

**Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
January 25, 2013**

Members present: Rhonda Bagby, Doreen Brasseaux, Scott Broussard, Roderick Campbell, Allen Cassidy, Dr. John Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Derrell Cohoon, Denise Danna, Kerry Everitt, Emma Fontenot, Donna Fraiche, Linda Hawkins, Bridgette Jamison, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Donna Mayeux, Ron Nezat, Bobby Savoie and Dr. Laura Trunk.

Members absent: Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Dr. Robert Barsley, Dawn Cantrell, Diane Davidson, Dr. Michael S. Ellis, Dr. Thomas Fain, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. Holley Galland, Leah Guerry, Paul Hildreth, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Dr. Hugh McKnight, John D. Monlezun, Sr., Phyllis Perron, Sherry Soileau, Senator Gary Smith, Representative Ledricka Thierry and Mayur Yermaneni.

Staff present: Crystal Marchand Campbell, Kristen Kieren and Vanessa Vince.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Commission member Bobby Savoie moved to approve the minutes from the Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) meeting on October 26, 2012. Commission member Donna Mayeux seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

Chairperson Fraiche introduced the newest LHCC member, Ms. Hedy Hebert representing the Louisiana Health Underwriters Association.

Mr. Michael Ricks, District Director for Louisiana with the United States Small Business Administration discussed the impact of health care reform on small businesses. He stated that the decline in small businesses offering health coverage has ceased. Also, between 2000 and 2009, the percentage of small businesses offering health insurance coverage to their employees dropped from 68 to 59 percent. He further stated that from 2009 to 2011, the number of small businesses offering health insurance benefits has remained steady at 59 percent. Mr. Ricks informed the members that the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund has been extended and that Medicare's trustees estimate that due to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will remain solvent until at least 2024 instead of 2016 as originally projected.

Mr. Ricks stated that health insurance has been the number one concern for small business owners since 1986. He stated that the ACA will help small businesses provide access to better options and will reduce overall costs. He estimates that up to four million small businesses will be eligible to benefit from more than \$40 billion in tax credits. Mr. Ricks stated that consumers and business owners can obtain information from www.healthcare.gov. The website will eventually allow consumers and business owners to compare prices, making purchasing health insurance easier and more transparent. Mr. Ricks stated that employers are not required to provide health insurance coverage to their employees under the new law. He further stated that the employers' responsibility for businesses with more than 50 employees will go into effect only if the workers receive an individual tax credit for health insurance that an employee purchases in an exchange.

Commission member, Ms. Julie Cherry posed the question: As the ACA comes online and hopefully more employees are becoming insured, has there been a discussion of the possible effects on an employer's responsibility to provide medical treatment under workers' compensation coverage. Mr. Ricks responded that this was the first time he had been asked about how workers' compensation would be affected. He was unaware of an answer to provide, and would get back to her Ms. Cherry with an answer at a later date. Mr. Ricks stated that he had not thought about it and was unsure if anyone in the agency has. He related that as a former small business owner; if an employee had a work related injury that required the use of company health insurance, it could possibly have an impact when renegotiating a contract. Mr. Ricks noted that there would be a great deal of recovery and cost incurred as part of worker's compensation and those figures had not been considered. Mr. Ricks stated that, in his opinion, if a small business owner has an independent health insurance plan that they are happy with, nothing will change. However, if an employee on the exchange were to be injured at work, the potential impact on the business' insurance premium would be negligible.

Chairperson Fraiche gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on several issues in the 2012 United States Presidential Election. She discussed the spending projections on several federal programs including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and the future impact of those programs.

Ms. Crystal M. Campbell discussed the Health Care Outcomes in Children Subcommittee. She stated the Subcommittee was created in August 2011, but has never been established. She emphasized the importance of the Subcommittee study and referenced the poor ratings of Louisiana's 2012 Report Card on Physical Activity and Health for Children and Youth sponsored by the Pennington Biomedical Research Center. She stated that Louisiana received an "F" in the category of Overweight and Obesity, a "D-" in the category of Fruit and Vegetable Consumption, a "D" in Physical Activity Levels, a "D-" in the Amount of Screen Time to Which children are Exposed, and a "C-" in Overall Physical and Emotional Well-Being Among Children. Ms. Campbell referenced the resources and assistance she has received in trying to begin the study and encouraged LHCC members to participate in the Subcommittee.

Ms. Donna Mayeux presented the third and fourth Access to Care brochures of health care resources for Central and Northwest areas in Louisiana. Ms. Mayeux stated that 10,000 brochures were printed for each region and are available for distribution. She also stated that the brochures can be accessed on the Department of Insurance website.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche announced that the Louisiana Department of Insurance Annual Health Care Conference will be held on April 16, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

With no further business, commission member Doreen Brasseaux moved to adjourn the meeting. Commission member Dr. Laura Trunk seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.