

**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 16, 2017**  
**South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting**

**DOC Members Present**

Ms. Aunyika Moonan, SCHA  
Dr. Shae Sutton, SCDHEC  
Ms. Andrea Bickley, SCDHHS  
Mr. Jay Wolfe, Governor's Office

**RFA Staff Present**

Chris Finney  
Sarah Crawford

The February 16, 2017 Data Oversight Council (DOC) meeting was called to order by Ms. Sarah Crawford at 3:01 p.m. Introductions were initiated by Ms. Crawford. She then presented the minutes from the November 17, 2016 DOC meeting and the minutes from the special call on November 21, 2016. No corrections were made to either of the DOC meeting minutes. Mr. Jay Wolfe motioned that the minutes be approved. Dr. Shae Sutton seconded the motion. The November 17, 2016 and November 21, 2016 DOC meeting minutes were approved.

The first application for the release of restricted data, submitted by Mr. Brian Chen, Assistant Professor; University of South Carolina: Arnold School of Public Health; was titled "Payment Integration and Care Coordination for Elderly Medicare-Medicaid Dual Eligible with Chronic Illness: Evidence from the South Carolina Financial Alignment Demonstration Project". Dr. Sutton motioned to approve this request. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The second application for the release of restricted data was an amended request for re-release of de-identified data, submitted by Dr. Gregory Tasian, Clinical Instructor, Department of Surgery, Division of Urology; University of Pennsylvania was titled "Effect of Temperature on Nephrolithiasis". The researcher received original approval for this request on August 15, 2013 and is requesting release of aggregated data to a journal in which he is publishing. Mr. Wolfe

motioned to approve this request. Ms. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The third application for the release of restricted data, submitted by Dr. Julie Kanter, MD, Director of Sickle Cell Disease Research; Medical University of South Carolina, was titled “Predictors of Acute Care Utilization in Sickle Cell Disease”. Dr. Sutton motioned to Table this request. Ms. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion to Table the request was unanimous for the following reasons:

- ♦ Instead of receiving zip code, would a flag indicating rural vs urban be sufficient?
- ♦ Is the actual hospital facility ID needed or would a flag for the MUSC facility be sufficient?
- ♦ The Council wanted more information on what data the researcher would be requesting from DHEC.
- ♦ Finally, the Council wanted the status of the IRB for the project.

The fourth application for the release of restricted data, submitted by Katherine Baicker, Professor of Economics with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, was titled “Randomized Evaluation of Nurse Family Partnership in South Carolina”. This request was originally approved at the March 8, 2016 DOC meeting. This subsequent review is to clarify that the researcher owns and keeps a ‘Masterlist’ of the study subjects that include the name, date of birth, Medicaid Number and social security number. Ms. Bickley abstained from voting since this is a DHHS project in which Harvard is doing the evaluation. Mr. Wolfe motioned to approve this application. Ms. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The fifth application for the release of restricted data, submitted by Kevin Bennett, Associate Professor with the University Of South Carolina (USC), was titled “Rare Condition

Surveillance using a combined Administrative and Clinical Data Warehouse”. This was an amendment to the application that was approved at the April 27, 2015 DOC meeting. With this amendment, the researcher was requesting a comparison cohort with the same data elements as the study cohort. Dr. Sutton motioned to approve this application. Ms. Bickley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The sixth application for the release of restricted data, submitted by Maria Steenland, Doctoral Candidate with the Department of Global Health and Population at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, was titled “Unbundling payments for long-acting reversible contraception immediately postpartum among Medicaid-covered women in South Carolina”. Dr. Sutton motioned to Table this request. Ms. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion to Table the request was unanimous based on the following reasons:

- ♦ Instead of the actual discharge date, the council would prefer to only release the discharge week.
- ♦ Since the researcher is only receiving labor and delivery records, they won't receive LARC insertions occurring after discharge for labor and delivery. Therefore, the procedure date should not be necessary.
- ♦ The Council wanted more information on what data the researcher would be requesting from Medicaid.
- ♦ The Council was also concerned about the data security methods provided in the application and would like more clarification on who the laptop belonged to and what security is in place on the machine.
- ♦ Finally, the Council would like the name of an Advisor or the person overseeing the research at the University.

The final application for the release of restricted data, submitted by Nijika Shrivastwa, HAI Coordinator/Epidemiologist with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, was titled “Distribution of *Clostridium difficile* infections in South Carolina”. Dr. Sutton abstained from voting since this is a DHEC project. Ms. Moonan motioned to approve this application. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There first topic up for General Discussion, was around changing the standard reporting time frame for RFA reports and data on the RFA website. The request is to change the reports from a calendar year to a Federal Fiscal Year time frame. This makes sense with the changeover to ICD-10 and since other changes to codes are typically done on a Federal Fiscal Year schedule. Ms. Moonan motioned to approve this request. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The second topic up for General Discussion was the creation of an application for aggregate data requests that contain encounter level data elements that could be considered sensitive due to small cell sizes. Mr. Finney presented an aggregate application template that would be completed by requestors not wanting individual level data but aggregate data that may contain data with small cell sizes. The requestor would be asked to complete a brief application explaining what information they are needing and also be asked to sign the Data Use Agreement. This will allow RFA to supply the complete aggregate reports without having to mask any cell sizes with the researcher understanding that they are responsible for the security and sensitivity of the data they have received. The researcher would be responsible for masking of cell sizes less than five in any of the public use of the data. This application would not need to be

reviewed by the DOC but would be kept on file by the RFA. Ms. Bicklye motioned to approve this request. Ms. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the February 16, 2017 DOC Meeting. The next DOC meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. by Ms. Crawford.

**FOLLOW-UP:**

Upon contacting Julie Kanter with the DOCs concerns and decision to table the request, the researcher provided additional clarification and reasoning for why zip code and hospital facility ID was needed. They also gave details of what information they would be requesting from DHEC and informed us that they had received IRB approval. The application has been modified to include more details for the need of these fields and a copy of the IRB approval will be provided.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, RFA received another request from the Department of Justice as part of their antitrust investigation of Carolinas Healthcare System. The first request for 2011-2014 inpatient data was approved at the June 8, 2015 DOC meeting. The current request is for 2011-2016 inpatient, ED, outpatient surgery, and imaging data with the addition of admission and discharge hour. The DOJ is not able to sign the confidentiality contract as part of the application, but there is a court protective order which ensures they protect the confidentiality of the data. RFA was asked to provide the data by May 13, 2017. Since this was prior to the next DOC meeting scheduled for May 18, 2017 and email with this information was sent to DOC members and they were asked to submit their votes. We received votes to comply with the request from Dr. Sutton, Mr. Smith, Ms. Bickley and Mr. Wolfe. Ms. Bickley requested that the data provided be designated as “Confidential Information”. RFA provided the data to the DOJ

with this caveat.