

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes  
Poydras Building Hearing Room  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
August 26, 2011

**Members present:**

Doreen Brasseaux, Allen Cassidy, Julie Cherry, Dr. Denise Danna, Dr. Michael S. Ellis, Kerry Everitt, Dr. Thomas C. Fain, Dr. William L. Ferguson, Emma Fontenot, Donna Fraiche, Dr. Holley Galland, Leah Guerry, Linda Hawkins, Paul Hildreth, Bridgette Jamison, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Janie Ward Martin, John D. Monlezun, Ron Nezat, B. Ronnell Nolan, Phyllis Perron, Bobby Savoie, Sherry Soileau, Carol Steckel and Dr. Laura Trunk.

**Members absent:**

Rhonda Bagby, Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Dr. Robert Barsley, Scott Broussard, Roderick Campbell, Dawn Cantrell, Dr. John Steven Caraway, Diane Davidson, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Rep. Chuck Kleckley, Donna Mayeux, Dr. Hugh McKnight, Senator Jean-Paul Morrell, Sheila Williams and Mayur Yermaneni.

**Staff present:**

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

Chairperson Donna Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Chairperson Fraiche welcomed the following new members to the Louisiana Health Care Commission.

- Denise Danna, DNS, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, Louisiana State Nurses Association
- Michael S. Ellis, M.D., FACS, Louisiana State Medical Society
- Thomas C. Fain, Ph.D., M.P., Louisiana Psychological Association
- William L. Ferguson, Ph.D., CLU, CPCU, ARM, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- Emma Fontenot, Louisiana Department of Insurance
- Leah Guerry, Louisiana Association for Justice
- Linda Hawkins, League of Women Voters of Louisiana
- Paul Hildreth, PT, DPT, MPH, Louisiana Physical Therapy Association
- Eva Lamendola, O.D., Optometry Association of Louisiana
- B. Ronnell Nolan, HIA, Louisiana Association of Health Underwriters
- Sherry Soileau, RHU, CLTC, NAIFA Louisiana
- Carol Steckel, MPH, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

All attending commission members introduced themselves. Members of the commission voted to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2011 Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) meeting.

Ms. Emma Fontenot, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Health, Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) reported on Federal Health Care Reform and Louisiana's 2011 Health Legislation. Ms. Fontenot discussed health legislation including Acts 360, 350, 144 and 382. She advised that Louisiana does not have an effective health insurance rate review program, as determined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). She further advised that Commissioner Jim Donelon has announced that during the next Louisiana legislative session the LDI will present a legislative package for the approval of health insurance rates in our state.

Ms. Madeline McAndrew, Medicaid Coordinated Care Program Deputy Director, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, gave an update on the status of Medicaid's Coordinated Care Network (CCN) Program. Ms. McAndrew advised that the CCN program is managed health care services for Medicaid recipients. She discussed the CCN implementation, provider networks, patient enrollment, contract support and fiscal intermediary. Ms. McAndrew further discussed the various event timelines including enrollee outreach, education contractor and the compliance tracking system.

Ms. Carol Steckel, Executive Director of Healthcare Reform, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals reported on the federal Health Insurance Exchange. Ms. Steckel advised that there is a large amount of regulations related to the federal health exchange. She discussed the complexity of the health care benefit exchanges. Ms. Steckel advised that it would be beneficial to have detailed discussions in the future with various business organizations on the federal health exchanges and how it's being designed in other states.

Mr. Ron Nezat reported on the LHCC Subcommittee on Health Care Cost Containment. Mr. Nezat advised that the subcommittee continues to meet every two weeks and announced that the next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Department of Insurance. Mr. Nezat advised that there are a number of issues being studied including 340B prescription drug pricing, physician and health care provider shortages and the high cost and health risks of medical imaging. He further advised that future topics of study include accountable care organizations and episode of care payments. He stated that the goal of the subcommittee is to present a detailed comprehensive report to the LHCC by the end of the year.

Ms. Doreen Brasseaux stated that the 340B drug discount program allows entities that serve vulnerable patient populations to access prescription drugs at a lower cost. She discussed H.R. 2674, the 340B Improvement Act of 2011 and advised that a letter was sent to the U.S. House of Representatives urging them to cosponsor H.R. 2674. She advised that H.R. 2674 would extend the drug discounts available through the program to inpatients and make other improvements to lower costs and ensure expanded access to care.

A motion was made to discuss drafting a letter from the commission to Louisiana's congressional delegation in support of the 340B drug discount program. After discussion, the commission members voted to defer the issue of the 340B drug discount program to the next LHCC meeting.

Chairperson Fraiche discussed LHCC subcommittees for the 2011-2013 study period. Subcommittees include the access to care brochure, health care outcomes in children and the LHCC subcommittee on health care cost containment.

A motion was made to create the access to care brochure subcommittee as well as the health care outcomes in children subcommittee. The commission voted to accept both subcommittees.

Ms. Alison Ferguson advised that she would research the LDI policy on open meetings law and notices. She also announced the tentative dates of LHCC meetings for 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.