

SHORT-STAY GENERAL HOSPITAL BEDS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary
June 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Members Present: Dawn Benson, Linda Berger; Chet Bhasin; Dr. Edwin Grimsley; Shelly Harrell; Bill Lee; Christine MacEwen; Robin Rau; Dr. Rohr-Kirchgraber

At this initial meeting, the Department of Community Health (the Department) discussed the role of the committee, provided an overview of the Certificate of Need (CON) program, and laid the foundation for next steps.

The Department provided a general overview of House Bill 1339, which was signed by Governor Kemp on April 19, 2024, and amended the CON laws. The Department explained that O.C.G.A. § 31-6-21(a), as amended by House Bill 1339, requires the Department to review and update the CON State Health Plan every five years beginning in 2025 to ensure the plan meets the evolving needs of the state.

The Department informed the committee that its role is to provide recommendations for updating the CON need methodologies and review standards for short-stay general hospital beds based on current best practices for the state.

The Department provided an overview of the CON program, including its purpose and goals. The Department's discussion covered the planning process for short-stay general hospital beds, the current inventory and location of existing and approved hospitals, and the applicable health planning regions. In response to an inquiry from the committee, the Department clarified that the health planning regions referenced in the short-stay general hospital bed rules are defined by statute at O.C.G.A. § 50-4-7, which was enacted in 1998. The Department also discussed several new exemptions for hospitals created by House Bill 1339, as requested by the committee.

To support the committee's work, the Department indicated that it could research approaches to short-stay general hospital bed expansion and hospital development in other CON states and provide additional data on hospitals by area and by levels of care or services, as available.

The Department also presented a proposed meeting schedule and timeline for the committee's work, which will include monthly meetings.

Finally, the Department noted that there would be an opportunity for public comment, which would be shared with the committee. The Department will announce the time/date of this opportunity on our website in the future. After inviting additional comments or questions and hearing none, the Department adjourned the meeting.