

Health Works Commission Minutes
 Tuesday, November 16, 2020
 10:00 a.m.
 via virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Paul Salles called the meeting of the Health Works Commission to order at 11:02 a.m., on November 16, 2020, via virtual Zoom Meeting. Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner from Board of Regents, provided Zoom etiquette instructions.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Ms. Cara Landry, Executive Assistant. A quorum was established.

Members Present	Members Absent
Sattaria “Tari” Dilks (designee), Nurse Practitioners	Nick Albares, Governor’s Office
Cynthia Bienemy, Nursing Supply & Demand Council *	Rep. Patricia Haynes -Smith, Occ. Forecasting Conf.
Sandra Brown, Southern University System *	Rep. Dustin Miller, Hse Comm Hlth/Welfare
Jim Henderson, Univ of LA System *	Sen. Fred Mills, Senate Comm. On Health & Welfare
Wes Hataway, LA Nursing Home Assoc *	Ram Paragi, Medical Education Commission
Kenya Messer, LAICU *	Karen Lyon, LA State Board of Nursing
Kellie Taylor-White, LA Workforce Comm.	Ragan LeBlanc, Family Physicians *
Wendi Palermo, LCTCS *	Susannah Craig, Board of Regents *
Demetrius Porche, LSUHSC-NO *	Chaquetta Johnson, Department of Health
Diana Merendino (designee), LSUHSC Shreveport *	Celeste Smith, Hospital Assoc
Jeffery Williams, LA State Medical Society *	
Mellynn Baker, LA BoR	
Lynn Ansardi (designee), Practical Nurse Exam	
Karen Lyon, LA State Board of Nursing	
Paul Salles, LA Hospital Association *	
Ad Hoc Member Present	Ad Hoc Member Absent
Alison Davis, Simulation Council**	Tabith Jones, Simulation Council

* Members of the Executive Committee

** Ad Hoc (Non-Voting)

Approval of the August 18, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Paul Salles asked for a motion, that the minutes from the August 18, 2020 meeting be approved. On the motion of Dr. Cynthia Bienemy, seconded by Dr. Wendi Palermo, the Health Works Commission voted to approve the minutes of August 18, 2020.

Simulation Council Update

Mr. Salles introduced Dr. Alison Davis, chair of the Simulation Council (Sim. Council), who presented to the Commission an update on the work of the Sim. Council. Dr. Davis noted inconsistencies present on the use of simulation as a substitution for clinical hours. A task force has been formed to see if this approval can become standard across the state. The Sim. Council is developing a unified statement of support of best practices and judgement for simulation substitution. The Sim. Council supports the use of simulation and this statement will provide a unified front needed to level inconsistencies of those who question this use of simulation. Dr. Sandra Brown, of the Southern University System, agreed with these updates and highlighted the need to expand online learning across the state. Dr. Davis responded in agreement and elaborated that the levels of simulation are varied. Mr. Paul Salles asked whether we are underutilizing the use of simulation delivery methods. Dr. Davis responded that this depends on the institution and region of state concerning whether they are comfortable with the adaption of these methods. Diana Meredino, LSUHSC-S, questioned whether this is strictly for nursing or “across the board” of allied health. Dr. Davis responded that they are delivering the unified statement to encompass simulation in all allied health fields as the Sim. Council represents all health professions across the state.

Report & Discussion – Health Works Commission Task Force on NSDC Recommendations

Mr. Paul Salles introduced Dr. Demetrius Porche, Dean & Professor, LSU Health Science Center School of Nursing, who provided an outline on the report on the Health Works Commission (HWC) Sub-Committee. The outline articulated the HWC duties as articulated from legal authority from the HWC legislation and how the recommendations from the HWC can be brought forth within the scope of the commission. The outline also articulated the actionable items that could be considered as well as other recommendations that could be designated to the appropriate department. Dr. Porche intends to insert short- and long-term action items for the HWC. A meeting is scheduled on November 30, 2020 to delve into these recommendations made by the Nursing Supply & Demand Council and any recommendations made outside of the scope of the HWC will be submitted to the proper parties. Dr. Sandra Brown reiterated this by stating that they will take a deeper dive and cross reference what recommendations are actionable and tangible that can be addressed within the HWC. A question from the public comment box was brought forth on what a recommendation was that was “not within scope.” An example of this was a recommendation raised on retroactive funding whereas this cannot be answered by the HWC and must be transferred to the appropriate department. Ms. Mellynn Baker inquired into a tentative timeline for hearing back on this report where Dr. Porsche responded on the meeting following the subcommittee meeting on November 30, 2020.

Nurse Capitation 2020-2021 Update

Mr. Paul Salles introduced Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner at the Board of Regents, who provided an update on Nurse Capitation 2020-21. Ms. Baker provided an update on allocations for all institutions who are involved in Nurse Capitation 2020-21. Ms. Baker stated that contracts have been provided and sent to the participating systems. Adjustments had to be made in funding amounts as state funds allocated for this program were replaced with Federal CARES Act funding to fill the gap that was present. These adjustments did change the deliverable deadline, but it is very similar to the year before. A deliverables training was implemented last Monday, November 9, 2020 so all institutions involved understood deadlines and deliverable requirements. Ms. Baker stated that the funding will end in Spring 2021. Ms. Baker received questions concerning the next steps for Nurse Capitation funding. BoR has included a request for \$3.2 million in the coming Fiscal Year under the High Education Budget and if this is funded by Legislature the program will continue. Dr. Sandra Brown asked for a deadline on deliverables for Spring 2021. Ms. Baker replied the deadline is December 15, 2020 with no flexibility on this deadline as federal funding must be allotted by the end of the year. Wes Hataway, LA Nursing Home Association, asked what the year one funding was previously where Ms. Baker responded that state general funding of \$2.5 million that was utilized for Nurse Capitation 2019-20 and federal CARES Act funding is being utilized for Nurse Capitation 2020-21.

Other Business

Mr. Paul Salles opened the floor to “Other Business” where Dr. Cynthia Bienemy requested to share information on two new reports that were compiled from the Center for Nursing. The first report was the 2019 Nurse Employer Nurse Demand Study where surveys were sent to employers of nurses working in hospitals and long-term facilities. This is done every four years to get a better idea on turnover rates, separations, demand, number of graduated and anticipated growth rate. This report was compiled from 2019 data and note that 1,948 RN nurses, 1300 LPNs and 942 Nursing Assistants are needed in our state. Other information was collected including salaries, beginning and maximum, and other information regarding where nurses are in greatest demand. As reported by Dr. Bienemy, this report would be helpful in strategic planning for the Nursing Supply & Demand report. The second report was a forecasting model that shows a forecast and simulation through 2025 on the supply and demand for nurses among the registered workforce within the state. It is important to note that these are pre-COVID numbers and the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the numbers in analysis. The report revealed a shortage in RN resulting in 1,145 positions unfilled in 2019 where the demand is shown to increase in coming years. There will be a demand for APRNs through 2025 in the eight regional market division in Louisiana. With LPNs, the report notes a surplus in the forecast though with a shortage coming in 2024 all depending on the regions of the state. The nursing numbers are surveyed over various regions where some are shown in demand and others in surplus. These reports are available for committee members to further analyze.

Public Comments

Mr. Paul Salles opened the floor to public comment. No public comments were received. Mr. Salles asked for the next meeting date with Ms. Baker providing February 9, 2021 as the next meeting date.

Adjournment

With no further comments or discussion, the meeting adjourned. A motion to adjourn was set forth by Wendi Palermo, seconded by Karon Lyon.