expectations regarding discharges relating to loss to follow up.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Bova-Collis reported that facilities should report patients that are lost to follow up to the Network. She noted that a specific chair time does not have to be held but the facility must reaccept patients that were recorded as lost to follow up.

D. **Monitoring Facility Documentation for Plan of Correction Compliance**

Ms. Schwartz noted that after a facility submits their plan of correction, the Commissioners review and approve the plans. She noted that the plans should be more specific relating to how they will be implemented. Ms. Schwartz recommended that the Commission request random audits to ascertain if the facility is complying with their submitted plan of correction.

Dr. Hanes recommended that facilities utilize tools that are on the Network's website to aid with internal audit efforts.

E. New Facility

Dr. Thavarajah reported that Davita Hyattsville has been certified by the Commission.

F. Closed Facilities

Dr. Thavarajah noted that the Commission has been notified of the closing of the following dialysis facilities:

- FMC Baltimore-Beltsville
- FMC Greenspring

G. Citation Free Facilities

Mrs. Schwartz congratulated the following facilities for the difficult to achieve but attainable citation free survey:

- Holy Cross Woodmore
- Davita Frederick
- Holy Cross Hospital Outpatient

H. Categories of Complaints

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

a. Written

- Facility requests to involuntarily discharge patients (3)
- Patient complaint regarding refusal of readmission to dialysis facility
- Patient complaint regarding care at dialysis facility

b. Verbal

- Patient request for transfer due to unsafe location of dialysis facility
- Patient complaints regarding facility treatment area temperature (2)
- Complaints regarding patient care and staffing at dialysis facilities (2)
- Patients denied readmission to dialysis facilities (2)

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

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

Hospital	Granted	Refused
Georgetown University Hospital	6	0
George Washington Transplant Center	1	0

J. Surveys (21)

Citations

Citations	Jul 2022	April 2022	Jan 2022	Jul/Oct 2021
Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations	0	0	0	0
Infection Control	10	11	11	18
Water and Dialysate Quality	7	6	8	8
Physical Environment	13	8	8	8
Patient Rights	0	0	0	0
Patient Assessment	0	0	0	0
Patient Plans of Care	0	0	1	2
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	15	8	10	11
Responsibilities of the Medical Director	0	2	0	0
Medical Records	0	2	0	2
Governance	3	1	1	4

The categories and total number of citations are reported above and trended for informational purposes.

K. Surveys Completed

The following 21 facilities have been surveyed since the April 2022 meeting:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Davita Harbor Park | Davita Howard County |
| Davita 25 th Street | FMC Whitemarsh |
| Davita Forestville | Davita Whitesquare |
| Davita Berlin | FMC Salisbury |
| Davita Good Samaritan | Davita Coral Hills |
| FMC Rosedale | Davita Silver Spring |
| USRC Silver Hill | Davita Ellicott City |
| Holy Cross | FMC Anne Arundel |
| Davita Glenarden | Davita Pasadena |
| Davita Frederick | IDF Arundel |
| Holy Cross Woodmore | |

Next Scheduled Meeting – October 27, 2022

Mrs. Schwartz reported that the Commission’s office building does not currently have Wi-Fi capability and that most Boards are meeting virtually through the end of the year. The Commissioners voted unanimously meet virtually for the October 27, 2022 meeting.

There being no further public business, upon motion made by Commissioner Hanes and seconded by Commissioner Chiat, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the Open Meeting Session at 2:57 P.M.

The Commission adjourned into a Closed Administrative Session in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article, Section 3-103(a)(1)(i) for the purpose of discussing issues related to Out of State transplant and post-transplant care reimbursement services.