

Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2023
South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting

DOC Members Present

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

RFA Members Present

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

The May 18, 2023 Data Oversight Council (DOC) meeting was called to order by Ms. Crawford at 2:05 pm. The minutes from the February 16th, 2023 regular DOC meeting were presented. Ms. Fletcher motioned for approval of the meeting minutes and Ms. Kirby seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The first application for the release of restricted data was from Kit N. Simpson with the Medical University of South Carolina titled “Effects of telehealth on rural hospitals and patient access to care and outcomes”. This request is for all payer inpatient, outpatient surgery and emergency department hospital data to assess the effects of telehealth services on hospital utilization measures. DOC members expressed some concerns that needed to be addressed before approval. There was a question of exactly what telehealth information the researcher has access to. Considering MUSC has specific strategies and their own telehealth center, not sure other facilities would like MUSC having their data and tying it to this answer. The DOC members would prefer for RFA to receive the telehealth data, link, and provide an encrypted facility ID. RFA was not sure of the feasibility of this option. Also, for the years requested, under the Emergency Use Authorization Act, people could use any device/platform that no one would have data for (e.g., facetime, Facebook etc.) to carry out telehealth services that were not billed for or had information collected on. If the study is comparing those that use MUSC telehealth vs something else, there would be insufficient information since the telehealth data for other facilities might not be accurately captured. With these concerns Dr.

Moonan motioned to table this request to allow the researcher to address these issues. Ms. Fletcher seconded the motion and the motion to table passed unanimously.

The second application for the release of restricted data was from Peiyin Hung with the University of South Carolina, titled "Title 1: The Associations between Insurance Coverage, Receipt of Fertility Treatments and Maternal and Infant Outcomes: An Analysis in South Carolina". This request is for all payor hospital data to examine how infertility and its treatments impact maternal and birth outcomes. DOC members expressed concerns around identifying insurance carrier. If this is not a covered benefit or does not have global coverage the information may be incomplete or missing. Also, there was a question for why home health data is needed, and the suggestion was to remove the home health claims from your data request. Finally, to protect patient privacy, the DOC requested RFA scramble all dates. Mr. Smith motioned to approve the request with the following modifications: the field for insurance provider not be included, home health claims not be provided, and all dates are scrambled. Dr. Jennings seconded the motion and the motion to approve with the specified modifications passed unanimously.

The third application for the release of restricted data was from Maria McCall with the Tidwell & Associates, Inc., titled "Roads of Independence Hospital Use Study". The researcher is requesting all payer inpatient hospital and emergency department data to evaluate whether participation in SC Department of Mental Health's Roads of Independence project affects the degree to which those referred to the project visit the emergency room and/or are hospitalized for mental health-related issues. The DOC approved the application with the specification that RFA provide a flag for service before, during and after program entry with month in place of the full date. Mr. Smith motioned to approve this request with the specified modification, Dr. Jennings seconded this motion and the motion to approve with the specified modifications passed unanimously.

The fourth application for the release of restricted data was from Theodoros Giannouchos with the University of South Carolina, titled "Persistent Frequent Emergency Department Users in South Carolina: Who Are They and How Do They Use

Other Cross-Sector Services?“. This is a request for all payor hospital data, identify various subgroups of ED users, based on utilization, and use quantitative methods to describe variation in the use of medical, mental health, and substance use services across various subgroups of ED users, as well as differences in sociodemographic, clinical, and contextual characteristics among patients. The DOC approved the application with the specification that RFA provide a timing variable in place of exact dates. Dr. Moonan motioned to approve this request with the specified modification, Ms. Kirby seconded this motion and the motion to approve with the specified modifications passed unanimously.

The fifth application for the release of restricted data was from Julia Studer with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, titled “Overdose Data to Action.” This is a request for emergency department data, consisting of line-level data for any case indicating drug poisoning. The requested data will satisfy the required reporting to the CDC for the grant, Overdose Data to Action. Dr. Moonan motioned to approve this request, Ms. Fletcher seconded this motion and the motion to approve passed unanimously.

The final application for the release of restricted data was from Roger Newman-Norlund with the University of South Carolina, titled “Relationship Between Climate and Dementia Type and Care in South Carolina”. This is a request for all payor hospital data, to examine the impact of climate (temperature and humidity) on the incidence of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). The application referenced linkage to Medicaid and PEBA study using dental claims. The DOC members felt that this study should be separated from the Medicaid and PEBA claims data study. Dr. Jennings motioned to approve this request contingent on not linking to PEBA or Medicaid. If additional research outside what was presented in this application is being conducted, they will need to reapply. Mr. Smith seconded this motion and the DOC motioned to approve passed unanimously.

Up for general discussion was a continuation of the discussion around adding an ethnicity field to the data layout for the hospital data submitted to RFA. In the February 2023 meeting the DOC members expressed their support of this modification to the data layout. This discussion was to determine the specifics of this data; what should the new race and ethnicity fields look like. Dr. Moonan stated that the SCHA would like to follow CMS / OMB standards and suggested we wait to see what the new national standards are when they come out before the change is made. Dr. Moonan will present updated standards to DOC when they are released.

This concluded the May 18, 2023 DOC call and the meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm. The next scheduled DOC meeting is August 17, 2023 at 2:00 pm.