

**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 17, 2022**  
**South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting**

**DOC Members Present**

Dr. Harley Davis, SC DHEC (*phone*)  
Ms. Elizabeth Fletcher, SRHS (*phone*)  
Mr. Brandon Hulko, Molina Healthcare (*phone*)  
Dr. William “Tripp” Jennings, SC BCBS (*phone*)  
Ms. Heather Kirby, SC DHHS (*phone*)  
Dr. Aunyika Moonan, SCHA (*phone*)  
Mr. Kevin Tinch, Internetwork Engineering (*phone*)

**RFA Members Present**

Sarah Crawford (*phone*)  
Chris Finney (*phone*)

The February 17, 2022 Data Oversight Council (DOC) meeting was called to order by Ms. Crawford at 2:03 pm. The minutes from the November 18, 2021, regular DOC meeting was presented. Ms. Fletcher motioned for approval of the meeting minutes and Dr. Davis seconded the motion; the minutes were approved unanimously.

To start off the meeting, Mr. Finney provided details of the history and purpose of the DOC and the RFA normal operations as it pertains to the UB data. The DOC has stood by the rule that once something is allowed for one researcher that it is understood that it would be allowed for other researchers for a similar study. The DOC has allowed aggregate release of data without formal review and approval, as long as RFA adheres to masking of small cell sizes. RFA has standard reports that were approved by the DOC that are published on the RFA public website. On an annual basis, RFA provides hospital level reports and zip code market share reports (quarterly and annual) to the hospitals in the state. Currently the DOC does not have a Chair, this position needs to be appointed by the Governor. Ms. Crawford will contact the Governor’s Office to determine what needs to be done to get the position appointed.

The first application for the release of restricted data was from Dr. Andrea Boan with the Medical University of South Carolina titled “Demographics and Prevalence of Stroke in Food Deserts.” This request is for all payer inpatient hospital data to assess clinical risk factors that may contribute to health disparities in the stroke population, in particular patients located in low income and low access areas within the state of South Carolina. It was clarified that RFA would provide the geospatial linkage by census tract

to provide the indicators around food dessert by census tract and not provide the actual zip code or census tract. There was some discussion around the research protocols but ultimately Dr. Jennings motioned to approve this request and Ms. Fletcher seconded the motion; the motion to approve the request with no modifications passed unanimously.

The second application for the release of restricted data was from Kelsey Pukelis a Ph.D. student with the Harvard Kennedy School, titled “Public benefits, health, and well-being”. The purpose of this project is to determine the effect of losing or gaining public benefits on the health and well-being of adults. More specifically, the effect of losing or gaining SNAP benefits on health, well-being, healthcare utilization and spending among adults. This request is for all payor inpatient hospital data for adults ages 15-65 who receive SNAP for a least one month during the specified period. Ms. Kirby thought that RFA should calculate age in months and not provide birth month and year. Dr. Moonan felt RFA should calculate weeks in place of providing actual admission and discharge dates. Also, Mr. Hulko had concerns with the researcher using the hospital charges data for a cost study. Dr. Moonan requested that RFA educate the researcher on the relationship of cost and charges and the nuances of the hospital data. With the requested modifications, Dr. Moonan motioned to approve the request and Ms. Kirby seconded the motion; the motion to approve the request with the specified modifications passed unanimously.

This concluded the February 17, 2022, DOC call and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next scheduled DOC meeting is May 19, 2022, at 2:00 pm.