

Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
January 30, 2015

Members present: Robelynn Abadie, Jeff Albright, Robert Barsley, Evola Bates, Eric Baumgartner, John Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Derrell Cohoon, Amy David, Donna Fraiche, Holley Galland, Korey Harvey, Brenda Hatfield, Linda Hawkins, Eva Lamendola, John Monlezun, Rachel Moore, Ron Nezat, Tej Shah and Rocky Thompson

Members absent: Rhonda Bagby, Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Scott Broussard, Roderick Campbell, Diane Davidson, Rita Finn, Hedy Hebert, Anil Kukreja, Jesse Lambert, Donna Mayeux, Andrew Muhl, Ronnell Nolan, Korey Patty, Phyllis Perron, Debra Rushing, Jeremy Stillwell, Representative Ledricka Thierry, Laura Trunk, Jennifer Valois, Chris Vidrine and Senator Rick Ward, III

Staff present: Crystal M. Campbell and Kristen M. Kieren

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

Dr. Rachel Moore offered a motion to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2014 meeting and Mr. Ron Nezat seconded the motion.

Chairperson Fraiche introduced Mr. Thomas “Rocky” Thompson representing the Department of Health and Hospitals as the newest LHCC member.

Crystal M. Campbell, Executive Director of the Louisiana Health Care Commission, reviewed the LHCC Bylaws and statutory changes to such. Ms. Evola Bates offered a motion to adopt the bylaws and Mr. Derrell Cohoon seconded the motion. All members were in favor of adoption of the bylaws as amended.

Ms. April Forsythe and Ms. Sylvia Garcia with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – Dallas Regional Office gave an update on the marketplace and data on enrollment numbers and outreach efforts. Ms. Garcia discussed enrollment numbers released in early January 2015; 9.5 million consumers enrolled nationwide; 132,000 in the state of Louisiana. Ms. Forsythe advised that nine out of ten individuals in Louisiana received assistance from the federal government to pay for insurance premiums. She mentioned that this is higher than the national average of eight out of ten individuals receiving federal assistance.

Ms. Forsythe discussed the role that the Dallas Regional Office plays in assisting consumers. Assistance is provided by caseworkers, through a call center, in premium payment and cost sharing; enrollment and reenrollment in health insurance plans; and cancellation or termination of plans. Information from calls is not only used to further assist consumers, but also to develop best practices for outreach.

Ms. Garcia advised that enrollees who have received a premium subsidy will be receiving, or may have already received, Tax Form 1095-A. This form will be required in reporting taxes for the 2014 tax filing year. She advised contacting the IRS with more specific tax questions.

Outreach and education efforts by CMS in the state of Louisiana include partnerships with the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center, 504 HealthNet, the City of New Orleans Health Department, Louisiana Primary Care Association and League of Women Voters, among others. Ms. Garcia discussed Coverage to Care, C2C, an effort to help educate consumers about their new coverage and to connect them with primary care and preventive services which are right for them. C2C resources are available online at www.marketplace.cms.gov/c2c.

Mr. Jim Pittman with the Smoking Cessation Trust Fund discussed the Trust and its creation. In 2010, a Court of Appeal affirmed the \$180 million settlement decision in the Scott v. American Tobacco Co., et al class action lawsuit. The settlement funds the Smoking Cessation Trust, which was started in 2011 and provides smoking cessation programs for Louisiana residents who began smoking cigarettes prior to September 1, 1988.

Mr. Pittman discussed the components of the Program as defined by the Court:

- Telephone quit-lines
- Health system interventions
- Intensive cessation programs
- Reimbursement for smoking cessation nicotine replacement therapy and related medications, including prescriptions

Since the start of the Program, over 25,000 applicants have been assisted; adding around 1,300 new applicants per month. The Smoking Cessation Trust Fund provides payment for smoking cessation services for ten years; payments will cease in the year 2022. More information on the Trust can be found at www.smokingcessationtrust.org.

Dr. Eric Baumgartner gave an update on the work of the Affordable Care Act Working Group and its partnership with the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI). Ms. Amanda Carruth and Ms. Caitlin Canfield with LPHI discussed a project commissioned by the Baptist Community Ministries (BCM) to conduct analysis of primary and secondary data on the population health, economic and other implications of the ACA in the state of Louisiana. Data analysis topics which are being explored are: population health, health care access, macroeconomic impact and workforce impact. The LPHI and ACA Working Group partnership will continue work to identify local data sources, share and discuss findings and make accessible the information gathered.

With no further business, Mr. Ron Nezat offered a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Holley Galland seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.