

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
October 23, 2009

Members present: Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Dr. L. Philip Caillouet, Dr. John Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Diane Davidson, Berkley Durbin, Kerry Everitt, Dr. Thomas Fairley, Scott Flowers, Donna Fraiche, Dr. Holley Galland, Donna Mayeux, Dr. Hugh McKnight, Benjamin P. Mouton, Myra Myers, Gordon Natal, Jr., Bridgette Richard, Bobby Savoie, Donna Swanson, Tommy Teague, Dr. Laura Trunk and Karen Reiners Winfrey.

Members absent: Dr. Robert Barsley, Doreen Brasseaux, Scott Broussard, Dawn Cantrell, Kelly Cox, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Randal Johnson, Rep. Chuck Kleckley, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Charles Lea, Rhonda Litt, Dr. Warren C. Lowe, Bert Melancon, John D. Monlezun, Sr., Senator Jean-Paul Morrell, William R. Naquin, Christine Arbo Peck, Phyllis Perron and Cheryl Tolbert.

Staff present: Alison M. Jones, Thomas Clemons, Vanessa Vince and Karen Krumholt.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Chairperson Fraiche introduced Ms. Donna M. Mayeux, a new Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) member. Ms. Mayeux serves on the commission as an at-large appointee.

Mr. Charles Milligan, Executive Director, The Hilltop Institute, University of Maryland, presented on federal health care reform via audio conference call. Mr. Milligan discussed the current status of federal health care reform legislation. He further discussed legislative procedural issues and likely scenarios resulting from different versions of the health reform legislation.

Mr. Joshua Goldberg, Health Policy and Legislative Analyst, National Association of Insurance Commissioners gave an overview of the structure of the health insurance market reform legislation. Mr. Goldberg discussed the differences in the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the House Tri-Committee bills and explained how the three health care reform bills differ regarding insurance regulation, exchange development and operation, state mandated benefits and public plan options.

Mr. David W. Hood, Senior Healthcare Policy Analyst, Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, reported on the Impact of National Health Care Reform on Louisiana's Medicaid program and the charity hospital system. Mr. Hood gave a brief overview of the Baucus Health Reform bill. He advised that in 2014, the provisions of the Baucus bill are to expand Medicaid to those with incomes below 133 percent of the poverty level. Mr. Hood discussed the history and future of Louisiana's Medicaid program spending.

The commission discussed health care reform legislation and shared their organizations position on the issue. Please refer to the attachments.

Chairperson Fraiche asked each commissioner that was present to discuss their organizations position on health care reform. Comments were made by the following commission members and their organizations:

- Ms. Coletta Barrett, Louisiana Hospital Association
- Ms. Leah Barron, Louisiana Health Plan
- Dr. L. Philip Caillouet, Governing Boards of State Colleges and Universities, University of Louisiana System – University of Louisiana Lafayette
- Ms. Julie Cherry, Louisiana AFL-CIO
- Ms. Diane Davidson, Louisiana Business Group on Health
- Ms. Berkley Durbin, Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Coalition
- Ms. Kerry Everitt, AARP – Louisiana
- Mr. Scott Flowers, Louisiana Health Care Review, Inc.
- Dr. Holley Galland, Louisiana Council on Human Relations
- Mr. Benjamin Mouton, Louisiana Association for Justice
- Ms. Myra Myers, League of Women Voters of Louisiana
- Mr. Gordon Natal, Jr., Louisiana State Nurses Association
- Ms. Donna Swanson, National Independent Insurance Agents
- Mr. Tommy Teague, Office of Group Benefits
- Dr. Laura Trunk, Louisiana Association of Health Plans

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

