

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
January 14, 2011

Members present:

Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Dr. Robert Barsley, Doreen Brasseaux, Dr. L. Philip Caillouet, Dr. John Steven Caraway, Allen Cassidy, Julie Cherry, Derrell Cohoon, Diane Davidson, Kerry Everitt, Dr. Thomas Fairley, Scott Flowers, Donna Fraiche, Dr. Holley Galland, Scott Kipper, Rhonda Litt, Janie Ward Martin, Donna Mayeux, John D. Monlezun, Senator Jean-Paul Morrell, Benjamin Mouton, Myra Myers, William Naquin, Christine Arbo Peck, Bobby Savoie, Donna Swanson, Tommy Teague, Cheryl Tolbert and Dr. Laura Trunk.

Members absent:

Scott Broussard, Dawn Cantrell, Dr. Robert Chugden, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Bridgette Jamison, Rep. Chuck Kleckley, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Dr. Warren C. Lowe, Dr. Hugh McKnight, Bert Melancon, Gordon Natal, Jr., Ron Nezat and Phyllis Perron.

Staff present:

Alison Jones, Thomas Clemons, Vanessa Vince and Karen Krumholt.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche began the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

The roll was called and a quorum was present. The commission voted to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2010 Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) meeting as corrected.

Ms. Carol H. Steckel, MPH, Executive Director, Health Care Reform, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), reported on the topic of Federal Health Care Reform. Ms. Steckel stated that there are numerous regulations in the health care reform bill. She explained the importance for doctors, hospitals and state agencies to work together as a team on health care issues and consequences to their specific industry component. Ms. Steckel discussed health care reform changes to health insurance, Medicaid and Medicare and its impact on the public. She further discussed health care reform design issues.

Mr. Thomas Clemons, Assistant Director, Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) and Ms. Carol Fowler-Guidry, Health Attorney, Office of Legal Services, LDI gave an update on the LDI Preparation for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Mr. Clemons advised that there is a newly created health care reform team at the LDI within the Office of Health. He further advised that the LDI has constructed a new health care reform resource web page on the LDI web site at www.ldi.state.la.us. Mr. Clemons gave an overview of the web page which includes helpful informational links and frequently asked questions. He stated that the web page will continue to be updated on a regular basis.

Ms. Carol Fowler-Guidry gave an update on the LDI preparation for PPACA. She discussed medical loss ratio and stated that the LDI is in the process of developing a state medical loss ratio waiver package to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Ms. Fowler-Guidry further discussed the HHS grant received by the LDI to develop a framework to review health insurance rate filings. She advised that funds have been utilized to hire employees to put a rate review team in place. Ms. Fowler-Guidry stated that the LDI legal department has been reviewing, evaluating and comparing PPACA to current Louisiana insurance laws to determine if new insurance legislation will be necessary. She advised that the LDI continues to work with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and HHS throughout the implementation of PPACA.

Ms. Leah Barron, Chief Executive Officer, Louisiana Health Plan gave an update on the LHCC Health Care Costs Containment Subcommittee. She advised that the subcommittee has been meeting to discuss various issues pertaining to health care cost and will make recommendations to the LHCC prior to the 2011 Regular Legislative Session. Ms. Barron stated that all subcommittee meetings are held at the LDI and announced the following schedule of meeting dates and topics of discussion:

- January 20, 2011 - Global Payments
- February 3, 2011 - Physician Shortages
- February 17, 2011 - Cost of Diagnostic Care
- March 3, 2011 – Work up recommendations to be presented to the LHCC

Ms. Clarissa Preston, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Consumer Advocacy, LDI and Ms. Vicki Dufrene, Director, Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), LDI discussed LDI Public Outreach. Ms. Preston advised that the Office of Consumer Advocacy was created in 2007 and is charged with providing outreach to consumers and serves as a liaison between consumers and insurance companies. She further advised that outreach and education is the primary goal of the office.

Ms. Vicki Dufrene advised that SHIIP is charged with a goal and a mission from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with outreach and education on Medicare and the senior health insurance market to beneficiaries, providers and the insurance industry. She discussed outreach and education due to changes in the Medicare system and advised that SHIIP will be providing information to Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, doctors and pharmacists to ensure that the Medicare beneficiary receives needed services. Ms. Dufrene advised that SHIIP handles phone calls regarding Medicare issues, participates in health fairs, and visits provider offices to help answer questions. She further advised that SHIIP works with hospital volunteer programs and community council on aging programs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.