

**Health Works Commission**

Minutes

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Iowa Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Claiborne Building

1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Demetrius Porche, Chair, called the August Health Works Commission meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Ms. Cara Landry and a quorum was established.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Christina Constanza	LA State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
Tari Dilks	LA Association of Nurse Practitioners
Ahnyel Burkes	Nursing Supply and Demand Council*
Sandra Brown	Southern University System*
Susannah Craig	LA Board of Regents
Sharon Dunn	LSUHSC-Shreveport*
Jawanda Givens	Occupational Forecasting Conference
Tina Holland	LA Association of Independent Colleges & Universities*
Karen Lyon	LA State Board of Nursing (LSBN)
Michelle Dennis	LA Community and Technical College System*
Dr. Demetrius Porche	LSUHSC - New Orleans*
Paul Salles	LA Hospital Association*
Kellie Taylor-White	LA Department of Labor (Workforce)
Jeffery Williams	LA State Medical Society*
Benita Chatman	LA Nurses Association
Daryl Lofaso	Simulation Medical Training & Education Council*
<b>Members Not Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>

Claire Stevenson	Governor's Office
Jeannine O'Rourke	University of Louisiana System *
Chaquetta Johnson	Department of Health
Ragan LeBlanc	LA Academy of Family Physicians*
Rep. Chris Turner	House Committee on Health and Welfare
Kristi Anderson	Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Wes Hataway	Simulation Medical Training and Education Council*
<b>Ad-Hoc Member Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Daryl Lofaso	Simulation Council**

APPROVAL OF MAY 2, 2023 MINUTES

**Dr. Porche asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023, Health Works Commission meeting. On motion of Dr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Salles, the Commission voted to approve the minutes.**

REGIONAL HEALTHCARE INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Dr. Porche introduced the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership program presentations. He said the presentations would be divided over the next two meetings, with four today and five at the next meeting. Dr. Porche called on Ms. Baker to provide an overview of this program.

Ms. Baker first described the purpose of the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership Program, reminding the Commission that higher education institutions were to partner with healthcare providers and/or regional not-for-profits to establish a program to increase the number of healthcare graduates in each identified regional labor market. Ms. Baker then identified the program participants, noting that higher education institutions included: Nunez Community College, Fletcher Technical Community College, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, LSU Health Shreveport, LSU Alexandria, Louisiana Tech University, Northwestern State University, Southern

University, and University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Dr. Deedra Harrington from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette then provided an overview of their program. Dr. Harrington noted that the program will address unmet and projected additional workforce needs for licensed mental health professionals. ULL will create a 20-credit-hour online Post-Master's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program. The Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration classifies Louisiana as a Mental Health Workforce Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), with 26.15% of need for mental health professionals met in the state, compared to 27.66% for the nation. A total of 166 additional practitioners are needed to remove the HPSA in mental health designation for Louisiana. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNPs) are uniquely qualified to close provider gaps caused by a shortage of psychiatrists. PMHNPs offer advantages of increased access to high-quality, evidence-based, cost-efficient clinical care. To address this shortage and meet community demand, ULL will admit three cohorts of additional students.

Next, Dr. Sandra Brown presented on the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership between the Southern University School of Nursing and Ochsner Health. To meet regional needs for registered nurses and healthcare-related staff, Southern A&M will deploy a three-pronged approach to increase the registered nurse pipeline in the community. First, the university will enhance specific student remediation and retention practices by implementing a peer tutoring program and providing support for students who do not meet the necessary exam passage in classes. Second, the institution

will create a workforce pipeline, implementing a Career Day and a summer internship. The third component will strengthen the pipeline among local elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools through a summer enrichment program for students across the community.

Next, Dr. Amy Hall from Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University Nursing School provided an update regarding their program, focused on creating a multi-faceted program to expand the nursing workforce of the Greater Baton Rouge region. This program will provide a range of student support services that previously were not available. Specifically, Fran U will create the Wolves on the RISE (Resources Increasing Self-Empowerment) program, specifically marketed to Black, Indigenous, and other people of color within the community, as data support the need to increase diversity in the nursing workforce. This program will provide several academic student support services including intrusive advising, staff nurse mentoring, and career/life coaching.

To conclude this meeting's presentations, Ms. Fernandez from Nunez Community College provided a discussion of their program. To increase the number of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in its region, Nunez will work with a partner hospital system to identify staff currently employed in non-nursing positions who are interested in a career pathway progression that results in an LPN. This program will provide scholarships and additional non-traditional student supports to participants in order to break down socio-economic barriers to student success, ensuring each participant in the pipeline supports this workforce demand.

## LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS STUDENT SUCCESS RESEARCH

Ms. Baker introduced a discussion of research being conducted by the Board of Regents specific to student success and invited Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation at the Board of Regents, to speak. Dr. Denley described the research looking at completion data specific to nursing programs. Commission members discussed what can be done to help these students pass and become successful. In addition, the Commission noted ways in which data analysis has helped inform ways nursing programs can target efforts. Dr. Denley shared that this research will continue, with the next steps including following up with deans of programs to review the data and consideration of future actions.

## FUTURE FUNDING PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

To speak about the status of funding for the Commission, Dr. Porche called on Ms. Baker. Ms. Baker discussed the H.E.R.O Fund, stating that the fund had \$5 million in FY23 due to one system no longer participating in the capitation programs. She noted that this allowed the Commission to create the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership program. She said that all FY23 funds were not expended, so carried forward into FY24. Ms. Baker then proposed future funding categories for consideration by the Commission, including increasing the capacity of healthcare-related programs, improving student success, and improving the throughput rate. After consideration of future funding priorities, the Commission decided to resume the discussion of future funding priorities at its next meeting.

## COUNCIL UPDATES

Dr. Porche then called for updates from two of the Commission's supporting Councils.

Dr. Porche called on Dr. Daryl Lofaso to speak about the work of the Simulation Medical Training and Education Council of Louisiana. Dr. Lofaso noted that the Expo, including guest speakers, will be held on April 19, 2024 in New Orleans on the LSU Health site.

Dr. Porche then asked Dr. Ahnyel Burkes to provide an update on the work of the Nursing Supply and Demand Council. Dr. Burkes said in September the Council will meet to review the draft annual report and determine Council recommendations. These recommendations will be brought forward to the Commission in December.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or announcements, Dr. Porche asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

**On motion of Dr. Holland, seconded by Dr. Burkes, the meeting was adjourned.**

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES & GUESTS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Deedra Harrington	ULL
Nancee Sorenson	LSUE
Lisa Broussard	ULL