Delaware Population Consortium

Delaware Population Consortium Meeting

Where: Virtually via Microsoft Teams or Haslet Armory, Room 133

> **To join by phone call (302) 504-8986**

> **Access Code: 999 345 317# or**

> **join the meeting using the link: Click here to join the meeting**

> **Passcode: hSwtnW**

When: Thursday, July 27, 2023

> **10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Agenda

1. **Greetings**

2. **Review and approval of meeting minutes (December 8, 2022)**

3. **Discuss Population Trends and Census Update**

4. **Other Business – Review Bylaws**

5. **Future meeting dates**

The meeting was held on Thursday December 8, 2022; in Haslet Armory Room 321 and virtually using Teams.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Blevins at 10:05 AM.

The following persons were present:

Officers:

Dan Blevins, Chair, WILMAPCO
Matt Rogers, Vice-Chair, New Castle County Government
Owen Robatino, Secretary, New Castle County Government

Voting Members:

Samantha Bulkilvish, OMB
Maridelle Dizon, DHSS
Corey Downer, DOE
Arthur Jenkins, DOL
Colton Phillips, DelDOT
Jamie Fenske, Kent County Government
Mary Ellen Gray, City of Dover
Renee K. Bensley, City of Newark
Bill West, Town of Georgetown
Marilyn Smith, Dover/Kent MPO
Eric Thompson, Delaware League of Local Governments

Others in Attendance:

Josh Thomas, OMB
Jennifer Miles, DHSS
Anson Gock, DelDOT
James Galvin, Dover/Kent MPO
Malcolm Jacob, Dover/Kent MPO
Joshua Solge, City of Newark
Ed Ratledge, UD CADSR
John Laznik, UD CADSR
Joseph P Quartullo, CENSUS/CLMSO FED
Lanette M Swopes, CENSUS/PH FED
Sean O'Neill, UDEL IPA

Julia O'Hanlon, UDEL IPA
Philip Barnes, UDEL IPA
Stephen Metraux, UD College of Arts and Sciences
Paul Kiefer, Delaware Public Media

MINUTES

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10/27/2022: 1st Matt Rogers, 2nd Dan Blevins. Approved.

BUSINESS

Demographic Research Activities Update:

Representatives of the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration gave a presentation on IPA infrastructure and policy work. Julia O'Hanlon discussed the IPA partnership with DelDOT Planning, which normally involves directive work on specific projects requested by DelDOT. There has also been an annual project involving infrastructure and transportation, to examine national and regional trends and relate these trends to Delaware, including economic and environmental impacts. This project has involved research of potential capacity-building tools and resources needed to support long term land use and transportation planning strategies. It has also involved review of infrastructure issues including ramifications of proposed legislation, public outreach to learn individual perspectives, and review of DPC and Census data to consider how demographics might better address the issues.

Then Sean O'Neill discussed IPA's recent work effort on a policy brief on *Delaware's Process for Projecting Demographic Population Estimates—Overview, Evolution, and the Future Role of the Delaware Population Consortium.* This effort examined what DPC does and how to encourage better use of their demographic estimates. Julia discussed the resulting policy brief document, which tells the history of DPC and how its information is now used and can be better used by State agencies in the future. The brief describes how DPC data are useful for traffic modeling and school construction, and how future trends should be considered including aging population, migration, and journey to work. It also provides a list of possibilities for future research work on applying demographics, and Julia asked for suggestions on additional future research needs. Sean discussed recommendations for further research, including better identifying groups that use DPC data and why, what is missing from the current DPC framework, and other examples of future utilization of the data.

Speaking for users of DPC data, James Galvin pointed out that MPOs use it in addition to State agencies. Mary Ellen Gray and Matt indicated that other government jurisdictions use demographic data in various efforts.

U.S. Census Bureau Information Update

Lanette Swopes discussed the new American Community Survey public release of detailed and summary tables with 2017-2021 data for the States and smaller areas within them, including information on recent changes. Joe Quartullo pointed out the ability to compare the newly released data with the previously released 2012-2016 data, including small areas. Dan asked them when the new Urbanized Area Boundary designations will be released, and Lanette promised to check their status.

Approval of the 2022 DPC Projection Series

Dan displayed a draft *Annual Population Projections* brief dated 10/31/2022, which has been posted on the DPC website. Ed discussed various aspects of the projections, to help users work with the data. The State's population is projected to grow slowly until around 2050, when it declines slightly (but what will happen later is unknown). Statewide projected births are fairly steady until 2045, when they decline slightly. In contrast, Statewide projected deaths are increasing steadily, with the net population change becoming negative by 2045. In Sussex County the net population change remains positive through 2045, with retirees moving in and others coming to provide services. Migration is a big driver of the projections, but such data are limited and currently come largely from the IRS, though ACS data can work better. Some Migration data can also be obtained from the Census, but intercensal data are currently unavailable and potentially can help estimate migration, which is central to estimating population growth. In New Castle County the number of persons in the Age Zero to Four (0 to 4) group is essentially flat, it is the smallest age group until Age 85+, and this small size does not bode well for the size of the future labor force. Ed also discussed potential age group impacts on jobs and schools, as well as changes in minority population numbers. He expressed a desire for full single year age distribution data by county and gender, as well as resolution of the five percent overcount problem in Delaware. He said blended 2022 estimates are to be released soon by FSCPE, and expressed concern about the Disclosure Avoidance System, which the Census may apply to the ACS (and would hinder use of that data). Another concern is vacant housing, which will become a problem due to the aging population. Ed recommended examination of the structure of the labor force and productivity, provision of full detail on Census County Divisions, and examination of household sizes.

Renee Bensley asked about the official numbers for Newark's college age population, which have been reduced due to the pandemic and do not recover until 2035, despite increasing housing numbers and reported high occupancy. Ed expressed uncertainty about this population, including the impact of remote work and the lack of real time data. Maridelle Dizon requested yearly data by age group after 2020, to compute age adjusted rates. Ed indicated yearly data are calculated and will be made available.

Dan made a motion to approve the 2022 Projection Series. It was approved with one vote against.

Election of Secretary and Vice Chair for 2023

Vice-Chair Matt Rogers will become the new Chair per the Bylaws. Owen Robatino agreed to continue as Secretary, was nominated by Matt and Mary Ellen, and will remain in the position. For the new Vice-Chair, Colton Phillips was nominated and said he would check with DelDOT management before accepting the position.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dan promised to obtain from Ed the final approved 2022 Projection Series and post it on the DPC website. He planned to have WILMAPCO place a notice in their newsletter to publicize the new projections. He proposed to schedule the next meeting on the fourth Thursday in March 2023, and expected to have new Census business to discuss during the year including urban boundaries. An upcoming webinar about the five-year ACS was also announced.

ADJOURNMENT

The Consortium voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 AM.

ATTEST: _____

      Matthew Rogers
      Chair
      Delaware Population Consortium