

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes  
Poydras Building Hearing Room  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
May 7, 2010

**Members present:** Coletta Barrett, Dr. Robert Barsley, Scott Broussard, Dawn Cantrell, Diane Davidson, Berkley Durbin, Dr. Thomas Fairley, Scott Flowers, Donna Fraiche, Dr. Holley Galland, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Donna Mayeux, Myra Myers, William R. Naquin, Ron Nezat, Bobby Savoie and Cheryl Tolbert.

**Members absent:** Leah Barron, Doreen Brasseaux, Dr. L. Philip Caillouet, Dr. John Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Derrell Cohoon, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Kerry Everitt, Randal Johnson, Rep. Chuck Kleckley, Rhonda Litt, Dr. Warren C. Lowe, Dr. Hugh McKnight, Bert Melancon, John D. Monlezun, Sr., Senator Jean-Paul Morrell, Benjamin P. Mouton, Gordon Natal, Jr., Christine Arbo Peck, Phyllis Perron, Bridgette Richard, Donna Swanson, Tommy Teague, Dr. Laura Trunk and Karen Reiners Winfrey.

**Staff present:** Thomas Clemons and Karen Krumholt.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche began the meeting at 9:15 a.m. A quorum was not present.

Ms. Hedy S. Hebert, Chairman of the Board, Bossier Chamber of Commerce and partner with Benefit Consulting Services in Bossier City, Louisiana reported on the Small Employer Health Insurance Impact. Ms. Hebert discussed health insurance issues that are important to small businesses in Northwest Louisiana including medical liability reform, small business health insurance plans and health care coverage mandates. She further discussed health care concerns of small businesses for lower health insurance cost, accessibility, elimination of pre-existing conditions, no employer or individual mandates, portability issues and an opportunity to pool together to have the same benefits and cost as those offered to larger businesses.

Ms. Hebert advised that the health care priorities of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) are similar. She stated that NAHU supports efforts by our Government to help Americans afford private health insurance coverage and help those that need insurance. She further stated that NAHU encourages Congress to avoid financing health care reform on the backs of Americans already purchasing private health insurance coverage and to avoid any financing mechanism that would hinder businesses from creating jobs.

The roll was called and a quorum was present. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2010 Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) meeting. The motion was approved.

A motion was made to amend the order of the agenda and accept the report on the Small Employer Health Insurance Impact by Ms. Hedy S. Hebert. The motion was approved.

The commission briefly discussed scheduling a future LHCC meeting or seminar in other Louisiana regions to discuss health care reform issues.

Mr. David Hood, Senior Health Care Policy Analyst, Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, Inc. reported on Health Care Legislation for the 2010 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session. Mr. Hood discussed the Medicaid budget problems facing Louisiana. He stated that the executive budget proposes \$6.15 billion for Medicaid next year which is a drop of \$372 million from this year. He advised that there will be substantial cuts next year in Louisiana state psychiatric hospitals and in-home care for the elderly. Mr. Hood explained that one contributing factor to the Medicaid budget problem is the recalculation of the federal share of Medicaid payments due to Hurricane Katrina. He discussed several Louisiana Legislative solutions for the health care budget. He further discussed the impact of national health reform on Louisiana's Medicaid program and the charity hospital system.

The commission discussed health care reform legislation issues including medical loss ratios, Medicaid funding, cost shifting and quality health care delivery.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.