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| **L*ouisiana***  **C*ommission on* A*ddictive***  **D*isorders*** |  |  |
|  | ***MINUTES***  ***December 2010*** |  |
|  |  | ***12/14/2010*** |

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| **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** | Kathy Hayward  Lloyd Hernandez  Freddie Landry  Thomas Lief | George McHugh  Shelley Mockler  Anthony Wickramasekera |

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| **COMMISSION MEMBERS PARTICIPATING VIA**  **CONFERENCE CALL:** | Kathleen Leary  Jon Lance Nickelson | Damon Marsala |

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| **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** | Lana Bel |  |

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| **OBH / HQ STAFF ATTENDING:** | Kathy Kliebert | Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham  Daryl Koerth |

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| **GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:** | Lisa Schuster  Marolon Mangham |  |

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| **I. Serenity Prayer & Roll Call** |

Freddie Landry called the meeting to order. Lloyd Hernandez led the Commission members in the Serenity Prayer. Daryl Koerth conducted roll call.

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| **II. Approval of November Minutes** |

The members of the Commission reviewed the November meeting minutes of the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders. Ms. Landry called for a motion to approve the minutes. Kathy Hayward made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Lief and Lloyd Hernandez seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the November meeting minutes passed.

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| **III. High Priority Departmental Initiatives** |

***Privatization***. Kathy Kliebert, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Behavioral Health, gave the Commission an update on continuing privatization efforts. According to Ms. Kliebert, contracts for the Briscoe and SOAR facilities are finalized and approved, and implementation of those contracts is expected to take place on January 1, 2011. Contracts for the other facilities being privatized should be approved before the Christmas holidays, with implementation to follow in mid-January. The issue of employee retention and compensation was raised. Ms. Kliebert stated that personnel at the Briscoe facility have experienced several success stories, and that efforts are being maintained by the contractors to retain and appropriately compensate the state employees affected by the transition. She stated that she will be able to provide more specific information on salary matching, benefits, and other topics during next month’s meeting.

***Budget***. Ms. Kliebert also gave the Commission an update on the status of the agency’s budget. She stated that one strategy on compensating for budget deficits from last year was proposed during a meeting last Friday that the Department may implement involving Medicaid rate cuts. This strategy is still under consideration by the Department. Freddie Landry asked about the possibility of raising revenue in the state. Ms. Kliebert answered that this option is also being considered, but so far no action has been taken. Kathy Hayward mentioned the gist of several conversations with legislators that indicate worse fiscal times ahead. Ms. Kliebert responded that the situation is still dire for the state’s budget, but that perseverance over the following one year (perhaps two) will yield positive results and better times.

***Coordinated System of Care***. Ms. Kliebert gave the Commission a report on the status of the coordinated system of care initiative. She stated that the process is still moving forward, though the work is proceeding more slowly than before due to difficulties associated with the process of reviewing and developing rules for necessary Medicaid waivers and state plan amendments. Completion of the internal process for these amendments and waivers is expected by January 31, 2011. Once this process has been completed, the federal approval process can begin. The Request for Proposals to select a State Managing Organization (part of the managed care system) is tentatively slated for release on March 11, 2011. Initial implementation of the coordinated system of care is expected to take place on October 1, 2011.

***Consumer Advocacy***. The Commission proceeded to have a discussion regarding consumer advocacy. Ms. Kliebert stated that she would like to break away from the traditional public forum format and take a more integrated approach. She also mentioned the possibility of local focus groups and advisory councils in an effort to get feedback that is more integrated from the stakeholders. Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, the OBH Medical Director, stated that there has been no organized group to facilitate this purpose in the past. She added that another priority should be investigating how to establish a voice for addiction. Kathy Hayward mentioned that at one time there was talk of Oxford House spearheading the transition toward local advocacy; however, this type of initiative tends to stall due to the problems of stigma and anonymity. Kathy Kliebert stated that one of her goals is to build a strong coalition of stakeholders that can and will make a difference – even at the legislative level – in obtaining and defending funding when necessary. Lisa Schuster stated that she would like to get together with the OBH administration to develop a strategy for reaching this goal.

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| **IV. ADRA and LASACT Monthly Reports** |

Lisa Schuster, Executive Director of the Louisiana Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority (ADRA), and Marolon Mangham, Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers, Inc. (LASACT), presented the Commission with information to address the questions raised during last month’s meeting regarding certification and licensure standards. Ms. Schuster passed out a brochure from the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) as a reference for general information and gave a brief explanation of IC&RC’s role in the setting of standards and testing for certification and licensure. Ms. Mangham passed out copies of a presentation on developing legally defensible “high-stakes” and “low-stakes” exams that was given during the recent Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) Annual Educational Conference. A “high-stakes” exam is defined as one the scoring of which will enable or limit an individual’s ability to enter a profession. Her summary of the presentation covered the requirements and best practices for setting standards and developing exams for certification/licensure that are legally defensible.

Dr. Dunham asked several questions about the exams used by LASACT and the requirements for passing those exams. This began a discussion about the role of formal education versus the role of professional training in developing documentation competency for clinical personnel. Dr. Dunham suggested putting together a focus group to assess the weaknesses in the workforce and propose solutions.

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| **V. Revision of Commission Legislative Statutes** |

George McHugh, Vice Chair and Legislative Liaison of the Commission, spoke about the importance of updating the legislation that created the Commission and defines its roles and responsibilities to reflect current circumstances. He passed out copies of this legislation to the Commission members and pointed out several areas that are unclear or no longer valid. He asked the Commission members to consider what their roles and responsibilities should be in the future, and particularly with regard to the numerous changes that are currently taking place (privatization, managed care, etc.). He suggested that an item be placed on next month’s meeting agenda to discuss possibilities. The Commission agreed to review the legislation and table this discussion until the next meeting. Dr. Dunham suggested that the Commission consider spearheading the stakeholder advocacy efforts discussed earlier in the meeting.

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| **VI. Next Commission Meeting** |

The next meeting of the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders was discussed, and the date, time and location were set. The next meeting will take place in Baton Rouge, at OBH Headquarters, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

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| **VII. Adjournment** |

Freddie Landry called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Lief made the motion to adjourn, and Kathy Hayward seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.