

Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2020
South Carolina Data Oversight Council Meeting

DOC Members Present

Dr. Daniela Nitcheva, SC DHEC (*phone*)
Mr. Brandt Smith, SCMA (*phone*)
Dr. Aunyika Moonan, SCHA (*phone*)

RFA Staff Present

Ms. Sarah Crawford (*phone*)

The May 21, 2020 Data Oversight Council (DOC) meeting was called to order by Ms. Sarah Crawford at 3:05 pm. The minutes from the February 20, 2020 regular DOC meeting were presented. Mr. Brandt Smith motioned that the minutes be approved, Dr. Daniela Nitcheva seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The first application for the release of restricted data was by Chelsea Richard, PhD Candidate with the University of South Carolina titled “Effect of Maternal Disability Status and Prescription Opioid Use Before and During Pregnancy on Adverse Birth Outcomes.” The request was for Inpatient, Outpatient Surgery and Emergency Department data for the research effort to look at the association between prescription opioids and pregnancy. Dr. Moonan motioned to approve the request and Dr. Nitcheva seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request with no modifications passed unanimously.

The second application for the release of restricted data was by Danna Kang Thomas, Assistant Professor of Economics; University of South Carolina titled “The Efficacy of Public Defenders: Evidence from South Carolina Bond Court”. This researcher is requesting Inpatient and Emergency Department data to measure the effects of access to a public defender during bond court – and the effects of jail bonds explicitly – on defendants’ subsequent healthcare utilization and health. Dr. Nitcheva motioned to approve the request and Dr. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request with no modifications passed unanimously.

The third application for the release of restricted data was an amendment to an application originally approved in the March 2016 DOC meeting. Margaret McConnell, Associate Professor of Global Health Economics; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, titled “Randomized Evaluation of Nurse Family Partnership in South Carolina” submitted the amended application for review. The purpose of this study is to learn about the effects of the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) home visiting program on the health and wellness of first-time mothers and their children. The amendment to the original application contains the following modification:

- Information for the new PI, Margaret McConnell.
- Extension of the time period from 2021 to 2026.
- Researcher is requesting that the extracts now include admission hour, discharge hours, facility ID and Zip code.

Dr. Nitcheva motioned to approve this request and Dr. Moonan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request with no modifications passed unanimously.

The first topic up for General Discussion was from US Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS) regarding Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) release of emergency department-specific cost-to-charge ratios (ED CCR), for all emergency departments for which HCUP has received data. This request was tabled in the February 20, 2020 meeting, to allow for feedback from the SC Hospital Association. Dr. Moonan, SCHA representative to the DOC, requested the opportunity to review the request with the financial points of contact at SCHA. This request was followed up with by an email response from Dr. Moonan on May 22, 2020 motioning to approve the request. Mr. Fields recused himself from voting as this request is from US DHHS, the federal agency that regulates DHHS/Medicaid. Dr. Nitcheva, Ms. Madison and Mr. Smith all approved the request as well. The request was approved unanimously.

This concluded the May 21, 2020 DOC call and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm. The next scheduled DOC meeting is August 20, 2020 at 3:00 pm.