**Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders (LCAD)**

**September 2014 Minutes**

September 23, 2014

1:03 p.m.

**Commission Members Present:**

* Kerri Cunningham
* Freddie Landry
* Kathleen Leary
* Tom Lief
* Shelly Mockler
* Anthony Wick

**Commission Members Absent:**

* Lana Bel**l**
* Damon Marsala
* Jon Lance Nickelson
* Michael Slocum
* Dr. Susan Tucker

**OBH/HQ Staff Attending:**

* Kenneth Saucier, OBH Director of Regional Services
* Carol Foret, OBH Program Manager 1-A/DHH

**OBH/HQ Staff Absent:**

* Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, Assistant Secretary

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:**

* Stephen Taylor, Capital Area
* Missy Graves, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Safe and Drug Free Communities

**I. SERENITY PRAYER & ROLL CALL**

Freddie Landry called the meeting to order and Kathleen Leary led the Commission members in the Serenity Prayer. Carol Foret conducted roll call.

**II.** **PRESENTATION ON THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF SAFE AND DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES AND THE LOUISIANA DRUG POLICY BOARD BY MISSY GRAVES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Missy Graves provided a broad overview of the function of the Office of Safe and Drug Free Communities and the Louisiana Drug Policy Board with the members of the Commission**.** Ms. Graves provided a copy of the Office of the Governor’s Infrastructure Support Chart to the commissioners and shared current activities being conducted by this office and board in addition to identifying and reviewing some of their collaborating partners.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 2014 MINUTES**

Committee members were provided a copy of the August 2014 meeting minutes. Ms. Landry called for a motion to approve the August 2014 meeting minutes. Dr. Tom Lief made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Tony Wick seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed to approve the August 2014 minutes.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

* **UPDATE ON THE LOUISIANA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (LBHAC)**

Freddie Landry reported being unable to attend the last LBHAC quarterly meeting, so she had no report to share. Ms. Landry does plan to attend the next scheduled LBHAC meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 and voiced her concern about the funding dedicated to the local Regional Advisory Councils (RACs).

* **REPORT FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS ON RAC ACTIVITIES/TRAININGS**

Commission members had no reports to share on RAC activities/training. Ms. Landry shared that Louisiana received four (4) Drug Free Communities Grants in which one of the grants was awarded to the Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition (GNODDRC). The amount of each grant is $150,000 per year for five (5) years with the possibility to be renewed for another five (5) years.

* **STRATEGIC PLANNING – OCTOBER 21, 2014**

Freddie Landry reminded the commission members the project to update the current LCAD strategic plan. The project is scheduled for October 21, 2014 and October 22, 2014 in Baton Rouge in Conference Room 173 on the first floor of the Bienville Building. She went on to emphasize the importance of the participation of all the Commission members. This project will replace the regularly scheduled monthly LCAD meeting for October 2014. The schedule for this project is as follows:

***Tuesday, October 21, 2014*** Begin: Meet for 12:00 p.m. and End: 5:00 p.m.

***Wednesday, October 22, 2014*** Begin: 9:00 a.m. and End: 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Tom Lief created a document entitled, “White Paper, Commission on Addictive Disorders” and reviewed it with the Commission members. He explained the document should be referred to when the Commission updates its Strategic Plan next month. Dr. Lief requested the White Paper document be added to the minutes of this meeting. The document reads as follows:

**White Paper**

**Commission on Addictive Disorders**

Tom Lief, PhD, Commissioner

The Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders is pledged to help alleviate the devastating effects of addictive disorders on the citizens and the organizations of this state. The Commission serves as a critical liaison between the citizens, agencies, governmental entities and legislation by providing information, contacts and suggested strategies.

The two major thrusts of this Commission are:

1. To serve and protect the involved public.
2. To support and assist agencies and organizations in their mission dedicated to ameliorating the deleterious impact of addictive disorders.

The abuse of chemical substances/alcohol and gambling is a multi-dimensional problem. It includes such dynamics as personal health, mental illness, public safety, families, access to services, prevention efforts, crime, employment, economic solvency and the well-being of our state’s communities.

An attempt to define and control the abuse of chemical substances has had a long history in our society. For example, alcoholism used to be considered sinful and its control perceived as a moral/religious issue. Then it became defined as a criminal justice problem with legislation promulgated against its distribution/ possession along with supporting increased interdiction, enforcement and punitive sanctions. Later, the emphasis on alcoholism shifted to a health issue placing its control and coordination to experts on health. Eventually, alcoholism became redefined as a disease (Louisiana made formal recognition of the disease of alcoholism in its state plan in the 1970s). Today, those in command of ameliorating the disastrous impact of alcohol abuse have now labeled it as a “behavioral health” problem. While the recognition of alcohol abuse has morphed through different stages in response to awareness and the shifting the power of those in control of this problem, its devastating impact on those involved and our society nevertheless still continue.

There is a similar American and Louisiana history in the evolution about defining and dealing with the abuse of other drugs and with mental illness. Concurrently, treatment strategies and prevention efforts have also undergone change in the quest to help our citizens.

In order to comprehend the “big picture” it is imperative we become aware of this shifting of recognition and changing definitions for they significantly impact policy, planning and implementation.

Funding, both private and public, and legislation supporting prevention and treatment have also changed in emphasis. And they are currently contingent on the philosophy of those in power. Today, in Louisiana, a major tectonic shift has manifested from supporting governmental entities providing treatment to endorsing the contributions of private enterprise. Economic and business models dominate the current planning and support of addictive disorders. This new focus has seriously impacted all levels treatment, prevention and criminal justice. Therefore, it is imperative we recognize the repercussions of this new paradigm and attempt to see the positive as well as the unanticipated consequences of the privatization of behavioral health issues in our State.

The impact is multi-dimensional: public and private health related institutions; volunteer and faith based organizations; criminal “justice” including policing, public safety and incarceration rates; community health, prevention and education; workforce and professional development; employment and the general well-being of Louisiana.

Because members of the Commission come from different areas of the state, and because it is composed of a variety of expertise and perspectives, it is in a strategic position to inform the public, suggest legislation and support new and better efforts of dealing with the complex issues of behavioral health in our state.

Steve Taylor from the Capital Area was invited by Dr. Lief as a guest to this meeting and the LCAD strategic plan update project as an advocate for alcohol treatment.

**V. NEW BUISNESS**

* **REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – DR. ROCHELLE DUNHAM, OBH ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

In Dr. Rochelle Dunham’s absence Kenneth Saucier and Quinetta Womack updated the Commission on the following topics:

* Website ECO Cast sponsored by SAMHSA facilitated by Michael Duffy on Peer Support and Recovery Support.
* Peer Support
* Primary Care Behavioral Health Integration Summit is scheduled for December 10 thru December 11, 2014 in New Orleans.
* Gambling Program activities
* National Recovery Month
* **REVIEW OF CHAPTER 37-LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON ADDICTIVE DISORDERS LOUISIANA REVISED STATUE 46:2503 (COMMISSION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES) AND 2504 (COMMISSION; REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS)**

A copy of the legislation that created the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders was provided to each Commission member. Then Carol Foret reviewed the information found in the Duties and Responsibilities as well as the Commission Reports and Recommendations Sections, which were Revised Statue (R.S.) 2503 and R.S. 2504. Ms. Foret felt it was important the members of the Commission were made aware of these responsibilities to ensure the updated LCAD Strategic Plan’s finished product would truly guide the actions of the Commission in the coming year(s) to reflect its legislatively charged duties. Ms. Foret pointed out that the commission would need to reflect and determine if their legislative requirements are being met by the current actions/activities of the commission.

Ms. Foret also pointed out the content of the past Governor’s Annual Reports failed to include the prescribed information found in R.S. 2504 and is not being submitted timely. The content of past LCAD Governor’s Annual Reports included only actions and activities legislatively prescribed to or action taken by the Office of Behavioral Health. This report should reflect activities of the LCAD of its previous year and recommendations as to future programs.

**V. Next Commission Meeting**

The next meeting of the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders was discussed, and the date, time, and location were set. The next meeting will take place in Baton Rouge, at OBH Headquarters, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2014.

**VI. Adjournment**

Freddie Landry called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Tony Wick made the motion to adjourn, and Dr. Tom Lief seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 p.m.