

# **Louisiana Property and Casualty Insurance Commission**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2016 @ 1:00 P.M.**

**Department of Insurance – Plaza Hearing Room**

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Members Present: Commissioner Donelon, Lou Fey (Chairman), Sen. Morrish, Rep. Talbot, Rep. Huval, Shawn Collins (for Lee Ann Alexander), Marc Carter, Chris Haik, Dir. Sheral Keller, Ron Henderson, Leslie Sallean, Mike Baron (for Dr. Katara Williams), Ann Metrailer.

Commission Staff Present: Tom Travis.

LDI Staff Present: Warren Byrd, Rich Piazza, Ileana Ledet, Danielle Blanchard, Charles Hansberry.

Others Present: Pauline Williams (OWCA), Kenneth Eichler (Work Loss Data Institute)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the chairman.

Mr. Travis called the roll and reported the absence of a quorum. (Mr. Baron of LHSC came in after the roll call to create a quorum.)

Mr. Fey, the chairman, welcomed the commission members and others in attendance.

Presentations on Opioid Abuse:

Moderator: Gary Patureau, Exec. Dir. of the Louisiana Association of Self-Insured Employers (LASIE)

Presenters (by Phone):

Shavon L. Arline-Bradley, MPH, MDiv, Dir., External Engagement, Office of the US Surgeon General

Dr. Vennela Thumula, Workers' Compensation Research Institute (WCRI)

Rod Bordelon, Attorney and former Commissioner of Workers' Compensation for the State of Texas

Ms. Arline-Bradley provided an overview of the Turn the Tide Rx program of the Surgeon General's office. She discussed the three main areas of emphasis: prescribing practices of health care practitioners; information on risks of opioids for patients; and evidence based treatment for opioid based disorders. She provided a tour of the program's website—[turnthetiderx.org](http://turnthetiderx.org), which has resources and information for health care practitioners and the public. A cornerstone of the program is the Prescriber Pledge, which consists of three parts: "(1) Educate ourselves to treat pain safely and effectively. (2) Screen our patients for opioid use disorder and provide or

connect them with evidence-based treatment. (3) Talk about and treat addiction as a chronic illness, not a moral failing.”

Dr. Vennela Thumula of WCRI spoke on “Opioid Utilization in Louisiana Workers’ Compensation.” Her presentation included graphs showing that: 85% of those receiving pain medication receive opioids; 17% of those receiving opioids do so on a long-term basis; the opioid dose in Louisiana is much larger than most states.

Rod Bordelon presented on the topic of “Treatment Guidelines, Pharmacy Formulary, Texas Workers’ Compensation Reforms,” describing changes made to that state’s workers’ compensation system since 2005. He described the use of a pharmacy formulary in workers’ compensation and the transition from a legacy system to a mixed legacy and formulary system to the current system of all drug claims being subject to the formulary. He emphasized the reduction in opioid prescriptions, the reduction in medical disputes, and that prescriptions outside the formulary are still available through the utilization review process.

Mr. Patureau spoke on efforts to enact a workers’ compensation drug formulary system in Louisiana.

Other agenda items were deferred until the next meeting on November 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no objection, the chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.