

Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2018
South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting

DOC Members Present

Dr. Aunyika Moonan, SCHA
Dr. Daniela Nitcheva, SC DHEC
Mr. Jay Wolfe, Governor's Office

RFA Staff Present

Chris Finney
Sarah Crawford

The February 15, 2018 Data Oversight Council (DOC) meeting was called to order by Ms. Sarah Crawford at 3:03 p.m. Introductions were initiated by Ms. Crawford. She then presented the minutes from the November 16, 2017 DOC meeting. Dr. Aunyika Moonan motioned that the minutes be approved. Dr. Daniela Nitcheva seconded the motion. The November 16th, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

The first application for the release of restricted data reviewed was submitted by Jan Marie Eberth, Assistant Professor; University of South Carolina, titled "Spatial Accessibility to Colonoscopy in SC". This previously approved application was just submitted to add researchers to the study, therefore, it was not necessary for this application to be reviewed. A vote was not necessary.

The second application for the release of restricted data reviewed was submitted by Jean Yoon, Health Economist; VA Palo Alto Health Care System, titled "Veterans' Choice in Hospital Care". This study will use RFA inpatient and outpatient hospital data to obtain a comprehensive picture of Veteran's utilization. The researcher is asking for their unique patient ID back in order to link to the VA patient services data. Dr. Daniela Nitcheva motioned to approve this request with the caveat that the researcher would supply a letter to the DOC stating that the researchers would not have access to the hospital data supplied by RFA and the identifiers. Mr. Jay Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion to approve with this caveat passed unanimously.

The third application for the release of restricted data reviewed was submitted by Kelly Hunt, Professor/Division Leader for the Dept. of Public Health Sciences; University of South Carolina, titled “Associations between Maternal Cardio Metabolic Disorders during the Prenatal Period, Breastfeeding and Offspring Health”. The study will link inpatient hospital data, SC Medicaid data and SC Birth Certificate data to obtain data to identify women with diabetes, hypertension or other complications during pregnancy. The DOC requested the following modifications to the application:

1. In place of full admission and discharge dates, the researcher will receive month and year only.
2. Since the patient zip code was not permitted in the approvals by DHEC for Birth Certificate data and DHHS for Medicaid data, the DOC would not allow it either.

Mr. Wolfe motioned to approve this request with the specified modifications. Dr. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion to approve with the specified modifications passed unanimously.

The fourth application for the release of restricted data reviewed was submitted by Sarah Rothenberg, Assistant Professor; Oregon State University, titled “The Impacts of Sewage Spills on Community Health in Columbia, SC”. This request will use inpatient hospital and emergency department data to investigate the impacts of sewage spills on community health in Columbia, SC. The researcher has requested full dates and zip code to correlate with data on rainfall and sewage events. Dr. Nicheva motioned to approve this request. Dr. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously and the DOC members requested a copy of this researchers study once it is complete.

The fifth application for the release of restricted data reviewed was submitted by Scott A. Lorch, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of

Pennsylvania, titled “Effect of Changing NICU Patient Volumes and Levels of Care on Neonatal Outcomes”. This study proposes to link All Payor Hospital data with DHEC Vital Records data to examine the changes of NICU patient volume and levels of care on Neonatal Outcomes. The DOC members had concerns regarding how the researcher will account for the fact that SC already has existing Perinatal Regions in their study (defined in SC by the Department of Health and Environmental Control – DHEC <https://www.scdhec.gov/library/cr-010842.pdf>). The researcher provided the following response via email and within their application:

“We are looking at the effects of changes in NICU volumes and levels, over time. Even with well-defined regions, there will be changes in levels and volumes over time. The regions do not necessarily matter for our study as we need to look within regions to account for the influence of care quality at an individual hospital.”

With this new information provided to the DOC members, Mr. Wolfe motioned to approve the request. Ms. Bickley seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously..

The final application for the release of restricted data reviewed was submitted by Nikki R. Wooten, Assistant Professor; University of South Carolina, titled “HIV/AIDS & Substance Abuse in South Carolina”. This study will use All Payor Inpatient and Outpatient Hospital and Emergency Department data and DHEC Death Records data housed at RFA. This data will also require special data extracts from DHEC (HIV/AIDS, STI Surveillance data and Co-Infection (TB, HEP-C data). This request was reviewed and tabled in the November 16, 2017 DOC meeting due to concerns over what data elements will be included from the additional DHEC data. The requestor resubmitted her application along with a list of data fields she will receive from DHEC, a DHEC IRB approval and DHEC Vital Records approval. With the additional information provided, the DOC requested the following modifications:

1. Approved a time span variable and month and year fields for the admission, discharge, procedures and date of birth dates in place of the full dates.
2. Approved release of an encrypted Health Care Facility ID along with a calculated distance to patient's residence in place of the actual Health Care Facility ID.
3. Denied the release of zip code.

Mr. Wolfe motioned to approve this request with the specified modifications. Dr. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion to approve with the specified modifications passed unanimously.

The first topic of General Discussion was to be a discussion of the modification of the Community Needs Agreement. Mr. Finney suggested this topic be held over for the next DOC meeting on May 17, 2018. For the next meeting, RFA will provide informational background of the Community Needs Agreement and a lead a discussion of the proposed modifications.

This concluded the February 15, 2018 DOC Meeting. The next scheduled DOC meeting is May 17, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. by Ms. Crawford.