

Health Works Commission Minutes
 Tuesday, February 9, 2021
 1:00 p.m.
 via Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Paul Salles called the meeting of the Health Works Commission (HWC) to order at 1:02 p.m. on February 9, 2021 via virtual Zoom Meeting.

Roll Call

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

Members Present	Members Absent
Kathy Baldrige (designee), Nurse Practitioners	Meg Bankston, Governor's Office
Bronwyn Doyle, Nursing Supply & Demand Council *	Vacant, Occupational Forecasting Conference
Sandra Brown, Southern University System *	Ram Paragi, Medical Education Commission
Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System *	Ragan LeBlanc, Family Physicians *
Wes Hataway, Louisiana Nursing Home Assoc *	Kellie Taylor-White, LA Workforce Commission
Kenya Messer, LAICU *	
Rep. Chris Turner, House Committee on Health and Welfare	
Susannah Craig, Louisiana Board of Regents	
Wendi Palermo, LCTCS *	
Demetrius Porche, LSUHSC-New Orleans *	
Diana Merendino (designee), LSUHSC-Shreveport *	
Jeffery Williams, Louisiana State Medical Society *	
Mellynn Baker, Louisiana Board of Regents	
Lynn Ansardi, Practical Nurse Exam	
Karen Lyon, Louisiana State Board of Nursing	
Paul Salles, Louisiana Hospital Association *	
Kristi Anderson, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare	
Chaquetta Johnson, Louisiana Department of Health	
Ad Hoc Member Present	
Alison Davis, Simulation Council**	

* Members of the Executive Committee

** Ad Hoc (Non-Voting)

Results of Election of New Chair of the Health Works Commission

Mr. Paul Salles began by stating that the Executive Committee had met prior to this HWC meeting to elect a new chair of HWC. He announced that the Committee unanimously

voted Dr. Demetrius Porche, Dean & Professor, LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans School of Nursing, as the new chair.

Approval of the November 16, 2020 Minutes

Chair Salles asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2020 meeting. On the motion of Dr. Sandra Brown, seconded by Ms. Kathy Baldrige, the Health Works Commission voted to approve the minutes of November 16, 2020.

Health Works Commission Subcommittee Report

Chair Salles invited chair-elect Dr. Porche to provide an overview of the draft report of recommendations compiled by the subcommittee. The draft report outlined the short- and long-term actionable items and prioritized the Commission's recommendations. Chair Salles opened the floor for discussion. He started by asking if there are already specific things that have proven to be more successful at other institutions for obtaining nurses who want to further their education to become faculty members. Dr. Porche and Dr. Brown both responded that the biggest obstacle that Louisiana postsecondary institutions face when recruiting and retaining nurse faculty is the lack of competitive faculty salaries as compared to other opportunities in the workforce. Mr. Wes Hataway, Louisiana Nursing Home Association, asked a question regarding the timeline for expiration of new requirements set forth by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Karen Lyon, Louisiana State Board of Nursing, responded that the practice of awarding temporary licenses to CNAs and LPNs will continue as long as the Governor's emergency health proclamation continues. She also reassured the Commission that permanent policy changes that will have emergency clauses in place for the future are currently in process. The Commission, in light of additional CARES Act dollars being awarded, unanimously voted to allow flexibility and modifications to the discussed recommendations document based on suggestions going forward.

Chair Salles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wes Hataway, to accept the subcommittee report and to incorporate it into the final report to the legislature. The Health Works Commission voted to approve the motion.

Nursing Supply and Demand Council 2020 Annual Report

Chair Salles introduced Dr. Bronwyn Doyle, Nursing Supply and Demand Council (NSDC) Chair, who provided an overview of the Nursing Supply and Demand Council 2020 annual report. Dr. Doyle stated that the overarching concerns and issues were the shortage of nursing faculty, retention of nursing faculty, qualified students not being admitted, lack of diversity within programs, and low numbers of students declaring to nursing programs. Dr. Doyle mentioned that there is hope of improvement across all recommendations once additional capitation funds are allocated to institutions. She suggested collaboration between hospitals and the Council to better understand components needed to attract nurses to the workforce and suggestions for creating a hospital culture that retains new nurses.

Chair Salles asked for a motion to accept the Nursing Supply & Demand

Council (NSDC) 2020 Annual Report and allow the Council and Board of Regents staff to edit and finalize the report prior to its submission. On the motion of Dr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Kenya Messer, the Health Works Commission approved the motion.

Simulation Council Update

Mr. Paul Salles introduced Dr. Alison Davis, Chair, Simulation Medical Training and Education Council (SIM), to share an update on the SIM Council. Dr. Davis told the Commission that the SIM Council wanted to provide a unifying statement of their support for the use of all modalities of simulation as a substitution for clinical requirements, especially during a pandemic. Dr. Messer commented for the record that the statement does reference the Governor's executive order, which allows these provisions only for public two-year and four-year higher education institutions.

Chair Salles asked for a motion to accept the unifying statement provided by the Simulation Medical Training and Education Council showing support for the use of simulation as a substitution for clinical experience requirements. On the motion of Dr. Wendi Palermo, seconded by Ms. Diana Merendino, the Health Works Commission approved the motion.

Board of Regents Updates

Mr. Paul Salles invited Dr. Susannah Craig, Board of Regents (BoR), to provide the Commission with an update on the BoR's current activities. Dr. Craig stated the BoR was working closely with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to coordinate COVID-19 vaccinations for those in allied health programs across the state. She encouraged all students, faculty, and staff associated with these allied health programs to be vaccinated. Dr. Craig mentioned that the BoR, along with LDH, will be hosting a webinar on February 10, 2021 for allied health program deans to give feedback to Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed regarding vaccines hesitancy and success. She also announced that BoR is partnering with Woman's Hospital Foundation to create panel discussions with short videos on the myth that COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility. Chair Salles requested that the BoR provide updated numbers regarding 2020-21 Nurse Capitation. Ms. Cara Landry, BoR, stated that she would follow up with Ms. Mellynn Baker, BoR, and report those out to the Commission.

Organization Updates and Announcements

Chair Salles opened the floor for any updates and announcements. Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System, expressed his gratitude to the Chair and HWC for bringing the organization back into relevance. Mr. Salles thanked Dr. Henderson and congratulated Dr. Porche on his new position as Chair of the HWC. Representative Christopher Turner, House Committee on Health and Welfare, suggested that, to aid in its legislative request for additional funding, HWC make sure to reiterate that the purpose of the funding is to motivate students to complete their nursing programs.

Public Comments

N/A

Adjournment

With no further comments or discussion, on motion of Chair Salles, seconded by Ms. Kathy Baldrige, the meeting was adjourned.