

Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019
South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting

DOC Members Present

Dr. Aunyika Moonan, SCHA(*phone*)
Dr. Daniela Nitcheva, SC (*phone*)
Mr. Merritt Francis, Governor’s Office (*phone*)
Mr. Samuel Fields, DHHS (*phone*)

RFA Staff Present

Mr. Chris Finney
Ms. Sarah Crawford

Guests

Caitlin Torrence -
On behalf of Khoa Truong (*phone*)
Sudha Xirasagar (*phone*)

The August 15, 2019 Data Oversight Council (DOC) meeting was called to order by Ms. Sarah Crawford at 3:04 pm. Introductions were initiated by Ms. Crawford. The minutes from the May 16, 2019 DOC meeting were presented. Dr. Daniela Nitcheva motioned that the minutes be approved. Dr. Aunyika Moonan seconded the motion. The May 16, 2019 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

The first request for review was submitted by Khoa Truong, Associate Professor; Clemson University, titled “South Carolina health care utilization among persons with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias”. The study was tabled in the May 16th, 2019 DOC meeting, over concern regarding the selection criteria for the hospital data. The purpose of this study was to utilize inpatient and emergency department data to better understand health care utilization among persons with an Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia (ADRD) diagnosis in South Carolina. The application submitted requested all inpatient and emergency department records for calendar year 2006-2017. In the amended application, the researcher restricted is selection criteria to records for those persons 50 years of age and older that were confirmed in the Alzheimer’s Registry and a 10 to 1 matched control group pulled by RFA. With the changes to the selection criteria

and an additional modification of RFA providing census indicators and an encrypted zip code in place of the actual zip code, Dr. Moonan motioned to approve the request. Dr. Nitcheva seconded the motion and the motion to approve passed unanimously.

The second application for the release of restricted data reviewed was submitted Ana Lopez-Defede, Director for the Institute for Families in Society; University of South Carolina titled "Evaluation and Reporting of Maternal and Infant Quality Improvement Metrics for the SC Birth Outcomes Initiative (SCBOI)". This request was an amendment to an application approved in the August 17th, 2019 DOC meeting. This study uses RFA inpatient hospital data, Medicaid Data and SC DHEC Vital Records data to provide data outcomes for the South Carolina Birth Outcomes Initiative (SC BOI). The amendment is seeking to attach the Medicaid recipient number to the file to allow the researcher to link to Medicaid data to provide additional outcome results. Aside from this request, Dr. Moonan expressed concern regarding how access to the data portal created for this project was granted. Dr. Moonan motioned to approve the current amendment but requested that the researchers submit an additional amendment to the application providing details on how access to the portal is granted, managed and tracked. With this modification Dr. Nitcheva seconded the motion to approve. The motion to approve with the additional amendment requested passed unanimously.

The third application for the release of restricted data was submitted by Joshua Herb, Postdoctoral Research Fellow; University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, titled "Determinants of Rural-Urban Differences in Surgical Resection of Early Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer". The purpose of this study is the linkage of Cancer Registry data

to inpatient data to evaluate geographic and patient factors that contribute to disparities in surgical resection of early stage lung cancer and mortality and to understand alternative treatment patterns in patients who do not undergo surgery. The researcher will receive distance calculations from RFA and will be provided encrypted zip code and facility IDs. With this understanding, Dr. Nitcheva motioned to approve the request and Mr. Fields seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

The fourth application for the release of restricted data was submitted by Joshua Sellner, Epidemiologist, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, titled “Chronic Disease, Injury, and Maternal Child Health Surveillance – 2017”. This was an amendment to a request originally approved in the November 15, 2017 DOC meeting. This amendment is seeking an additional year of data and full dates instead of spans. The purpose of this data request is to conduct public health surveillance activities for chronic disease, injury and maternal and child health issues for the state of South Carolina. The DOC had concern over the release of the full dates (admission and discharge dates) and requested that the requestor provide more justification and clarification for how the dates will be used. With these concerns, Dr. Moonan motioned to table this request and Mr. Francis seconded the motion. The motion to Table the request was unanimous.

The fifth application for the release of restricted data was submitted by Kritee Gujral, Senior Fellow; The CHOICE Institute at the University of Washington, titled “Impact of Hospital Closures”. The inpatient hospital data will be used to study the impact of hospital closures in South Carolina. The DOC requested that month and year, spans and flags for pre and post closure be provided in place of actual dates (admission,

discharge and procedure dates). The release of patient zip code and health care facility ID were approved, however the health care professional ID will need to be encrypted. With these modifications, Dr. Moonan motioned to approve this request and Dr. Nitcheva seconded the motion. The motion to approve with the specified modifications passed unanimously.

The sixth application presented to the DOC was submitted by Philip E. Geissinger, PhD Student; University of South Carolina, titled “Determining the financial and operational effects on four hospital Emergency Departments, delivery of care to behavioral health patients”. This Study will use the inpatient and emergency department data for the four hospitals of PRISMA Health to communicate the impact of those factors through encounter level data analytics; identification of the opportunity to improve the collaborative value of community agencies with the hospitals; and, outline State policy transformations which must be considered. This researcher received an authorization letter from the Chief Operating Officer for Prisma Health. With this letter, the DOC does not need to formally approve this request, but this was presented to the DOC as a courtesy. The DOC did request a copy of the final report once it is completed. The DOC reviewed the request and Dr. Moonan motioned to approve and Dr. Nitcheva seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

The seventh application for the release of restricted data was submitted by Rie Sakai-Bizmark, Assistant Professor; LA BioMed at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, titled “Factors associated with a high risk of suicide attempt or death due to suicide in children and adolescents”. The objective of this study is to utilize inpatient and emergency

department data to study the factors associated with suicide in children and adolescents. Dr. Nitcheva motioned to approve this request as written and Mr. Francis seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request passed unanimously.

The eighth application for the release of restricted data was submitted by Sudha Xirasagar, Professor; University of South Carolina, titled “Colonic stenting outcomes and colostomy complications among SC colorectal cancer patients”. The objective of this study is to utilize inpatient, outpatient surgery, emergency department and home health data to look at the outcomes and complications of these procedures. Dr. Moonan did ask for clarification on whether all colostomies have to take place in a hospital. Dr. Sudha Xirasagar was able to confirm that “every colostomy has to be performed in a hospital with full surgical honors”. Dr. Moonan motioned to approve this request as written and Dr. Nitcheva seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request passed unanimously.

The ninth and final application for the release of restricted data was submitted by Susannah Small Epidemiologist; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, titled “Subsequent Opioid-related Mortality among Emergency Department Patients in South Carolina”. The purpose of this request is for Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) to link and analyze emergency department and vital death records to determine how prior emergency department visits, visit timing, patient demographics, and visit diagnosis predict eventual opioid overdose mortality in South Carolina. RFA will be providing all analyses with the results and data tables being provided to the requestor. Dr. Moonan motioned to approve this request as written and Mr. Fields seconded the motion. Dr.

Nitcheva abstained from the vote on this request due to involvement in this study. The motion to approve the request passed unanimously.

This concluded the August 15th, 2019 DOC call and the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm by Ms. Crawford. The next scheduled DOC meeting is November 21st, 2019 at 3:00 pm.