

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
January 30, 2009

Members present: Sandra Adams, Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Dr. Robert Barsley, Scott Broussard, Dr. L. Philip Caillouet, Dr. J. Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Kelly Cox, Diane Davidson, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Kerry Drake, Dr. Thomas Fairley, Donna Fraiche, Bert T. Melancon, Myra Myers, Dr. Patrick O'Connor, Christine Arbo Peck, George Renaudin, Bridgette Richard and Donna Swanson.

Members absent: Dawn Cantrell, Dr. Ron Christner, Dr. Paul Dammers, Dr. Robin Daniel, Scott Flowers, Dr. Holley Galland, Veronica Gray, Deborah Harkins, Dr. R. Jonathan Henderson, Rep. Chuck Kleckley, Karl Kleinpeter, Randal Johnson, Charles Lea, Rhonda Litt, Nancy McPherson, Gordon Natal, Jr., Phyllis Perron, Dr. Laura Trunk, Dr. Leonard Weather, Earl White and Karen Reiners Winfrey.

Staff present: Alison M. Jones, Thomas Clemons, Vanessa Vince and Karen Krumholt.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present. The commission voted to approve the October 24, 2008 meeting minutes.

Chairperson Fraiche introduced Diane Davidson, a new Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) member. Ms. Davidson represents the Louisiana Business Group on Health.

Mr. Tony Keck, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) reported on Louisiana Health Care Reform. Mr. Keck discussed the contents of the federal economic stimulus package regarding health care and the continuing financial problems facing Louisiana's Medicaid program. He further discussed Louisiana's 1115 "Louisiana Health First" Waiver which was submitted by DHH to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in efforts to improve conditions within the health care system.

A motion was made to keep the report on the Louisiana Health Care Reform presented by Mr. Tony Keck as an information item. The motion was approved.

Mr. Clayton Williams, MPH, Director, Division of Health Systems Development, Louisiana Public Health Institute and Eric Baumgartner, M.D., MPH, Director, Policy and Program Development, Louisiana Public Health Institute presented on the Primary Care Access and Stabilization Grant. Mr. Williams stated that the Primary Care Access and Stabilization Grant (PCASG) is a \$100 million dollar federal grant program awarded to DHH and is administered by the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) as the local partner of DHH. Mr. Williams advised that public and private nonprofit organizations in Region I (Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes) were eligible for funding through the PCASG. He stated

that the funding provides stabilization, restoration and expansion for twenty-five healthcare service provider organizations. Mr. Williams further stated that the PCASG is a three year grant which began in September, 2007 and that all available dollars must be spent by September, 2010.

Dr. Eric Baumgartner discussed the improvements in quality and efficiency of the provider organization business practices within the three year grant period. He further discussed challenges in continuing to sustain efficiency and outcomes after the three year period.

Ms. Sandra Adams, Executive Director, Louisiana Coalition for Maternal and Infant Health discussed the expansion of employer health coverage to young adults. Ms. Adams stated that young adults, ages 19-29, have the highest uninsured rate of any age group and the majority are working. She suggested referring the topic for discussion to the Task Force on the Working Uninsured.

Mr. Thomas Clemons reported on Cover the Uninsured Week. He stated that the event is scheduled for March 22 - 28, 2009. Mr. Clemons announced that a meeting for Cover the Uninsured Week (CTUW) is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. in the second floor conference room at the Department of Insurance. A motion was made for the LHCC to adopt a resolution in support of CTUW.

Chairperson Fraiche suggested that the CTUW resolution be a living document to revisit and possibly be amended with more information after the Task Force on the Working Uninsured meeting.

Ms. Alison Jones reported on the Louisiana Department of Insurance Annual Health Care Conference. She announced that the conference is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009 at the Hilton in Baton Rouge.

Chairperson Fraiche reviewed the Federal Health Update.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

