



Report on the Proceedings of the 14th Interim Council Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2026

All reports submitted for the 2026 Interim Council are on file at the Medical Society of Delaware office.

The 14th Interim Council Meeting of the Medical Society of Delaware was held in-person at the Smyrna Opera House.

The following guests were present at the Interim Meeting: Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro; Senator Marie Pinkney; Senator Raymond Seigfried; Senator Bryan Townsend; Representative Jeff Spiegelman; and Mr. Joaquin Falcon, Director of Federation Relations at the American Medical Association.

Dr. Fan thanked MSD's MSD Health Champion Corporate Sponsors: Peake Technology Partners (Gold sponsor); the Delaware Health Information Network, Platinum Dining Group, Sourcepass, and WSFS Bank (all Silver sponsors).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brian J. Galinat, MD, MBA, President, thanked the members for the opportunity of being President this year and thanked the staff members in helping him. He reviewed statistics related to MSD's different communication outlets: Podcasts, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and the weekly e-News and Views. Mr. Thompson thanked the MSD team members involved in producing the various communications, including Nicholas Biasotto, DO who hosts the MSD podcasts.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the Treasurer's absence, Dr. Galinat gave the report. The 2025 annual fiscal audit/review was completed and will be presented to the Budget & Finance Committee at its upcoming meeting in May. A compilation report was done for 2025 vs. a full audit. This saves approximately \$10k in fees. No adjustments were made other than for income taxes. Membership paid dues from 2019 to 2025 was presented, which showed decreases in paid members each of the seven years. As of April 8, 2026, MSD is 56 under compared to the 2025 number of paid members at the same time. The dues amount has remained the same for the past nine years (from 2018-2026 there has been no increase in the annual dues amount). The report reflected a seven-year average dues increase per year of 4% from 2003-2009 and a sixteen year average increase per year of 0.60% from 2010-2026.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Richard B. Henderson, MD, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, provided an update on the Government Affairs Committee's (GAC) legislative priorities. Prior authorization started the presentation reflecting the passing of SB 12, SA 1 during the 2025 legislative session. This legislation shortens response times, increases the time the authorization remains valid, limits the number of requests for a single episode of care, and makes utilization review entities available beyond the typical workday and on weekends. Next steps for prior authorization reform is implementation of a gold card exemption, automatic approval for plan failure to comply within time limits, and disclosure requirements for use of artificial intelligence (AI) in making determinations.

Primary care reform continues to be one of the three main priorities of the GAC. Dr. Henderson reviewed the pillars established by the GAC's Primary Care Subcommittee that are the basis for improving investment in primary care. He explained that SB 1 was introduced in March and is a Department of Insurance-driven bill that includes many of the pillars developed by the Primary Care Subcommittee. A 250% cap was included in the bill, but it was not part of the Primary Care Subcommittee's discussions. This cap was problematic as it was similar to the HB 350 legislation opposed by the Delaware Healthcare Association. SB 1 passed the Senate Health Committee and recently was reported out of the Senate Finance Committee and is on the ready list for consideration in the full Senate.

Title transparency is an attempt to provide clarity in the health care setting for patients by the use of the term “doctor” by other health care professionals. He informed that with the Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Dermatology, MSD received a \$70k grant from the American Medical Association Scope of Practice Partnership to collect data on public awareness and perceptions related to title transparency. The information will be used to educate both the public and state legislators on this issue. MSD selected Seven Letter as the PR/Marketing firm to assist in the process. Title transparency is viewed as a patient safety issue and not an effort to limit access to care. MSD is collaborating with the Delaware Nurses Association on legislation, seeing more agreement than disagreement. The existing code exempts chiropractors, podiatrists, and speech pathologists. A static ad campaign is in development for distribution.

Dr. Henderson reviewed the Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP), a \$50 billion CMS initiative to strengthen health care access, workforce development, and technology in rural communities. This program runs from 2026 to 20230. All 50 states have been granted funding to support rural health infrastructure. Along with this, is scope expansion for physician assistants (PAs), pharmacists, and dental hygienists. Nurse practitioners already have the highest score possible under the RHTP scoring. The Delaware Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene will address the scope of practice expansion for dental hygienists. Increasing the scope of practice for PAs and pharmacists would be beneficial in obtaining additional state funding from the RHTP moving forward. HB 325 is the PA scope expansion bill that has been introduced. It removes the collaborative practice agreement, changes the title of physician assistant to physician associate, requires for 6,000 hours of post-graduate clinical training (under 6,000 hours requires a collaborative agreement), requirement to apply to the Regulatory Council for Physician Associates for change in practice and proof of training that aligns to the new practice area, and payment for services within the physician associate’s scope of practice must be made when ordered or performed by the PA if the same service would have been covered if ordered or performed by a physician (payment for services is based on the services provided and not on the professional who delivered the service). MSD and the AMA oppose the bill as written. House Amendment No. 2 was passed on April 14th that clarifies the Regulatory Council for Physician Associates must adopt rules and regulations regarding the following: the licensing of physician associates to allow performance of medical services within their education, training, and experience; an application for independent practice authority within a setting with at least 1 licensed Delaware physician; an application for independent practice authority within a setting with no licensed Delaware physician; an application to report changes to the practice area of the independent practice authority within a setting with no licensed Delaware physician; and the conditions under which a physician associate who is denied a waiver of the collaborative agreement requirement may reapply. It provides guardrails that should the PA switch specialties, another 6,000 hours of clinical training is needed for that specialty to practice independently.

The pharmacist proposed scope expansion under the RHTP allows the pharmacist to practice to the full extent of their education and training; can independently evaluate patients, identify conditions, and prescribe drugs or devices without reliance on statewide protocols, formularies or specified lists of conditions; and order and perform lab tests. It would exclude prescribing controlled substances. Both MSD and the AMA oppose as written.

Dr. Henderson thanked the GAC for the time and energy invested on behalf of patients and colleagues, Mr. Thompson and the MSD staff for their support, and the lobby team for their guidance and work done behind the scenes to advance MSD issues.

MISSION APPEAL

Janice Tildon-Burton, MD, Chair of the MSD Mission Appeal Advisory Council, provided an overview of the Mission Appeal program, which was implemented in 2019. The Mission Appeal Advisory Council was established in 2024. The 2026 goal is to raise \$35k from individual and organization contributions and money raised goes directly to one or both of MSD’s charitable foundations: the Delaware Foundation for Medical Services (DFMS) and Delaware Medical Education Foundation (DMEF). A critical component of MSD’s three-year strategic plan is to reach broader and diverse donors, increase giving, and apply for grant funding. She reviewed why consideration should be given to contributing to both DMEF and DFMS, as well as reviewed the charitable giving from DMEF and DFMS. Mission Appeal opportunities that continue to exist are for updating the DFMS and DMEF website pages; diversifying grant applications; engaging non-physician donors; encouraging 100% participating from Executive Board, Mission Appeal Council, DFMS Board and DMEF Board members; diversifying communication strategies for the website, e-newsletter, podcasts, and social media; develop a strategy to engage diverse donors including you, retired, etc.; and

research strategies for spreading out donations. She then reviewed giving totals for years 2019 through current, the percentage of leadership giving; and the donations to the Komins Fund.

A report of the actions by the Council follows.

2026-2027 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The MSD Nominating Committee is comprised of seven members who are selected from the members of the Council. At each Interim Council Meeting, Council members are identified to serve on the MSD Nominating Committee for the term May of the current year through May of the following year. The identified Council Members will be ratified by the Executive Board at its May meeting to serve on the 2026-2027 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee members have the responsibility throughout the year to identify colleagues who are qualified and have an interest in serving in the various elected positions, who are then considered for election by the Council at the Annual Meeting held in October. Dr. Fan noted that in the past there have been challenges appointing the seats on the Nominating Committee. If there was a desire to include other members of MSD outside of the Council to serve on the Nominating Committee, a recommendation to the Bylaws Committee or a resolution for consideration would be in order. The following Council members volunteered to serve:

2 members from: SECTIONS, AT-LARGE, GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS

- Steven R. Chmielewski, MD (Dover Geographic Affinity Group)
- Michael T. Vest, DO (Christiana Geographic Affinity Group)

2 members from: SPECIALTY SOCIETIES, OSTEOPATHIC SOCIETY, NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

- Nicholas O. Biasotto, DO (Osteopathic Society)
- Akul S. Patel, MD (Orthopaedic Surgeons)

2 members from: HOSPITALS, PRACTICE TYPE GROUP

- Janice E. Tildon-Burton, MD (ChristianaCare)
- Manish Purohit, MD (Nemours Children's Hospital)

Past President Council Member to serve as Chair

- Nancy Fan, MD

RESOLUTIONS

One resolution was presented to the Council for consideration. The resolves of the resolution and any adopted amendments to them are as follows. Resolutions are numbered and presented in the order in which they are received. A motion was adopted to vote on each resolve separately.

Reform of Safe Driving Laws for Older Adults in Delaware - Adopted as amended (Resolution 01-I2026)

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of Delaware proposes shortening license renewal intervals, such as every 8 years for all adults to an age-stratified policy for drivers 75 years and older, requiring in-person renewal every 3 years beginning at age 75 and every 2 years beginning at age 85; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of Delaware supports, in addition to the age-stratified policy, the development and dissemination of educational programs by the Delaware Office of Highway Safety for the public to raise awareness of age-related driving risks and to promote voluntary self-assessment among drivers over 75 years of age; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of Delaware advocates for improved access to comprehensive driving assessments, adaptive therapies, and driving rehabilitation, in addition to safe and reliable alternative transportation options for older adults who are no longer able to drive safely; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of Delaware supports the establishment and expansion of standardized, discretionary procedures such as repeat road testing or certified driving skills training for senior drivers seeking to

appeal license denial, non-renewal, or revocation decisions resulting from abnormal medical or vision assessments; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of Delaware advocate that drivers whose license renewals are denied due to driving-related reasons, such as a medical condition or failed driving test, as opposed to identity-related reasons, have an application for a Delaware identification card automatically created and processed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of Delaware supports the collaboration, as feasible within its available resources, with state agencies such as the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles and the Office of Highway Safety, and community organizations to provide input on policies to help reduce motor vehicle accidents involving older drivers and which promote public safety across Delaware.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Fan brought up for discussion that the start time for the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Council in October has not been established as of yet. She also stressed that this will be a standalone meeting of just the Council and no education program. There will be a separate annual education program held on Saturday, December 5th. She asked the Council's opinion on what time to begin the October 24th annual meeting of the Council. The Council agreed on a 9 a.m. start time.

REMINDERS

Reminders to complete the annual Conflict of Interest form, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion questionnaire, and to consider a donation to DELPAC and Mission Appeal were presented.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events planned for the year were highlighted. Members were encouraged to attend.

MSD ANNUAL MEETING

The 2026 Medical Society of Delaware Annual Meeting of the Council will take place on Saturday, October 24th at the Smyrna Opera House. The Annual Education Program will be held separately on Saturday, December 5th also at the Smyrna Opera House. Details will be forthcoming.