

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: February 18, 2025**

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

- Lamont Allen
- Lynn Howard
- Francesco Vendrame
- Jessica Pierce

Guests

- Sarah Grant
- Tara Hylton
- Katrina Rivers
- Carmen Dennis

- Liezl Dobbins
- Amanda Dibley
- Chaithanya Renduchintala
- Joe Balavage

- Betty Springer
- Carolina Gutierrez
- Sara Lerner
- Errick Farmer

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.

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Announcements from DOH Bureau Chief, Tara Hylton:

- Tara summarized the BCDP WORKSHOP and expressed thanks to Lucille Beseler and Bridget Jennings for presenting.
- Insulin Distribution Program formulary revision should be approved by P & T Committee and launched by July 1, 2025.

DAC Legislative Report:

- Dr. Chebli commented that report is shorter but retains expert content; very collaborative. He expressed the need to make strong, definitive recommendations in the areas of:
 - o Better tracking and data reporting – use of hospital- & lab-based data to inform cost burden analysis
 - o Education and awareness to HCPs, county health departments, and Florida residents about programs such as the Insulin Distribution Program; abnormal labs with recommendations (Vendrame)
 - o Other initiatives that can be proposed to legislature, such as the “Know Before You Go” proposal (led by Gregg Laskoski).

Discussion on Next Steps:

- Capture lab data, set a target and measure improvement in diabetes control (average A1c) (Vendrame)
 - o Concerns: potential duplication of data (Chebli), measure of average A1c may not be the most accurate insight into range of individuals with well-controlled or poorly-controlled diabetes (Murphy). Potential use of [BRFSS](#) question “Adults with diabetes who had two A1c tests in the past year” or HRSA’s [Clinical Quality Measure](#) on A1c (Grant).
- Convene policy-makers, hospital systems, insurance companies to agree on best practices (Chebli).
- Collaborate across programs to leverage networks and funding, e.g. Florida Stroke Registry, and present benefits to legislators (Gutierrez).
- Communicate to legislators the benefits of making A1c a reportable metric. They will need to analyze cost, present models, capitalize on integration with other entities (Hylton).
- Use data from Social Vulnerability Index or other sources to guide establishment of DSMES and other diabetes services where they are most needed (Renduchintala).
- Formulate approach on a macro level and not only geared towards end-point data; there should be crossover between disease states.
- Organize a quality improvement project that addresses 1) access to education and treatment and 2) surveillance (Hylton)
- Create a data-driven storyboard (Renduchintala).

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- Demonstrate cost savings of programs, reporting, etc. in Florida (Grant). Utilize prior studies by ADCES (Jennings).
- Question: Can ER reporting of hospitalizations or incidence of diabetes ketoacidosis be mandated? Answer: No, but benefits can be demonstrated.
- **Action Item:** Dr. Chebli requests input on next steps before next meeting with Dr. Ladapo.
- **Action Item:** Notify Dr. Chebli, Sarah, or Tara about opportunities to present recommendations in different settings (Dr. Chebli → Florida Diabetes Symposium, Gregg Laskoski's Diabetes Roundtable)

Other Discussion:

- The Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention invites DAC members and contributors to be involved in the [State Health Improvement Plan's](#) Chronic Disease Priority Area Workgroup. Discussions are underway to update the Goal CD 4 Objectives. Next meeting specific to Diabetes: February 27, 2025, at 1 p.m (Rivers).



2022-2026-Florida-S
HIP-Goals-and-Obj

- Florida Senate Bill ([SB 648](#)), entitled The Diabetes Prevention and Obesity Treatment Act, was filed on February 11, 2025.
- Dr. Chebli provided a brief summary of the Lancet consensus article *Definition and diagnostic criteria of clinical obesity*, published on January 14, 2025. Dr. Dubin's presentation on the article or other related topics will be rescheduled.
- The [ISPAD's Clinical Practice Consensus Guidelines 2024](#) may be another helpful resource. The primary author, Dr. Mike Haller, is also the Medical Director of Help a Diabetic Child (Balavage).
- Question (Laskoski): Should there be greater promotion of the risk of hypoglycemia as a result of semaglutide use? Answer: As the provider level, this is typically part of patient education (Chebli). As usage increases, so increases the available information on adverse effects. Available studies show relatively low risk in monotherapy. Hypoglycemia risk is more emphasized when GLP-1s are used in combination with other antihyperglycemic drugs (Vendrame).

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- Question (Fox): How can the DAC address the problem of excessive prior authorizations for standard diabetes testing supplies, technology, and medications? Prior authorizations add to workload and can be a barrier to care.

Public Comment:

- [Blue Circle Health](#) continues to be a resource for Florida residents with Type 1 Diabetes who need endocrinology care, medication assistance, and other support (Lerner).
- UCF researchers are recruiting for a [trial](#) of a capability-approach-driven survey instrument to assess the capability of persons with diabetes to manage diabetes (Renduchintala).
- Help a Diabetic Child is formulating a pilot T1D screening program in Southwest Florida.

DAC Member Appointments

- DOH is still waiting for a response about the potential member appointments. DAC members and applicants would like to know who can help advance the process.
- **Action Item:** Engage potential advocates to complete member appointments (Bridget Jennings recommended Michelle Braunum, Secretary of Department of Elder Affairs).

Future Scheduled Meetings:

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 2-4 p.m.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

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