

Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
November 7, 2014

Members present: Robelynn Abadie, Rhonda Bagby, Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Robert Barsley, Eric Baumgartner, Scott Broussard, Roderick Campbell, Diane Davidson, Donna Fraiche, Holley Galland, Korey Harvey, Hedy Hebert, Linda Hawkins, Donna Mayeux, Rachel Moore, Korey Patty, Phyllis Perron, and Representative Ledricka Thierry

Members absent: Jeff Albright, Evola Bates, John Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Derrell Cohoon, Amy David, Rita Finn, Brenda Hatfield, Bridgette Jamison, Anil Kukreja, Jesse Lambert, Calder Lynch, Eva Lamendola, John D. Monlezun, Sr., Andrew Muhl, Ron Nezat, B. Ronnell Nolan, Debra Rushing, Tej Shah, Jeremy Stillwell, Laura Trunk, Jennifer, Valois, Chris Vidrine and Senator Rick Ward, III

Staff present: Commissioner Jim Donelon, Crystal M. Campbell, Kristen Kieren and Vanessa Vince

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

Ms. Coletta Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2014 meeting and Mr. Roderick Campbell seconded the motion.

Chairperson Fraiche introduced Ms. Diane Davidson representing the Louisiana Business Group on Health as the newest LHCC member.

Dr. Marilyn Reynard, Regional Administrator/Medical Director with the Department of Health and Hospitals presented information regarding the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). She stated that the first Ebola virus species was discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River, in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Dr. Reynard advised that researchers believe that EVD is animal-borne and that bats are the most likely reservoir and that outbreaks have appeared sporadically since 1976. She stated that Ebola is spread by direct contact with a symptomatic person through body fluids including blood, sweat, saliva and objects contaminated with the virus during care. She stated that people with EVD become more contagious as they get sicker. Dr. Reynard advised that Ebola is not spread through air, food or by water and there is no evidence that mosquitos or other insects can transmit Ebola. She stated that the Ebola virus can survive several hours and up to several days in body fluids at room temperature on dried surfaces such as doorknobs and countertops.

Dr. Reynard discussed the early symptoms of Ebola, which are flu-like, and the stages of contagiousness as the disease progresses. There are no approved vaccines or medications available and experimental vaccines and treatments for Ebola are under development, but have not yet been fully tested for safety or effectiveness. She also discussed the travel precautions which are in place involving travels who are arriving in the United States from infectious countries.

Ms. Jackie Riley with the Capital Area Agency on Aging discussed the navigator outreach efforts in preparing to enroll individuals in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance marketplace. She stated that their organization is targeting individuals ages 50 – 64 who are not eligible for Medicare, individuals that do not have health insurance available through their employer and legal refugees who do not have Medicaid. Ms. Riley also stated that their organization is working in a thirteen parish area.

Ms. Karla Wilburn with Family Road Healthy Start advised that their organization is a new navigator grantee and obtained a grant through National Healthy Start and will be hiring and training three navigators. She also stated that they will be serving East Baton Rouge Parish; all age groups.

Mr. Brian Burton with the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center gave a brief update on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). He discussed the navigators for the new enrollment period beginning November 15, 2014.

- Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center
- Capital Area Agency on Aging
- Martin Luther King Health Center (grantee funded until the end of open enrollment)
- National Healthy Start Association

Mr. Burton advised that two sets of money came from the federal government to provide enrollment assistance to consumers in Louisiana. He stated that money from CMS was allocated to fund navigator entities and money from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) was used to hire certified application counselors. He stated that Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) have certified application counselors who can assist people in their community with enrollment and one on one assistance.

Mr. Korey Harvey, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Health Insurance gave an update on the ACA marketplace health plans. He stated that the health insurance plans and rates on the exchange will remain confidential until November 15. He stated that all of the major medical companies that were on the exchange last year have signed on with the United States Health and Human Services (HHS), again with the addition of UnitedHealthcare and one of its subsidiaries.

Dr. Eric Baumgartner gave a brief update on the ACA Working Group. He stated that the work group is an outlet to bring additional information or suggest more issues for priority. He stated that two researchers at the Louisiana Public Health Institute will be joining the ACA Working Group meeting, immediately following the LHCC meeting. He stated that the researchers were commissioned by a local foundation to get secondary information on the ACA and how it is working in Louisiana, and to serve as a resource.

Commissioner Jim Donelon gave closing remarks and thanked all of the LHCC members for their contribution and service.

With no further business, Chairperson Fraiche offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission member Dr. Robert Barsley seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.