

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON KIDNEY DISEASE

OPEN SESSION MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEET

[Website: mdckd.org](http://mdckd.org)

**Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2020**

The Maryland Commission on Kidney Disease held an Open Meeting on Thursday, October 29, 2020 via Google Meet, a virtual platform.

Dr. Donna Hanes, Chairperson of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 2:06 P.M. Commissioners Dr. Adam Berliner, Dr. Jeremy Yospin, Dr. Sonal Korgaonkar, Dr. Nadiesda Costa, Dr. Sumeska Thavarajah, Susan Leon, RN, Jacqueline Hires, LCSW NSW-C, Raymond Harris, Tisha Guthrie, LMSW, and Jerome Chiat, were in attendance. Commissioner Andrene Townsend, RN, was absent.

Commission staff present: Eva Schwartz, Executive Director and Donna Adcock, RN, Surveyor

Commission Counsel present: Leslie Schulman, AAG

Guest Presenters: Carol Manning, Chief KDP and Tracey Mooney, President Maryland Renal Administrator's Association

The Commission expressed their appreciation acknowledging the large number of virtual attendees representing the renal healthcare provider community.

I. RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF January 23, 2020

Commissioner Thavarajah motioned to ratify the approval of the Public Minutes from the January 23, 2020 session. Commissioner Yospin seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to ratify the approval of the Minutes of the January 23, 2020 Public Session.

II. RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE CLOSED SESSION OF January 23, 2020

Commissioner Thavarajah motioned to ratify the approval of the Closed Minutes from the January 23, 2020 session. Commissioner Berliner seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to ratify the approval of the Minutes of the January 23, 2020 Closed Session.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Hanes presented information on Kidney Disease and COVID-19. The slide presentation included Maryland COVID-19 statistics, acute kidney injury, ESRD patient outcomes and surveillance. Dr. Hanes reported that the Maryland Health Department will require facilities to enroll in Immunet in order to obtain the COVID-19 vaccination.

IV. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Adam Berliner presented an update on the Advancing American Kidney Health Initiative and introduced the KidneyX Innovation Accelerator Program.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Schwartz complemented the Commissioners and staff on contributing to the citation free audit administered by the State of Maryland Office of Legislative Affairs, and the review by the Office of the Inspector General.

Mrs. Schwartz reported that the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and the MDH Director of Legislative Affairs were complimentary of the dialysis facilities statewide for their management of COVID-19.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Kidney Disease Program (KDP)

Ms. Manning presented the KDP budget and statistics. She noted that there have been no significant differences in the program's statistics. Ms. Manning reported that the KDP budget will be adjusted and supplemented for the end of the fiscal year. Specifically, Ms. Manning stated that KDP resources are not in jeopardy.

B. The Maryland Renal Administrators Association-Functions and Future Vision

Tracey Mooney, President of the Maryland Renal Administrator's Association (MRAA) and CFO for Independent Dialysis Foundation (IDF), discussed the history and functions of the MRAA. The need for interest in participating in the MRAA for representation on the Commission was noted.

Additionally, she noted that the renal community should collaborate on the End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Disease Model which will affect every dialysis facility in Maryland with the exception of possibly two facilities.

C. End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices (ETC) Model

Ms. Mooney reported on this CMS initiative which promotes greater use of home dialysis and kidney transplantation. The ETC Model is expected to achieve these goals by adjusting payments to clinicians and facilities managing ESRD patient care. The ETC Model will apply to select Medicare claims with dates from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2027. She noted that facilities could be aggregated.

D. Network 5 Report

Mrs. Adcock reported on the information submitted by the Network. The Network will be hosting a webinar regarding the ETC Model. Affected providers will be contacted with more information regarding the webinar. The Network's goal for influenza vaccination is for 85% of the dialysis population to be vaccinated by December 31st. The Network has patient and professional resources regarding vaccination on their website. They are advocating for ESRD patients to be a top priority for the COVID-19 vaccination.

E. Cleaning and Disinfection of Dialysis Wall Boxes and Drains

Mrs. Adcock directed the guest's attention to attachment E, outlining CDC recommendations regarding daily cleaning of dialysis wall boxes and drains.

F. COVID-19 Outpatient Dialysis Facility Preparedness Assessment Tool

Mrs. Adcock reported that dialysis facility surveys resumed in October. Facilities are expected to follow CDC guidance regarding infection control to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The CDC's assessment tool (Attachment G) was provided to the guests and will be given to administrators during survey visits.

G. NKF – Renal Rounds – Plant Base Diets in Kidney Disease

Dr. Hanes directed the guest's attention to attachment H regarding the NKF's November 10, presentation on Plant Based Diets in Kidney Disease and underlined the importance of this diet.

H. Commission Newsletter

Dr. Hanes reported that the Commission's Newsletter was published in April, 2020, and has been made available on the Commission website.

I. Transplant Liaison List

Dr. Hanes noted that the Maryland Transplant Centers are updated annually with contact information for facility transplant liaisons.

J. New Facilities

Dr. Hanes reported that the following facilities have requested and received Commission certification since the January 2020 Commission Meeting:

- Davita Greenmount Central (12/9/19)
- Davita Timonium (11/4/19)
- FMC Germantown (7/1/19)
- Davita Severn River (1/30/20)

K. Citation Free Facility

Dr. Hanes commended Davita Dundalk for achieving a citation free survey.

L. Categories of Complaints

Dr. Hanes reported that the following complaints have been received and addressed by the Commission:

Written:

- Patient discharges due to nephrologist relinquishing care of patients (4)
- Patient complaint regarding care and lack of equipment at facility
- Complaint regarding elevator in dialysis facility building
- Facility complaint regarding dialysis patient (former patient) behavior
- Involuntary discharge due to patient threatening a staff member

Verbal:

- Facility concern regarding patient refusal of care from nurse manager
- Patient complaint regarding care at facility including late treatment initiation, supply shortages, and poor communication
- Patient complaint regarding infection control and charge nurse at facility
- Patient complaint regarding care at facility including staff rushing and using cell phones on the treatment floor
- Patient complaints regarding staffing at facility (3)

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

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

Hospital	Granted	Refused
MedStar Georgetown Transplant Center	15	0
Christiana Healthcare Transplant Center	1	0
George Washington Transplant Center	13	0

N. Surveys (13)**Citations**

Citations	April - October 2020	Jan. 2020	Oct. 2019	July 2019
Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations	0	0	0	0
Infection Control	9	19	12	14
Water and Dialysate Quality	5	5	9	10
Physical Environment	2	6	5	8
Patient Rights	0	0	0	0
Patient Assessment	1	3	3	0
Patient Plans of Care	2	8	8	4
Care at Home	0	0	2	1
Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement	0	0	0	0
Laboratory/Affiliation Guidelines	0	0	0	0
Personnel Qualifications/Staffing	7	11	11	14
Responsibilities of the Medical Director	0	1	0	0
Medical Records	2	4	3	0
Governance	1	3	4	5

Dr. Hanes reported that the Commission surveyor surveyed 13 facilities since the January 2020 meeting. The categories and total number of citations are reported and trended for informational purposes. She noted that infection control appears to have improved since the last meeting but commented that there have been less surveys in this time period. Also, Infection Control deficiencies were probably reduced in number due to the astringent methods employed in using best practices for such, since the COVID-19 pandemic.

O. Surveys Completed

The following 13 facilities have been surveyed since the January 2020 meeting:

Davita Whitesquare	FMC Rosedale
Davita Lakeside	Davita Pasadena
Davita Glenarden	Davita Ellicott City
Davita Good Samaritan	Holy Cross Woodmore
FMC Anne Arundel	IDF Arundel Center
Davita Pikesville	Davita Landover
Davita Dundalk	

There being no further public business, upon motion made by Commissioner Berliner and seconded by Commissioner Yospin, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the Open Meeting Session at 3:22 P.M.