

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
August 24, 2007

Members present: Sandra Adams, Coletta Barrett, Leah Barron, Dr. Robert Barsley, Dr. J. Steven Caraway, Julie Cherry, Kelly Cox, Dr. Robin Daniel, Steve Deist, Kerry Drake, Dr. Thomas Fairley, Donna Fraiche, Veronica Gray, Randal Johnson, Charles Lea, Nancy McPherson, Dr. Alan M. Miller, Phyllis Perron, Richard Raether, Bridgette Richard, Liz Sumrall, Donna Swanson, Marsha Mason Wade and Dr. Leonard Weather.

Members absent: Warren Benoit, Scott Broussard, L. Philip Caillouet, Ron Christner, Dr. Paul Dammers, Curt Eysink, Dr. David Heitmeier, Sabrina Heltz, Dr. R. Jonathan Henderson, A. J. Herbert, Scott Kipper, Rhonda Litt, Joseph “Butch” Passman, George Renaudin, II and Rep. Gary Smith.

Staff present: Alison M. Jones, Thomas Clemons, Vanessa Vince and Karen Krumholt.

Chairperson Donna Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Chairperson Fraiche introduced the new Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) members and their organizations.

- J. Steven Caraway, D.C., Chiropractic Association of Louisiana
- Robin R. Daniel, D.D.S., National Dental Association
- Randal Johnson, Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association
- Nancy C. McPherson, AARP
- Leonard Weather, Jr., M.D., National Medical Association

Chairperson Fraiche introduced a panel of health insurance executives that discussed the current state of Louisiana’s Health Insurance Market. The following persons participated in the panel discussion:

- George Bucher, CEO, Coventry Health Care of Louisiana, Inc.
- Glen Golemi, CEO, United Healthcare, Gulf States Region
- Mike Reitz, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana
- Jamie Schlottman, Market President, Louisiana and South Mississippi, Humana Health Benefit Plan of Louisiana, Inc.

Mr. George Bucher began the discussion and stated that the commercial insurance market is addressing a number of issues regarding increasing health insurance costs and the problem of Louisiana’s uninsured population. Mr. Bucher stated that through benefit consultation, Coventry is working to design health insurance benefits that meet their client’s needs in today’s changing market. Mr. Bucher suggested consumers be aware of their benefits and the cost of those

benefits as well as take an active role by researching the procedures they are having done, knowing their physician and complying with the recommendations of the physician. Mr. Bucher stated that the Charity Hospital was a great resource for trauma and emergency care and an excellent training facility. He expressed the importance of working to develop a charity-like system in New Orleans to serve those needs.

Mr. Mike Reitz stated that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana is seeing more employers offering health insurance and increasing their contributions in order to attract and retain quality employees. Mr. Reitz stressed the importance of expanding health insurance coverage to more people in Louisiana. He stated that national studies have indicated that 70 percent of disease is preventable. He further stated that more employers are beginning to introduce wellness programs in order to create a healthier and more productive work force.

Mr. Jamie Schlottman committed that the insurance industry must do a better job of bridging partnerships with physicians and hospitals to work together and share data in a way that can bring better outcomes and a healthier population to Louisiana. Mr. Schlottman stated that Humana is also experiencing a growth in employer sponsored groups and as a result, they are adding additional health insurance benefits such as wellness programs. Mr. Schlottman suggested that Louisiana needs federal backing to provide a national framework in making progress in the health care reform movement.

Mr. Glen Golemi stated that United Healthcare is also seeing growth in their insured programs. Mr. Golemi advised their company goals are to provide more choices, more affordable benefits and to get more people insured. Mr. Golemi said Louisiana has made some strides referring to the Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP). He stated that additional federal support is needed for the expansion of LaCHIP as well as federal support of a program to cover uninsured adults.

Ms. Coletta Barrett spoke of the problem facing expansion of the Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) due to new federal regulations. Ms. Barrett suggested a letter to the federal government be written in support of the LaCHIP expansion project.

The commission voted to approve the March 23, 2007 meeting minutes.

Ms. Coletta Barrett made a motion to add a new action item to the meeting agenda. The motion was approved. A second motion was made for the Louisiana Health Care Commission (LHCC) to send a letter of support to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Louisiana's Congressional Delegation for the expansion of the Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program. The motion was approved. Ms. Liz Sumrall with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals offered assistance with language and details in writing the letter.

Mr. Charles Lea reviewed the health related bills of the 2007 Regular Session. The handout entitled "Health Related Bills for 2007 Regular Session" is attached.

Mr. Thomas Clemons reported on the Just Coverage Leadership Sessions scheduled for September 5 - 6, 2007. Mr. Clemons stated that the sessions will be facilitated by Ms. Marge Ginsburg from Sacramento Healthcare Decisions. Mr. Clemons advised that the sessions are an opportunity for participants to design a basic health plan to cover the uninsured.

With the beginning of a new study period, Ms. Alison Jones stated that a new strategic plan is needed. She asked for commission members interested in participating in the development of the strategic plan to join a work group to discuss possible study issues. Ms. Alison Jones announced that the next LHCC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 26, 2007.

Chairperson Fraiche reviewed the Federal Health Update.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.