

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
May 5, 2017

Members present: Katie Brittain, Dr. Rachel Durel, Arnold Goldberg, Dr. John Fraiche, Korey Harvey, Linda Hawkins, Dr. Marlon Henderson, Dr. Jesse Lambert, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Barbara Morvant, John Overton, Ed Parker, Katie Parnell, Debra Rushing, Dr. James “Butch” Sonnier, LaCosta Wix and Thomas Wright

Members absent: Robelyn Abadie, Diane Davidson, Dr. William Ferguson, Lisa Gardner, Lauren Gleason, Dr. Anthony Grieco, Dr. Faye Grimsley, Hedy Hebert, Rep. Mike Huval, Randal Johnson, Jesse McCormick, Jennifer McMahan, Dr. Rachel Moore, Andrew Muhl, Ronnell Nolan, Daniel Paquin, Clay Pinson, Dr. Anthony Recasner, Chris Vidrine, Bryan Wagner, Senator Rick Ward

Staff present: Crystal M. Campbell and Julie Freeman

Chairman Dr. Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Dr. Fraiche asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2017 meeting. Mr. Goldberg moved to approve the minutes, Dr. Ferguson seconded the motion, and with no objections, the minutes were approved.

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was noted for the record.

Chairman Fraiche then introduced Candace DeMatteis of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (PFCD).

Ms. DeMatteis reported while there is a lot of discussion among state legislators on a local and federal level about the costs of health care, there is little discussion about chronic disease as a major cost driver in the United States health care system, with half of the population having at least one chronic health care condition.

Ms. DeMatteis stated that the mission of the PFCD is to raise awareness about how chronic disease cost drivers affect the healthcare system and the economy at large through education, outreach meetings and a study of trends. PFCD works on a local level with an economic modeling firm, IHS. In working with IHS to address the human burden of chronic disease the following was determined:

- Approximately 3 million people have at least one chronic condition;

- Between now and 2030, there is an estimated 12 billion in hidden medical costs that will syphon away income from families in terms of wages, employers and the economy at large.
- Without change, it will cost \$8,600 per person in the state of Louisiana.

When considering heart disease and stroke to be the top chronic diseases, the World Health Organization estimates that 80 percent of premature heart disease and Type 2 Diabetes could be prevented by focusing on five risk factors:

1. Tobacco Use
2. Excessive alcohol consumption
3. Unhealthy Eating
4. Obesity
5. Physical Inactivity

In looking towards solutions, Ms. DeMatteis reported that when PFCF partnered with the economic modeling firm, IHS, the central focus was on the reduction of smoking, obesity, and better access to care and adherence to treatment. PFCF determined the state could save 92 billion dollars in the next thirteen years by making the above changes, saving approximately 350,000 lives.

Ms. DeMatteis also discussed the issue of high hospital readmission rates. She reported that one in five people return to the hospital within thirty days, and with Medicaid patients, that number is substantially higher. In order to lower these readmission rates, behavioral changes with the patient, improved medicine management and regular follow-up visits are essential for this to occur.

She also underscored the importance of access quality care with Medicaid expansion deemed to be the gateway to overall quality health care. In Louisiana, federally qualified health care centers that serve underserved populations in different areas around the state are participating in federally funded programs certified as Patient Centered Medical Homes.

Also, it's important to recognize social determinants such as education, transportation and housing. Lack of secure housing has an adverse impact on health, however, progress is being made to impact this social determinant, and the Louisiana Medicaid program has entered into a joint venture with the Louisiana Housing Authority to provide permanent housing for disabled recipients.

Ms. DeMatteis also stressed the importance of recognizing hidden medical costs in mental health care. Access to mental health care is an enormous issue in many states, however, Telehealth programs are being established in several states to address this issue. Productivity costs for employees with poor mental health treatment reportedly cost approximately 58 million per year.

When examining savings for incarcerated inmates, those with mental health conditions served longer sentences and it was determined that seven million dollars a year could be saved in terms of reducing that time in prison with proper mental health care.

Finally, Ms. DeMatteis stated that while there are many changes occurring within the landscape of health care, including the evolving trend of payment for value as opposed to volume, chronic diseases remains a growing, costly burden rapidly increasing worldwide.

Jeff Drozda, CEO of Louisiana Association of Health Plans, concluded the meeting with a presentation of the 2017 Legislation Session.

With no further business, Chairman Fraiche asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ferguson moved to adjourn and Ms. Lisa Gardner seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.