

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
August 24, 2012

Members present:

Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Dr. Robert Barsley, Scott Broussard, Roderick Campbell, Dawn Cantrell, Dr. John Steven Caraway, Allen Cassidy, Derrell Cohoon, Diane Davidson, Dr. Michael S. Ellis, Kerry Everitt, Emma Fontenot, Donna Fraiche, Dr. Holley Galland, Leah Guerry, Linda Hawkins, Paul Hildreth, Bridgette Jamison, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Janie Ward Martin, Donna Mayeux, John D. Monlezun, Sr., Ron Nezat, B. Ronnell Nolan, Phyllis Perron, Bobby Savoie, Senator Gary Smith, Carol Steckel, Representative Ledricka Thierry and Dr. Laura Trunk.

Members absent:

Rhonda Bagby, Doreen Brasseaux, Julie Cherry, Denise Danna, Dr. Thomas Fain, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. Hugh McKnight, Sherry Soileau and Mayur Yermaneni.

Staff present:

Alison Ferguson, Kristen Kieren and Vanessa Vince.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

The commission voted to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2012 LHCC meeting.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche made a proclamation resolution to applaud Ms. Alison Ferguson as Executive Director of the Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) as she is resigning from the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) to relocate to Houston, Texas. Ms. Fraiche made a motion to applaud her work at the LDI and the motion was seconded by Leah Barron.

Mr. Bruce Greenstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) gave a DHH budget update relative to the past and current fiscal year. Recent budget cuts that were made emanated from Congress this year via the job creation act and the federal transportation bill. However, he reiterated that the state had already been working to downsize operations to ensure continued sustainability while providing critical services.

Secretary Greenstein mentioned the efforts by the state to work towards community based health care. In discussing the Congressional cuts of the Medicaid budget and the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), which is a function of the state's per capita income, Secretary Greenstein highlighted several budget items that include downsizing of the Vital Records Service Centers, closure of Southeast Louisiana State Hospital and the reduction in some Medicaid contracts, reduction to private hospital rates by 3.7% as well as reductions to the LSU Public Hospital system. He also mentioned that Louisiana would not be expanding Medicaid as provided for under the ACA.

Secretary Greenstein discussed the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership, a resource for mental health services that was launched March 1, 2012 and BAYOU HEALTH that began on February 1, 2012. He also announced that the newly released Medicaid annual report is available and proposed inviting the DHH chief economist to discuss the Medicaid budget at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Jim Donelon discussed the health insurance exchange of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He reiterated that Louisiana will not be operating its own exchange. A federally facilitated exchange will be available in Louisiana.

A suggestion was made to consider forming a working group with Commissioner Donelon to discuss issues regarding the ACA health insurance exchange and Medicaid expansion in addition to cuts to the Medicaid budget and LSU Hospital System. Chairperson Fraiche invited the LHCC members to send their questions regarding the ACA to the LHCC staff.

Ms. Donna Mayeux reported on the LHCC Access to Care Brochure Subcommittee. Ms. Mayeux discussed the second brochure containing health care resources in the Northeast Louisiana area. Ms. Mayeux requested suggestions for distribution partners be brought to LHCC staff. She stated that uninsured brochures are currently being drafted for the Northwest and Central areas in Louisiana.

Ms. Ferguson discussed the legislative organizational changes in the LHCC Bylaws. A motion was made to approve the amended LHCC Bylaws and the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.