

November 15, 2018

TO: Hospital CEO, Government Relations Office

FROM: Mike Vicario, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, mvicario@ncha.org

SUBJECT: **State Health Coordinating Council Meeting/Nov. 14, 2018**

Several members of the State Health Coordinating Council recently met with dialysis providers in a public meeting to discuss moving dialysis services to the Acute Care Chapter of the annual State Medical Facilities Plan. Such a move would also entail changing from a semi-annual reporting process to a once per year process reported in the State Medical Facilities Plan.

Dr. Ullrich, SHCC chair, mentioned a concern expressed by an ED physician that patients are sometimes dialyzed in the hospital when they miss appointments because no additional appointment slots are available. One provider indicated that re-schedulings are prioritized by their Academic Medical Center affiliation. Another provider felt this was an uncommon occurrence. Dr. Ullrich expressed concern that more flexibility may be needed if there is not enough capacity to meet these situations.

Providers Fresenius, Davita and HMS voiced concern that a move to annual data reports may not provide enough flexibility for them to meet expansion needs. They remarked that that the current methodology is working, even though it may require providers with growing populations to frequently apply for expansion CONs. Options mentioned to enable an *annual* facility growth to better meet need include:

- lower the occupancy requirement from the current 80%
- establish an isolation station per facility outside of the methodology
- apply a facility-based growth rate to the methodology
- incorporate features from other need methodologies
- establish a 6 month reporting cycle within the annual SMFP

Dr. Greene asked attendees to submit their additional comments and thoughts on the process to the DHSR Planning Section. A second meeting will be held in the Brown Building on the Dorothea Dix Campus on Jan. 16 at 10 am.