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| **L*ouisiana***  **C*ommission on* A*ddictive***  **D*isorders*** |  |  |
|  | ***MINUTES***  ***September 2010*** |  |
|  |  | ***9/21/2010*** |

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| **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** | Freddie Landry  Lloyd Hernandez  Kathleen Leary  Tom Lief | Damon Marsala  Shelley Mockler  Jon Lance Nickelson  Tony Wick |

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| **COMMISSION MEMBERS PARTICIPATING VIA**  **CONFERENCE CALL:** | Kathy Hayward |  |

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| **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** | Lana Bel | Denise Brister  George McHugh |

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

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

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

Freddie Landry called the meeting to order. Tom Lief led the Commission members and guests in the Serenity Prayer. Daryl Koerth conducted roll call.

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| **II. Approval of August Minutes** |

The members of the Commission reviewed the August meeting minutes of the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders. Ms. Landry called for a motion to approve the minutes. Tony Wick made a motion to approve the minutes, and Tom Lief seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the August 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 the privatization process for six addictive disorders treatment facilities. According to Ms. Kliebert, the Office has received all responses to the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) issued for the privatization of these facilities. Ms. Kliebert – based on the recommendations provided by Executive Staff - appointed several personnel to evaluation committees to review and score the proposals for each facility. Currently the proposals are undergoing the evaluation of DHH Contracts personnel. An award for each contract is expected soon. Once the contracts are awarded to the winning proposers, specific contract negotiations will begin. The tentative expectation for the implementation of all contracts is early November. Tom Lief inquired about the impact of privatization on certification and licensure standards. Ms. Kliebert stated that OBH will modify and improve these standards as necessary, but will at least maintain them. Dr. Dunham responded that there are issues, but that they have little to do with the privatization process. Rather, she said, they are due to educational and licensure standards and their reimbursement status according to Medicaid. One example she gave was of a contractor who has stopped using certified/licensed counselors in favor of other qualified professionals who are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. Tom Lief responded to this revelation with the statement “that’s outrageous!” and requested to know how many certified/licensed addiction professionals exist in Louisiana, along with the certification and licensure requirements for each class. The Commission requested the attendance at a future meeting of Marolon Mangham, Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers, Inc., and Lisa Schuster, Executive Director of the Louisiana Addictive Disorders Regulatory Authority, to discuss these issues.

*Budget Update*. Ms. Kliebert gave the Commission a brief update on the status of the agency’s budget. According to Ms. Kliebert there are still several budget deficits in the mental health division, though the agency should be able to accommodate these deficits in the existing budget without any cuts. However, the agency may take mid-year budget cuts this year. The agency is also currently conducting exercises to examine the effects of a proposed 35% budget cut for all state agencies next fiscal year. Administration is looking at the possibilities for consolidation of treatment locations to avoid impacting services, though the agency may still be forced to reduce some services if the budget cuts are severe. Conversely, Ms. Kliebert mentioned that the agency is confident it will be able to get Medicaid reimbursement (coverage) for many addiction services. This will help with maintaining the current level of services as budgetary issues begin to affect the agency’s ability to sustain them. Lloyd Hernandez asked about the difference between how state headquarters, regions, and districts handle budget cuts, since they are technically different entities. Ms. Kliebert explained that state headquarters can affect regional budget cuts to a certain degree, but that districts are in control of how they absorb budget cuts.

*Coordinated System of Care Update*. Ms. Kliebert stated that the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) initiative is moving forward aggressively. Parties involved in the initiative have recommended amendments to the state plan that support the new coordinated system of care. New waivers have been proposed to legitimize the eligibility of all addiction services for Medicaid reimbursement. A public hearing regarding the proposed waivers will be held next Thursday, September 30. Although the coordinated system of care targets a specific juvenile population, all children and adult services are being included where appropriate. The Request for Information that will help in the selection of a State Managing Organization for the system will be released next week. Implementation of a phase of the coordinated system of care is expected to take place in April of next year.

Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, the Office of Behavioral Health’s Medical Director, stated that the CSoC’s workforce development workgroup is responsible for readying the workforce to meet the population’s needs. Training for service providers is being planned, as well as a specific, focused certification process. The priorities for training needs are currently being addressed. Trainings should be begin in January to meet the CSoC’s expected implementation deadlines.

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| **IV. OBH Organization & Integration** |

Kathy Kliebert gave the Commission a brief update on the status of the new organizational structure of OBH. She explained the nature of the three Deputy Assistant Secretary positions that preside over the areas of Development, System of Care, and Administration. The new Deputy Assistant Secretary of Development is Anthony Speier. The new Deputy Assistant Secretary of System of Care is Peter Calamari. The remaining position, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Administration, has not yet been filled.

In addition to the appointment of the new Deputy positions the Office is currently being reorganized to best fit the plans outlined in the OBH Implementation Advisory Committee’s Final Report, which was accepted by the former Secretary of DHH and the Joint Health and Welfare Committee of the Louisiana Legislature. A consultant named Rudy Gomez is currently meeting with staff to help with these consolidation and reorganization efforts.

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| **V. Alcohol Industry Discussion** |

During last month’s Commission meeting, it was proposed that the Commission engage in a conversation concerning the alcohol industry’s role in meeting the needs of addiction treatment in Louisiana. Two Commission members – Shelley Mockler and Damon Marsala – currently own family-operated beer distributorships, meaning they are ideally placed to explain to the Commission the structure of the industry and what actions might possibly be considered as feasible.

Damon Marsala opened the conversation with a brief explanation of the industry’s structure. The “industry” is segmented, meaning that beer, wine, and liquors are all segments that operate independently of one another. The beer distributors have both state and national organizations, but they are loosely-structured and only meet perhaps once or twice annually. This environment would not realistically present a forum for presentation or advocacy of the Commission’s goals.

Shelley Mockler continued by stating that each of the family-operated distributors already participate in considerable prevention and education campaigns in the community. According to her, it is mandated by Anheuser-Busch Companies that distributors allocate a specific portion of their budgets for these purposes.

Tom Dumas, a Program Manager for the Office of Behavioral Health, gave the Commission an explanation of the funding for gambling treatment. According to Mr. Dumas, each gaming venue in the state is taxed. From those tax revenues, the state carves out a percentage – up to $500,000 per venue – for the treatment of compulsive gambling, up to a maximum of $2.5M. The $2.5M in funds generated in this fashion is sufficient to meet the state’s identified need for compulsive gambling treatment.

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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 Lafayette (specific location TBA), from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 26th. Details of the exact location will be forwarded to the Commission members following the conclusion of this meeting.

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| **VII. Adjournment** |

Freddie Landry called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Lief made the motion to adjourn, and Tony Wick seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.