

**Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Poydras Building Hearing Room**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**  
**November 17, 2017**

**Members present:** Jeff Albright, Lauren Bailey, Rick Born, Katie Brittain, Diane Davidson, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. John Fraiche, Arnold Goldberg, Linda Hawkins, Dr. Marlon Henderson, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Darrell Langlois, Barbara Morvant, Andrew Muhl, Ronnell Nolan, John Overton, Stephanie Phillips, Clay Pinson, Dr. Anthony Recasner, Patrick Reed, Debra Rushing, Dr. Butch Sonnier

**Members absent:** Robelyn Abadie, Dr. Rachel Durel, Beau Fourrier, Lisa Gardner, Dr. Faye Grimsley, Korey Harvey, Rep. Mike Huval, Randal Johnson, Jennifer Katzman, Dr. Jesse Lambert, Jesse McCormick, Jennifer McMahan, Ed Parker, Elizabeth Sumrall, Bryan Wagner, Senator Rick Ward and LaCosta Wix

**Staff present:** Crystal M. Stutes and Julie Freeman

Dr. John Fraiche, Chairman of the LHCC, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5 meeting. Mr. Goldberg moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Ferguson seconded the motion, and with no objections, the minutes were approved.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was noted for the record.

Chairman Fraiche introduced Mr. Lonnie Dufour, the Director of Client Services & Telehealth Project Coordinator with the TexLa Telehealth Resource Center, who presented an overview of Telehealth Services in Louisiana. He reported that the Task Force on Telehealth was created in the 2014 Regular Legislative session to function as an advisory body to the legislature and the Louisiana Department of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on policies and practices that expand Telehealth Services. He reported great progress was being made state-wide with several grants being awarded in 2016. Large systems are no longer “siloes” as before and the cost of technology has come down, while many programs are thriving statewide; and with the expansion of access to telemedicine services, there is access to remote prescribing of medicine commonly used for substance abuse or mental health treatment.

Next, Dr. James Hussey, the Assistant Secretary/Medical Director of the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) at the Louisiana Department of Health presented an overview of services, processes and continuum of care. He stated the OBH was charged with the

oversight and management of behavioral health services for adults and children with severe mental illness, serious emotional/behavioral disorders, acute mental illness and substance use and addictive disorders. Services are provided for Medicaid, non-Medicaid eligible, private pay and self-pay populations.

Additionally, he reported the LDH submitted a request for a Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver on August 15, 2017, and resubmitted it on November 7, 2017, in order to maintain the status quo with both inpatient psychiatric services and SUD residential treatment in Institutions for Medical Disease (IMD). This waiver allows CMS to waive certain standard requirements in order to approve experimental, pilot or demonstration projects that promote the objectives of Medicaid programs, including the Children's Health Insurance Program, that address substance use disorder services.

Finally, Mike Bertaut, the Exchange Coordinator and Healthcare Economist for Blue Cross, presented the latest developments on healthcare reform. More information on *Healthcare Reform in the Trump Era: The Fate of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act* can be found at: <http://www.ldi.la.gov/consumers/boards-commissions/health-care-commission/5831202a-8b9e-6b8a-94f4-ff0000585bf2>

With no further business, Chairman Fraiche asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ferguson moved to adjourn and Ms. Lisa Gardner seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.