

Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
August 22, 2014

Members present: Jeff Albright, Robert Barsley, Eric Baumgartner, John Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Amy David, Rita Finn, Donna Fraiche, Korey Harvey, Linda Hawkins, Anil Kukreja, Eva Lamendola, Rachel Moore, Andrew Muhl, Ron Nezat, Phyllis Perron, Jeremy Stillwell, Cheryl Tolbert, Laura Trunk and Chris Vidrine

Members absent: Robelynn Abadie, Rhonda Bagby, Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Evola Bates, Scott Broussard, Roderick Campbell, Derrell Cohoon, Holley Galland, Brenda Hatfield, Hedy Hebert, Bridgette Jamison, Jesse Lambert, Calder Lynch, Donna Mayeux, John D. Monlezun, Sr., B. Ronnell Nolan, Korey Patty, Debra Rushing, Tej Shah, Representative Ledricka Thierry, Jennifer Valois and Senator Rick Ward, III

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

Chairperson Donna Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Dr. John Caraway made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 30, 2014 meeting and Ms. Linda Hawkins seconded the motion.

Chairperson Fraiche introduced Mr. Jeff Albright as the newest LHCC member.

Dek Terrell, PhD, Freeport-McMoran Professor and Executive Director of the LSU Division of Economic Development discussed the 2013 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey. He stated that the survey provides detailed information on Louisiana's uninsured population and assists in planning programs. He also stated that it estimates the Medicaid eligible population for the state budget and helps in federal reporting on LaCHIP (Louisiana's Children Health Insurance Program). Approximately 8,500 Louisiana households were surveyed, with a goal of targeting 60 homes in each of the parishes across the state equalling 640 households per Medicaid region. Dr. Terrell advised that there is statistical adjustment for bias due to Medicaid underreporting. He also discussed statistical figures on uninsured children (under age 19) and nonelderly adults (ages 19-64) from 2003 to 2013.

Ms. Ruth Kennedy, Medicaid Director for the Department of Health Hospitals, (DHH) discussed the Medicaid Bayou Health program. She stated that Medicaid has the largest state contract for the new Bayou Health plans, which is approximately ten billion dollars over three years. She stated that the second phase of Bayou Health will continue the commitments of the past which include current provider rate floors, 85 percent Medical Loss Ratio requirements and timely payment requirements. She discussed several changes in Bayou Health which include the benefits of Hospice and in-home personal care services for children and youth under age 21. Ms. Kennedy stated that a new requirement for the health plans is that the company must hire one full-time investigator per 100,000 enrollees. She stated there is an increased collaboration to identify risks and detect waste and medically unnecessary spending.

Ms. Jen Steele, Medicaid Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer, DHH, discussed Senate Resolution number 29 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session directing DHH to form a work group to study the issue of primary care utilization in emergency departments. She advised that DHH formed a work group approximately two years prior to SR 29 and further advised that a draft rule was circulated which would have implemented a triage rate for non-emergent emergency room visits. Ms. Steele stated that DHH received feedback of opposition prompting the group to publish a notice of intent, which received further opposition from stakeholders on several bases. She stated that DHH abandoned the notice of intent that had been published and formed its own work group comprised of several stakeholders, including hospitals, health plans, physicians and pharmacists, and started meeting in April 2014. According to Ms. Steele, the Work Group met weekly during the Legislative Session, took a break in July and reconvened in August as the SR 29 Work Group. She stated the Work Group reviewed the work done in Washington State since it had the same collaboration in terms of partners. She stated that Washington State created the seven best practices, implemented it and had a demonstrated savings in terms of use of the emergency departments. She stated that the Work Group will have progress measures and further stated that a report will be submitted to the Legislature prior to the 2015 Regular Legislative Session.

Mr. Korey Harvey, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Health Insurance, LDI, discussed Act 718 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session which authorizes the LDI to review health insurance rates submitted by health insurance companies. He stated that it is a requirement of the ACA that any rate increase of ten percent or more be reviewed to determine if the rate increase is reasonable or unreasonable; there are a number of ways to be considered reasonable or unreasonable. Mr. Harvey stated that the LDI has been reviewing all rates and advised that the actual rate filings and any companies' specific information are confidential until open enrollment begins. He stated that the LDI website contains information on health insurance companies seeking a rate increase of ten percent or more, in addition to the reason the increase is being requested and the determination of the LDI.

Dr. Eric Baumgartner gave an update on the ACA Working Group. He stated that the group is continuing to identify information that relates to the issues of ACA implementation and identify ideas for the LHCC agenda meeting items to propose to the LHCC Executive Committee. Dr. Baumgartner stated that the ACA Working Group discusses issues of interest and brings awareness about resources beyond the scope of the LHCC. He invited everyone to participate in the meetings.

Ms. Kristen Kieren, Assistant Director of the LHCC, briefly discussed the latest Health Care Resources for the Uninsured brochures for the Southwest and Acadiana regions. She stated that since the formation of the Subcommittee on July 1, 2012, approximately 100,000 brochures for various regions have been printed and over 61,000 brochures have been distributed. She stated that the Greater Baton Rouge brochure will be updated and re-printed and work will begin on the New Orleans region. She stated that electronic versions of all completed regional brochures are available on the LDI website.

With no further business, Commission member Dr. Eric Baumgartner offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission member Julie Cherry seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.