

**Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Poydras Building Hearing Room**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**  
**October 26, 2012**

**Members present:** Rhonda Bagby, Leah Barron, Doreen Brasseaux, Scott Broussard, Dr. John Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Derrell Cohoon, Dr. Michael S. Ellis, Emma Fontenot, Linda Hawkins, Bridgette Jamison, Donna Mayeux, Dr. Hugh McKnight, Ron Nezat, Bobby Savoie and Dr. Laura Trunk.

**Members absent:** Coletta Barrett, Dr. Robert Barsley, Roderick Campbell, Dawn Cantrell, Allen Cassidy, Denise Danna, Diane Davidson, Kerry Everitt, Dr. Thomas Fain, Dr. William Ferguson, Donna Fraiche, Dr. Holley Galland, Leah Guerry, Paul Hildreth, Dr. Anil Kukreja, Dr. Eva Lamendola, John D. Monlezun, Sr., B. Ronnell Nolan, Phyllis Perron Sherry Soileau, Senator Gary Smith, Carol Steckel, Representative Ledricka Thierry and Mayur Yermaneni.

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

Vice-Chairperson Leah Barron called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

Ms. Cindy Munn, Executive Director of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum (LHCQF), reported that the LHCQF works with different stakeholders in health care including purchasers, consumers, providers and payers to give LHCQF feedback on what they want to see as it relates to the health information exchange and how the LHCQF works with providers for electronic health records (EHR) implementation. Ms. Munn stated that the catalyst seen in the United States relating to Health IT came from the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act in 2009 and the Affordable Care Act. She stated that billions of dollars have been allocated for the health care system to adopt and meaningfully use Health IT to improve health care outcomes. As such, dollars have been allocated through the Medicaid and Medicare EHR Incentive Programs. The Federal Health IT strategic plan is based on a four year plan and is currently in the early stages of capturing and sharing data. Improved outcomes relating to the federal Health IT strategy may not be seen until after 2015.

Ms. Munn stated that one of two initiatives that the LHCQF is currently working on is the Regional Extension Center (REC) grant that was awarded in 2010 and consists of \$7.8 million over a four year period. Ms. Munn stated that the targets given by the Office of the National Coordinator are to assist 1,042 priority primary care providers and 50 critical access rural hospitals to achieve meaningful use and to assist them in receiving their incentive payments.

Ms. Munn discussed the second initiative of the LHCQF, the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE). She stated that HIE is a statewide, secure, standardized electronic system where providers can share patient health information within the state. The LHCQF was awarded \$10.6 million over a four year period to plan, develop and implement the health information exchange for Louisiana.

Mr. Lucas Tramontozzi, Chief Data Officer, Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), reported on health information technology from the perspective of DHH. He stated that two new projects, implementation of the new Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), and a new Medicaid eligibility system, are two of the largest contracts in the history of the state. He further stated that these

projects will span a seven year period consisting of three years for implementation and four years for operations. Mr. Tramontozzi indicated that the goal is to improve efficiencies and productivity in all programs administered by DHH and that the core functions are to protect public health, provide health care, and pay for health care. He stated that the strategic areas of focus for the future include business intelligence, improving efficiencies, collaboration and communications, elimination of duplication across the systems and consolidate various applications.

Ms. Kristen Lyman, Associate Director of Health Systems Division of the Louisiana Public Health Institute, discussed the Crescent City Beacon Community; a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. She stated that the agreement consists of \$13.52 million allocated over a three year period which began in 2010 and is scheduled to end in March 2013, although interventions implemented in the health information exchange work will continue beyond that point. Ms. Lyman reported that the Greater New Orleans area is one of 17 Beacon Communities; each Beacon Community across the United States is at a different state of completion.

Ms. Lyman stated that the Crescent City Beacon Community has three primary goals to reduce the burden of chronic diseases (mainly diabetes and cardiovascular disease): improve the quality of care, reduce health care costs and engage consumers in the health care process. She further stated that different types of electronic medical records are at various stages of completion in terms of functionality and capability and are structured differently. Ms. Lyman explained that electronic medical records use is dependent on the manner in which it is used by the health care staff in regards to training and familiarity with each kind of module and the implementation process. She stated that these measures are at the heart of the quality improvement focus of the Crescent City Beacon Community and Greater New Orleans health information exchange efforts. She also discussed and described the methods of chronic care management, transitions of care and evaluation and analytics.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Commission member Julie Cherry moved to approve the minutes from August 24, 2012 LHCC meeting. Commission member Donna Mayeux seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

Ms. Donna Mayeux updated the LHCC members on the status of the third and fourth Access to Care brochures of health care resources for the Central and Northwest areas in Louisiana. She stated that the brochures were being finalized and pending approval from the listed resources. Ms. Mayeux stated that 10,000 brochures for each region will be printed and copies will be available at the next LHCC meeting on January 25, 2013. She also invited anyone with contacts for distribution of the brochures to notify Kristen Kieren with the LHCC staff.

Vice-Chairperson Barron informed the LHCC members that the 2013 LHCC Meeting schedule was included in the LHCC member meeting packets.

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