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## Delaware Population Consortium Meeting

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**Where: Room 133 Haslet Armory, 122 Martin Luther King Blvd. Dover DE 19901**

**When: April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

Virtual Option:

**Join:**

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24840629770784?p=BAc7tcQfQlCG9qqic7>

Meeting ID: 248 406 297 707 84

Passcode: oY656ss9

### Agenda:

1. Call-To-Order and Introductions
2. Approval of minutes from December 2025 meeting
3. University of Delaware CADSR leadership introductions and future vision  
- Joseph Trainor & Dave Racca (UD-IPA/Biden School)
4. U.S. Census update: Stacie Cochran-McNeal
5. Old Business
6. Open Comment
7. Adjournment

*Next Meeting: TBA*



**Delaware Population Consortium Meeting**  
**Hybrid Format Meeting In-Person and via Teams**  
**December 11, 2025**

The meeting was held on Thursday December 11, 2025; in Haslet Armory Room 307 and virtually using Teams.

**CALL-TO-ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Blevins at 1:00 PM. The following people were present:

**Officers:**

Daniel Blevins, Chair, WILMAPCO  
Michael Petit de Mange, Vice-Chair, Dover/Kent MPO  
Owen Robatino, Secretary, New Castle County Government

**Voting Members:**

Samantha Bulkilvish, OSPC  
Colton Phillips, DelDOT  
Arthur Jenkins, DOL  
Rachel Alfano, DSHA  
Wendy L. Hudson, DSHS  
Jamie Fenske, Kent County Government  
Cooper Bowers, New Castle County Government  
Dawn Melson-Williams, City of Dover  
Renee K. Bensley, City of Newark  
Marilyn Smith, Dover/Kent MPO  
Nick Smith, Delaware League of Local Governments

**Others in Attendance:**

Dorothy Morris, OMB  
David Edgell, OSPC  
Anson Gock, DelDOT  
Austin Gray, DelDOT  
Jennifer Norwood, Sussex County Government  
Stacie Cochran-McNeal, US Census

## MEETING MINUTES

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM October 2025: 1st**  
Renee Bensley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Colton Phillips, approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Approval of 2024 Demographic Projections**

Dan Blevins announced that, based on recent discussion, DPC may readopt the prior year projections for 2024 as the current projections. Colton asked that these prior projections be displayed for the meeting attendees, and Samantha did so. Dan requested a motion to approve the 2024 projections as the 2025 projections and for subsequent discussion. Samantha Bulkilvish motioned to approve and Jamie Fenske seconded the motion, and the group approved the motion with DeIDOT abstaining. Renee asked that the new projections be checked to make sure they include changes which had been discussed for the prior projections. Samantha said she would make sure the newly approved projections are posted, and Dan said he would tell the group about that.

### **Follow-up: Review of local agency/third party demographic forecast practices and products**

Dan Blevins presented charts that summarize his research on current practices of nearby states and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Some do major demographic updates every three to five years. Methodologies range from bottom-up based on county data, to top-down based on statewide projections that require negotiation with the counties. Third party options involving data produced by third party private sector vendors who charge fees are also available, and more than one option might be needed to get the necessary data. Free sources are also available, but they provide only so much data for Delaware. Colton suggested utilizing a masters student to combine free sources and develop a methodology for DPC. Dawn Melson-Williams asked how much the free data applies to Delaware, and Dan replied the data are mostly at statewide level, with some sources providing county data. Dan stated some general conclusions, including third party vendors falling short in details horizon year so that DPC would need more than one vendor, only two free vendors have anything close to usable for population only, MPO and state efforts vary widely. Overall, any future demographic products will likely come with added cost (including continued CADSR as the principal entity). Dan said he has spoken with CADSR and they are willing to further discuss demographic work

Subsequent discussion included Dan pointing out that projecting annually may be easier than longer intervals. Anson Gock mentioned that other states have a State Demographer. Michael Petit de Mange pointed out that State law requires annual demographic projections, and mentioned the need for a proper budget. Dan said he would send out documentation on a possible path for DPC to continue demographic projections. Renee Bensley agreed that continuing with CADSR is likely best if we can stay with them, and asked if recent problems in the federal government might reduce the quality of data from them. Dan replied that is a legitimate concern. Stacie Cochran-McNeal said she will provide more

information when she can. Dawn said the elephant in the room is cost, and questioned how the cost of demographic projections will be allocated. Renee suggested a possible prorated jurisdictional buy-in based on size. Mike said such a buy-in might be difficult.

### **Follow-up: DPC bylaws review**

Mike presented suggested revisions to DPC Bylaws, which were originally adopted in 1986 and amended a number of times through 2019. One suggestion involves a preamble, which will provide reference to the enabling law establishing DPC and that will state the Bylaws shall be approved and adopted by two-thirds of the voting members and shall govern the activities of the Consortium. Another suggestion involves edits to the appeal process. These include replacing a reference to CADSR with a more general reference to the entity providing projections, providing a written explanation of the appeal, and consideration of appeals by the full Consortium with approval by two-thirds of the members. A new Article Four involves formation of a cyclical workgroup every five years to review and select the preferred projections provider, if needed. Additional suggestions involve flexibility in setting the Annual Meeting, wording adjustment involving conflicts of interest, and sufficient attendance at DPC meetings by members. Owen Robatino asked if DPC members are people or the agencies they represent. Mike replied that member agencies would be contacted regarding meeting attendance by their representatives. Dawn suggested a roll call of the agencies present at each meeting, to help determine a quorum, and asked whether the Bylaws recognize virtual attendance at DPC meetings. Mike suggested a clarification regarding virtual attendance. David Edgell said OPM supports DPC, including providing an anchor location for meetings. A proposed Article Six would establish how committees, subcommittees, and ad hoc committees are established. A proposed Article Seven would establish a process for considering amendments to the Bylaws and would require approval of Bylaw changes by at least two-thirds of the voting members. Mike said DPC may want to delay changes to the Bylaws until their path forward with projections is settled. Dan wants to see revised notes on the Bylaws, and requested more questions to Mike. Dan said he wants to arrange a “meet and greet” between DPC and CADSR, possibly in the spring, to work on their new relationship including finance. Colton suggested allowing virtual attendance by request at DPC meetings in special cases. Renee and Owen requested a virtual option to attend DPC meetings and avoid travel to Dover. Dawn asked whether anything about the Bylaw changes had been sent to meeting attendees, and Dan said he would do so.

### **Old Business and Open Comment**

Stacie showed charts listing recent and pending release dates of American Community Survey data, and upcoming Census webinars. Owen asked when the next meeting would be, and Dan said it would be in the late winter or early spring. Sam asked if the fourth Thursday of the month still works for meeting attendees. Renee mentioned an occasional conflict that would require a substitute.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel Blevins  
Chair  
Delaware Population Consortium

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