

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
August 27, 2010

Members present:

Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Doreen Brasseaux, Scott Broussard, Dr. L. Philip Caillouet, Dr. John Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Derrell Cohoon, Diane Davidson, Berkley Durbin, Kerry Everitt, Dr. Thomas Fairley, Scott Flowers, Donna Fraiche, Dr. Holley Galland, Rhonda Litt, Senator Jean-Paul Morrell, Benjamin P. Mouton, Myra Myers, William R. Naquin, Christine Arbo Peck, Phyllis Perron, Bridgette Richard, Bobby Savoie, Donna Swanson and Tommy Teague.

Members absent:

Dr. Robert Barsley, Dawn Cantrell, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Rep. Chuck Kleckley, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Dr. Warren C. Lowe, Donna Mayeux, Dr. Hugh McKnight, Bert Melancon, John D. Monlezun, Sr., Gordon Natal, Jr., Ron Nezat, Cheryl Tolbert and Dr. Laura Trunk.

Staff present:

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

Chairperson Donna Fraiche began the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

The roll was called and a quorum was present. The commission voted to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2010 LHCC meeting.

Ms. Carol Fowler-Guidry, Health Attorney, Office of Legal Services, Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) reported on the LDI Preparation for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Ms. Fowler-Guidry advised that the PPACA was signed by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010 and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act was signed on March 30, 2010. She advised that the PPACA is a large health care reform bill that includes many provisions with different implementation dates. Ms. Fowler-Guidry discussed the health care reform legislation that is currently in effect and other legislation effective on September 23, 2010. She further discussed the LDI Health Care Legislation enacted in the 2010 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Ms. Fowler-Guidry advised that the LDI is currently reviewing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations and rules on PPACA, promulgating as necessary and collaborating with agencies on health care reform. She further advised that the LDI is in the process of applying for three separate HHS grants available to provide funding to assist with health insurance premium rate review, to establish an American Health Benefit Exchange and funding in establishing and operating an Office of Insurance Consumer Assistance or Health Insurance Ombudsman Program.

A motion was made to amend the order of the agenda and accept the Update on the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum (LHCQF) by Ms. Linda Morgan, Director, Marketing and Communications, LHCQF. The motion was approved.

Ms. Linda Morgan stated that the LHCQF is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to lead evidence-based, collaborative initiatives to improve the health of Louisiana citizens. Ms. Morgan advised that the focus of the LHCQF is to enable the use of health information technology to improve quality health care, collect data to guide improvements in health care quality, support clinicians in their pursuit to improve health care, promote the use of patient centered primary care and to educate individuals and organizations about ways to promote better health and health care utilization in the community. Ms. Morgan discussed the Health Information Exchange Grant that was awarded to the LHCQF in order to help establish the foundation for electronic health records and the exchange of health

records among all levels of health care. She further discussed the Regional Extension Center Grant awarded to assist primary care providers in Louisiana and enable providers to use electronic health record technology in a meaningful way.

Mr. Tony Keck, Interim Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) gave an update on the leadership, policy and strategic direction of DHH. Mr. Keck stated that DHH has been working with the federal government on a waiver that would allow use of the excess Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding for community clinics in New Orleans. Mr. Keck advised that Mr. Bruce Greenstein will serve as the new Secretary of DHH and will lead in the major areas of health care reform including health information exchange and electronic medical records. Mr. Keck discussed Coordinated Care Networks (CCN) and stated that the Medicaid model of CCN is a model to align incentives between providers including physicians, hospitals, other ancillary providers and purchasers to improve health care in Louisiana. He further stated that DHH is developing CCN models and will begin implementing in three Louisiana regions which include the Northshore, Baton Rouge and the Houma-Thibodeaux areas by April 1, 2011.

Ms. Leah Barron, Chief Executive Officer, Louisiana Health Plan gave an update on the Impact of the Protection and Affordable Care Act on the Louisiana High Risk Pool. Ms. Barron advised that the federal government will implement the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) in Louisiana and began taking enrollment applications in July. She discussed eligibility requirements, benefits, premium rates and deductibles for both the Louisiana high risk health insurance pool and the federal government high risk health insurance pool plan.

Ms. Alison Jones reported on the LDI Health Care Legislation from the 2010 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Ms. Jones announced that Mr. Thomas Clemons and the LDI public affairs department has been working on a health care reform newsletter intended to keep LHCC members informed on proposed federal health care regulations.

Mr. Thomas Clemons reported on Proposed Health Care Cost Containment. He discussed an in-depth study made by the National Conference of State Legislatures regarding different strategies that some states are undertaking to address health care cost containment. He advised that at the most recent LHCC Executive Committee meeting; suggestions were made to form a working subcommittee group to determine which strategies would work best for Louisiana and to formulate recommendations regarding the issue of health cost containment and cost efficiency.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.