

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

**Ron DeSantis**

Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**

State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**Diabetes Advisory Council (DAC)**  
**Quarterly Meeting Summary Notes**  
**Date: October 22, 2024**

**Participants (note if participants had called in)****DAC Members –****(Quorum is met)**

- Joseph Chebli
- Bridget Jennings
- Nancy Murphy
- Marlon Honeywell
- Donald Grossman
- Larry Fox

**Applicants**

- Lucille Beseler
- Lynn Howard
- Francesco Vendrame
- Gregg Laskoski

**Guests**

- Sarah Grant
- Tara Hylton
- Towana Reddick
- Katrina Rivers

- Carmen Fabre Pedrero
- Ed Clark
- Amanda Dibley
- Stella Nemuseso

- Michele Connors
- Betty Springer
- Carolina Gutierrez
- Elizabeth Forrest
- Ashby Walker

**DAC Members Absent****Excused****Unexcused\***

- Melvin Price

\* Any DAC members who tried unsuccessfully to participate by phone should email Sarah Grant (Sarah.Grant@flhealth.gov) so their absence can be marked as excused.

**Welcome:**

Dr. Chebli called the meeting to order at 2pm.

**Florida Department of Health**  
**Division of Community Health Promotion**  
**Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention**  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-18 • Tallahassee, FL 32399-1727  
Phone: 850/245-4330  
**FloridaHealth.gov**



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- Tara confirmed that DOH's Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention WORKSHOP will take place on November 21 & 22 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville. She provided an overview of the agenda and informed the group that travel for DAC members would be covered by the Bureau. Topics include discussions on policy, funding, translating data into action, and on what the State can do to better address diabetes. There will be a panel discussion, roundtable segment with opportunities for feedback.
- Next year, she hopes to have an in-person DAC meeting.

**DAC Legislative Report:**

- Must be submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President on or before January 10, 2025.
- Updated timeline:

Nov 10, 2024: Latest date to start Department of Health routing process



January 10, 2025: Submit to Governor, Speaker, Senate President

- We will be formatting the DAC report similarly to the MQA annual report
- Recommendations:
  - o Include benefits of metabolic surgery as a treatment option; this is supported by the 2024 ADA Standards, section 8.19 & 8.20 (Chebli, Jennings).
  - o Add possible funding amounts for each recommendation (Hylton).
  - o DAC should engage Congressman Gus Bilirakis, who is personally affected by diabetes and is Co-Chair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus. He helped to pass a bill to increase veterans' access to glucometers (Laskoski).
  - o Prepare or adapt social media-ready messages about research and findings, embed hyperlinks to resources on DAC webpages to make the information more accessible (Gutierrez).
  - o There was a discussion about the necessity of differentiating recommendations for people with T1 vs T2 Diabetes. While merited, it may create unintended divisions. The report will emphasize the need for access to screening/testing and correct diagnosis.

**DAC Member Appointments**

- DOH is still waiting for a response about the potential member appointments.
- While waiting for appointment, pending members, such as Gregg Laskoski, would appreciate letter of support from the DAC when pursuing initiatives, such as his Diabetes Roundtable.

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- **Action Item:** (Tara) Provide pending members with additional guidance on how to advance pending member appointments.
- **Action Item:** Review recommendations from the 2021/2023 reports to see what recommendations should be carried over in the 2025 report.

**Presentation by Dr. Ashby Walker, University of Florida**

- Presentation on ECHO Diabetes, comparison of two FQHC-based cohorts in California and Florida and the outcomes of the program on health outcomes.
- Discussion: Health policy makes a difference; primary care providers need training. ECHO Diabetes uses diabetes support coaches that provide linkages to support for social determinants of health needs. The program leads to improved A1c among patient populations. Researchers obtained additional grants to provide continuous glucose monitors to PCPs for training at no cost. Attendees were encouraged to collaborate with FQHCs who need training on diabetes management.
- American Diabetes Association is currently offering free continuing education credits for the "[Diabetes is Primary](#)" course, designed to help PCPs enhance their diabetes care master knowledge and strategies to improve patient outcomes.

**Recommendation for Statewide A1c Reporting**

- Sarah briefly displayed survey tool previously send out to collect feedback on pros/cons and considerations. **Action Item:** Complete survey with additional feedback, if any.

**Other Discussion:**

- Sarah shared about strategies that the BCDP's Diabetes Prevention and Management Team is pursuing under the CDC's 2320 Diabetes Grant and how those strategies align with several of the DAC's recommendations.
- Promote resources, such as Blue Circle Health, to county health departments statewide.  
**Action Item:** (Sarah) Follow up with Blue Circle Health about presenting at a Healthy Communities of Florida Workshop.

**Public Comment:**

- N/A

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**Future Scheduled Meetings:**

**Action Item:** (Sarah) Send out calendar invites for upcoming DAC meetings in FY24-25.

**Wrap-up and Adjourn**

This conference call meeting was recorded. By staying on the conference call line, all participants agreed to be recorded.