

**Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis C Education,  
Prevention and Treatment  
July 7, 2021  
9:00 am – 11:00 am  
Virtual Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/7789959325>  
Or Telephone:  
USA 602 333 0032  
Conference code: 712643**

**Commission Members Present:**

Anthony Basco, Tamara Boutte, Angie Brown, Tanya Brown, Sam Burgess, Allison Dejan (proxy for Amanda Dumas), Mitch Handrich, Tavell Kendall, Andrea LaPlante, Fran Lawless, Austin Mathews, Tamachia McCaa, George Nawas, Tewabetch Negatu, Jacqueline Porter and Norma Porter

**I. Call to Order**

Called to order by Fran Lawless, Chairperson

**II. Roll Call**

Roll called by Natalie Cooley. Quorum reached.

**III. Old Business:**

**A. April Minutes**

Commissioners reviewed minutes from April 7th meeting. Motion was made to approve the minutes; seconded the motion. Commissioners voted by voice to approve. Motion carries.

**B. Legislative Session Update - Anthony Basco provided the update**

- HB 238 - Criminalizing STD Transmission - voluntarily deferred by representative Moore. In her remarks, she did not understand opposition but, would like to work with LDH and CBOs to create a better bill.
- SB 156 - Restrictions to transgender youth in sports and access to care - vetoed by the Governor
- HB 542 - Restrictions to transgender youth in sports and access to care - failed to leave committee
- SB 104 - Made exceptions around consent for transgender teen specific medical care - failed to leave committee
- HB 575 - Criminalizing medical professionals and teachers for gender affirming medical care and education to transgender youth - failed to leave committee
- HB 166 - Changes to the 'Good Samaritan' Law - voluntarily deferred
- HB 67 - Decriminalizing sex work - voluntarily deferred

#### **IV. New Business**

**A. HIV Criminalization Workgroup Update** – Austin Matthews provided updates. Committee members are reaching out to CBOs that serve people who are living with HIV and want to plan the HIV Summit around World AIDS Day. Next workgroup meeting is July 23rd at 2 p.m. via zoom.

Looking for someone to lead the planning of the HIV Decriminalization Summit to occur later this year; actively searching for an outside organization to organize the summit.

#### **B. PrEP Update and Presentations**

**Prep Update Presentation** - Dr. Brandon Mizroch - Presentation Attached

Questions: Responses by Dr. Brandon Mizroch

Anthony Basco – I'm impressed with PrEP uptake in rural parishes such as Cameron Parish.

Fran Lawless made a request for Dr. Mizroch to share presentation at the HIV Decriminalization Summit. -Dr. Mizroch agreed.

Question on the floor: Would you recommend the 2-1-1 PrEP method for people with vaginas?

Response: Yes, it's not FDA approved in the states but, it should be just as effective.

Tavell Kindall- Have you had any issues with complaints with generic Truvada, complaints that generics are 'less' than the brand name drug?

Response: I understand the concern but, chemically the medication is the same.

George Nawas - Do you know if the FDA is going to endorse PrEP on demand soon?

Response - I'm not sure just yet. That doesn't stop providers from discussing this option with patients.

Mitchell Handrich- With PrEP on demand, do they still do screening every three months?

Response - Yes, the recommendation for HIV and STI screening every three months is the same.

**Injectable PrEP Presentation** - Dr.Sue Abdalian – Information attached.

Questions: Responses by Dr. Sue Abdalian

Norma Porter - How soon will it be before the FDA approves? **Not sure hopefully months.**

Anthony Basco - What is the dose window of efficacy? What if someone misses a dose? - **If people are months late, they will receive another loading dose.**

Fran Lawless - Have clinical trials begun for a vaccine? **Yes.**

Dr. Brandon Mizroch - I know from oral PrEP people are tested/screened every three months. How would that work with injectable PrEP? **It requires more visits. People are screened every 8 weeks if they are on injectable PrEP.**

**TelePreP Presentation** - Jan Mandani - Presentation Attached

**Black Women and PrEP Presentation** - Jacky Bickham - Presentation Attached

## **V. Other Business Fran Lawless, Chairperson**

A. Announcements: Elections at the next meeting, look out for emails for nominations.

B. Public Comment

Fran Lawless mentioned that the next HIV Criminalization workgroup meeting is July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm.

C. Next Meeting Date

Commission members discussed meeting on October 8, 2021 from 9am-11am with no objections.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Austin Matthews motioned to adjourn the meeting; Anthony Basco seconded the motion. Motion carries.

## **Reference of filed Bills relevant to Commission on HIV and HCV Compiled 4/5/21**

### Criminalizing STD Transmission

HB 238 by Rep. Moore would create felony and misdemeanor charges for intentional exposure to a sexually transmitted disease. STD is not defined in the bill and therefore refers to all STDs.

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1207472>

### Restrictions to transgender youth in sports and access to care

SB 156 by Senator Mizell and HB 542 by Rep. Amedee would require transgender students from kindergarten through college to compete in sports based on their sex assigned at birth.

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1210805>

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1211851>

SB 104 by Senator Mike Fesi would create a new exception to minors' rights to consent to their own health care, making trans youth secure written consent from both parents

(even if only one has custody) in order to access medically necessary and clinically appropriate health care.

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1208865>

HB 575 by Rep. Firmont would subject medical providers to criminal penalties for providing medically necessary gender affirming health care to any transgender person under 18. It would also subject teachers and other school personnel to criminal penalties if they did not out a trans student to their parents.

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1212045>

#### Changes to 'Good Samaritan' Law

HB 166 by Rep. Fontenot amends current law such that immunity from prosecution, charges, or penalties for possession of a controlled dangerous substance for persons experiencing drug-related overdoses would not apply when first responders or law enforcement officers respond to the same residence two or more times.

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1205659>

#### Decriminalizing sex work

HB 67 by Rep. Landry would repeal certain prostitution related offenses, thereby decriminalizing many forms of sex work.

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1202431>