

Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2020
South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting

DOC Members Present

Dr. Daniela Nitcheva, SC DHEC (*phone*)
Mr. Brandt Smith, SCMA (*phone*)
Ms. Madison Hall, Governor's Office (*phone*)
Mr. Samuel Fields, DHHS (*phone*)

RFA Staff Present

Mr. Chris Finney
Ms. Sarah Crawford

Guests

Dr. Corey Kalbaugh, Clemson
(*phone*)

The February 20, 2020 Data Oversight Council (DOC) meeting was called to order by Ms. Sarah Crawford at 3:01 pm. The minutes from the November 21, 2019 regular DOC meeting and the December 20, 2019 special DOC meeting were presented. Dr. Daniela Nitcheva motioned that the minutes for the November 21, 2019 be approved, Mr. Brandt Smith seconded the motion those minutes were approved unanimously. Mr. Brandt Smith motioned that the minutes for the December 20, 2019 be approved, Ms. Madison Hall Smith seconded the motion and the special meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

The first application for the release of restricted data reviewed was submitted by Corey Kalbaugh, Assistant Professor with Clemson University titled "Peripheral Artery Disease in South Carolina". The request was for Inpatient and Outpatient Surgery data for the research effort to understand peripheral artery disease (PAD) in SC, especially regarding geographic variation. With the proposed HotSpot analysis to determine geographic variation of PAD, the researcher requested the patient zip code. Dr. Kalbaugh was present on the call to answer any questions or concerns regarding his request. Mr. Finney assured that there were plenty of people by zip code with the PAD diagnosis over the requested time period 2010-2018. Dr. Nitcheva motioned to approve the request and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion to approve amended request passed unanimously.

The second application for the release of restricted data was by Akeem A. Adebayo, Resident Physician; University of Mississippi Medical Center titled “Examining disparities in Asthma and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Hospitalization Rates in South Carolina”. This researcher is requesting inpatient, emergency department and outpatient surgery data to evaluate disparities in Asthma and RSV and explore the relationship between hospitalization rates for Asthma and RSV prevalence. The results from this request will be used for the requestors MSCI Graduate Study Capstone Project and publications. Mr. Smith motioned to approve the request with the stipulation that the patient zip code be encrypted and Ms. Hall seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

The third application for the release of restricted data was submitted by James S. Krause, Associate Dean for Research; Medical University of South Carolina, titled “Number, Primary and Secondary Diagnoses, and Costs of Emergency Department Visits in a Population-based Cohort of People with Spinal Cord Injury”. The researcher requested inpatient and emergency department data to identify the number, primary and secondary diagnoses and costs of ED visits and related inpatient hospital admissions for population-based cohort of persons with Spinal Cord Injuries. This is similar to multiple other DOC approved requests looking at Spinal Cord Injuries. Mr. Smith motioned to approve this request and Dr. Nitcheva seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

The fourth application for the release of restricted data was submitted by Kevin Cromar, Clinical Associate Professor; Marron Institute of Urban Management, New York University titled “Evaluating the effectiveness of the Air Quality Index in representing respiratory morbidity health risks in the United States”. The researcher requested state emergency department visits and hospital admission data for an environmental epidemiology research project to assess population-level associations between daily Air Quality Index values and respiratory morbidity. To get the necessary environment data the researcher will link to EPA data by zip code. The full admission date is also needed for comparing to daily air pollution levels. The DOC has approved release of zip code

and full dates for these sort of environmental studies in the past. Ms. Hall motioned to approve this request and Mr. Fields seconded the motion. The motion to approve this request with no modifications passed unanimously.

The fifth application presented to the DOC was submitted by Maria Steenland, Postdoctoral Fellow; Brown University titled “Effect of short birth intervals on maternal and infant health outcomes”. The researcher is requesting inpatient data to examine the effect of short birth intervals on maternal and infant health outcomes. Brown University also had modifications to the Confidentiality Contract. Most changes were simple wording; the only content change was to #8. Changing the period from 48 hours to 72 business hours for reporting and use or disclosure of encounter level data. RFA’s Privacy Officer reviewed the changes to the Confidentiality Contract; they found no issues and deferred to the DOC. There were questions on whether LARC insertions could be determined through the hospital data and Mr. Finney assured that these could be identified in the data. Dr. Nitcheva motioned to approve the request with the changes to the confidentiality contract, and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion to approve with the requested modifications to the Confidentiality Contract passed unanimously.

The sixth application submitted by Matthew Knowles PhD Student; Vanderbilt University titled “Traditional vs Telehealth-only School-based Health Center” was withdrawn.

The first topic up for General Discussion was from US Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS) regarding Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) release of emergency department-specific cost-to-charge ratios (ED CCR), for all emergency departments for which HCUP has received data. This request for information is not mandated by the US DHHS but is voluntary participation by the states. Mr. Fields recused himself from voting on this since US DHHS is their oversight body. Since this involves information on hospitals, a protected field in SC, it was recommended to table this request until a member of the SC Hospital Association could review. Mr. Smith motioned to table the request and Dr. Nitcheva seconded the motion. The motion to table passed unanimously.

The final topic under General Discussion was an amendment to a previous request submitted and approved in the February 2018 DOC meeting by Jean Yoon Health Economist with VA Palo Alto Health Care System for study titled "Veteran's Choice in Hospital Care". The researcher had recently contacted RFA to amend their request to add a distance to facility variable. The researcher believed that this data element was approved based on the following language include on page 5 of their original application:

"We will examine which hospital characteristics affect demand for VA and VA-sponsored care such as number of beds, for-profit status, teaching status, travel time from patient's residence, patient experience scores, and quality of care scores, and number of other hospital alternatives."

However, RFA did not feel that this field was explicitly approved and wanted to get an official decision/approval from the DOC for release. Dr. Nitcheva motioned to approve the amended request for travel time and distance and Mr. Fields seconded the motion. The motion to approve the amended request passed unanimously.

This concluded the February 20, 2020 DOC call and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. The next scheduled DOC meeting is May 21, 2020 at 3:00 pm.