

LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE COMMISSION



Report to the Legislature

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

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Legislative Background

The Louisiana Health Care Commission was created by law in 1992 ([R.S. 22:2161](#)). It is a 47-member multi-disciplined advisory board which undertakes comprehensive review of complex health care issues facing Louisianians.

In 1999, the commission was transferred to the Department of Insurance Statutory authority and membership of the commission are contained in LA R.S. 22:2161.

Since its inception, the commission's membership has changed from its original makeup through Acts of the Legislature in 1995, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2012, and 2014.

Mission

There is hereby created the Louisiana Health Care Commission to review and study the availability and affordability of health care in the state.

The commission shall specifically examine the rising costs of health care in the state, including, but not limited to, the cost of administrative duplication; the costs associated with excess capacity and duplication of medical services; the costs of medical malpractice and liability; the formation and implementation of insurance pools that better assure citizens the ability to obtain health insurance at affordable costs and encourage employers to obtain health care benefits for their employees by increased bargaining power and economies of scale for better coverage and benefit options at reduced costs.

Further, the commission shall examine the implementation issues related to national health care reform initiatives.

Purpose

Through a broad perspective, the commission studies the issues affecting the availability, affordability and delivery of quality health care in Louisiana. The commission is also tasked with examining national health care reform initiatives.

The commission conducted public meetings to receive information and testimony from regional and national experts on health care issues. The commissioner of insurance submitted an annual report to the Legislature on the studies, actions and recommendations of the commission.

Executive Committee

The executive committee for the Louisiana Health Care Commission consists of the chair, vice chair and three LHCC's commission members representing health care providers, insurers and consumers. The mission of the Louisiana Health Care Commission Executive Committee is to plan the agenda for Louisiana Health Care Commission meetings, schedule any emergency meetings necessary between regular meetings and to propose subcommittee assignments. The Louisiana Health Care Commission Executive Committee held four meetings via conference call during this reporting period.

Membership

The Louisiana Health Care Commission is composed of health care experts and other interested parties, including health care insurers and providers, community leaders and representatives of various consumer interests. Membership also includes representatives from the governing boards of Louisiana's colleges and universities, the House and Senate Committees on Insurance and at-large appointments designated by the commissioner of insurance.

2023 Commission Members

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(A list of nominees submitted by the governing boards of state colleges and universities and by a dean from the business schools represented by the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.)

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(A list of nominees submitted by the governing
boards of state colleges and universities and by
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Positions Presently Vacant

LA Department of Health
Agenda for Children
Louisiana Council on Human Rights
Louisiana Health Plan
Louisiana Insurers' Conference
Louisiana Health Plan
Louisiana Insurers' Conference

**National Association for the Advancement of
Colored People**
National Medical Association
NAIFA Louisiana (1) At-Large Appointments

BYLAWS OF THE LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

ARTICLE ONE

NAME

The name of this commission shall be the Louisiana Health Care Commission, created under the provisions of [R.S. 22:2161](#), as created by Act 1068, Section 1 of the 1992 Legislative Session, and as subsequently amended from time to time. The commission shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge.

ARTICLE TWO

PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this commission is to:
- 1) Study the availability and affordability of health care in the state.
 - 2) Examine the rising costs of health care in the state, including but not limited to the cost of administrative duplication, the costs associated with excess capacity and duplication of medical services, the cost of medical malpractice and liability.
 - 3) Examine the adequacy of consumer protections, as well as the formation and implementation of insurance pools that better assure citizens the ability to obtain health insurance at affordable costs and encourage employers to obtain health care benefits for their employees by increased bargaining power and economies of scale for better coverage and benefit options at reduced costs.
 - 4) Examine the implementation issues related to national health care reform initiatives.
 - 5) Conduct public hearings to receive testimony about the availability and affordability of health care in the state.
 - 6) Receive further information and testimony from regional and national experts, when necessary, on health care access issues.
 - 7) Serve as an advisory body to the commissioner and shall submit to the commissioner its recommendations on all matters which it is charged to examine.
 - 8) Submit a yearly report on health care and health insurance. Which takes into consideration the recommendations, actions and studies of the commission, to the legislature prior to each annual regular session.

ARTICLE THREE
MEMBERS

- A. Membership of the commission shall be comprised as follows:
- 1) Three members appointed from a list of nominees submitted by the governing boards of state colleges and universities and by a dean from the business schools represented by the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities;
 - 2) One member of the Senate Committee on Insurance appointed by the President of the Senate as an ex officio, nonvoting member;
 - 3) One member of the House Committee on Insurance appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as an ex officio, nonvoting member;
 - 4) One member appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals;
 - 5) Five at-large members appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance;
 - 6) The Commissioner of Insurance or his designee, shall serve as ex officio;
 - 7) The remaining members shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Insurance from a list of nominees, one nominee to be submitted by each of the following:
 - (1) The Louisiana Insurers' Conference
 - (2) Louisiana Association of Health Plans
 - (3) America's Health Insurance Plans
 - (4) A domestic mutual, nonprofit health service and indemnity company
 - (5) Louisiana State Medical Society
 - (6) Louisiana Association for Justice
 - (7) Health Agents for America
 - (8) Agenda for Children
 - (9) Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of Louisiana
 - (10) AARP Louisiana
 - (11) The National Federation of Independent Businesses
 - (12) Repealed by Acts 2012, No. 271, §2
 - (13) Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association
 - (14) AARP, the nominee of which shall be a volunteer representative
 - (15) Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
 - (16) Louisiana Health Plan
 - (17) NAIFA Louisiana

- (18) League of Women Voters
- (19) Louisiana Hospital Association
- (20) Louisiana Primary Care Association
- (21) Repealed by Acts 2014, No. 90, §2
- (22) A domestic commercial health insurance issuer
- (23) Chiropractic Association of Louisiana
- (24) Louisiana AFL-CIO
- (25) Louisiana Physical Therapy Association
- (26) Louisiana State Nurses Association
- (27) Louisiana Dental Association
- (28) Louisiana Nursing Home Association
- (29) Louisiana's Medicare Peer Review Organization as designated by the Health Care Financing Administration
- (30) Louisiana Business Group on Health
- (31) Louisiana Association of Health Underwriters
- (32) Louisiana Psychological Association
- (33) Optometry Association of Louisiana
- (34) Repealed by Acts 2012, No. 271, §2
- (35) National Medical Association
- (36) National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- (37) Repealed by Acts 2012, No. 271, §2
- (38) Louisiana Council on Human Relations
- (39) National Dental Association

- B. All members shall be confirmed by the Senate.
- C. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation.
- D. The members shall serve for a term of two years.
- E. Vacancies
 - 1) Vacancies in the offices of the members shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments for the unexpired portion of the term of the office vacated.
 - 2) Any member who misses four (4) meetings in any given year or three (3) consecutive meetings shall be considered vacating that seat.
 - 3) Vacancy may be declared upon the resignation, death, incapacity, or non-qualification of a member.

ARTICLE FOUR

OFFICERS

- A. The commissioner of insurance shall appoint a chairman and vice-chairman.
- B. Term of office for chairman and vice-chairman is two years.

ARTICLE FIVE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. The function of the executive committee is to exercise the powers of the commission which arise between regularly scheduled commission meetings or when it is not practical or feasible for the commission to meet.
- B. The committee will consist of the commission chair, the vice-chair and three commissioners representing the following groups: provider, insurer and consumer. Except for the chair and vice-chair, members will serve **two-year staggered terms**. Members will be selected by the chair.
- C. The committee shall meet as necessary. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.
- D. Key Responsibilities
 - 1) Setting the agenda for commission meetings.
 - 2) Strategic Planning
 - 3) Performance Measures
 - 4) Proposing subcommittee assignments (including proposed Chairs) to the commission and coordination of the work of the subcommittees.
 - 5) Any emergency planning or implementation between regularly scheduled meetings.

ARTICLE SIX

MEETINGS

- A. A quorum for the transaction of business by the commission shall be 40 percent of the **filled** seats, **excluding the ex-officio members**.
- B. All official actions of the commission shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum.

- C. The commission shall meet twice in any one calendar year and may meet on the call of the chairman or upon the request of any three members.

ARTICLE SEVEN

COMMITTEES

The commission may establish committees, in such areas as may be directed by its membership. The chairman shall appoint the members of such committees and shall designate the chairman of each such committee. The duties and responsibilities of the committee will be determined by the commission membership. Each appointed committee shall make reports as the committee may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE EIGHT

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

A reasonably current version of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for this commission.

ARTICLE NINE

AMENDMENT

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the membership. Amendments shall be made by a quorum of the membership at such meeting, PROVIDED proper notice is given to the members, together with a copy of the proposed changes, prior to the meeting. These bylaws may be further amended at any time in which the provisions of [R.S. 22:2161](#) are amended.

ARTICLE TEN

NOTICE

All notices relative to this commission are posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Law.

Louisiana Health Care Commission

2023 Meetings

General Meetings

The Louisiana Health Care Commission shall meet twice in any one calendar year and may meet on the call of the chair or upon the request of any three members. The commission may conduct public hearing to receive testimony about the availability and affordability of health care in the state. The commission shall also be permitted to receive further information and testimony from regional and nation experts on health care access issues.

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
February 24, 2023

Members present: Josh Alford, Lauren Bailey, Katie Brittain, Derrell Cohoon, Diane Davidson, Jeff Drozda, Susan Ellender, Dr. John Fraiche, Arnold Goldberg, Rep. John Illg, Derrell Langlois, and Ronnell Nolan, John Overton and James Butch Sonnier

Members absent: Jeff Albright, Ruby Brewer, Dr. Alecia Cyprian, Dr. Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Lisa Gardner, Dr. Faye Grimsley, Randal Johnson, Jesse Lambert, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Jennifer McMahan, Senator Robert Mills, Barbara Morvant, Andrew Muhl, Frank Opelka, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, Dr. Patrice Sentino, Elizabeth Sumrall, Judy Wagner, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and LaCosta Wix

Staff present: Crystal Lewis

Dr. John Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted for the record.

Arnold Goldberg moved to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2022, and the November 17, 2022, meetings and the motion was seconded Derrell Cohoon. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Dr. Vincent Culotta, Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners provided a presentation titled, the Provider Shortage and the Effect on Access to Care.

Jeff Drozda provided a review of the recommendations proposed by the subcommittee on the Affordability and Rising Health Care Costs.

Mr. Drozda moved to approve the recommendations proposed by the subcommittee on the Affordability and Rising Health Care Costs. Mr. Cohoon seconded the motion. Without objection, the recommendations were approved.

Katie Brittain provided a review of the recommendations proposed by the subcommittee on the Availability and Access to Care. Ms. Brittain moved to approve the recommendations proposed by the subcommittee on the Availability and Access to Care.

Mr. Cohoon seconded the motion. Without objection, the recommendations were approved.

Dr. Steven Udvarhelyi, President and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana provided a review of the acquisition of BCBSLA by Elevance Health.

Members engaged in a Q&A with Dr. Udvarhelyi regarding the availability and access of care during the BCBSLA/Elevance merger.

Dr. Fraiche announced the Louisiana Department of Insurance Conference 2023, set for March 27 and 28, 2023.

With no further business Dr. Fraiche moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Goldberg seconded the motion. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28am.

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
August 4, 2023

Members present:

Dr. Faye Grimsley, Ruby Brewer, Katie Brittain, Jeff Drozda, Derrell Cohoon, Arnold Goldberg, Susan Ellender, Barbara Morvant, Lauren Bailey, Butch Sonnier, Diane Davidson, Robert Mills, Lisa Gardner, Rep. John Illg and Alecia Cyprian

Members absent:

Jeff Albright, Josh Alford, Dr. Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Randal Johnson, Jesse Lambert, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Darrell Langlois, Jennifer McMahon, Andrew Muhl, Ronnell Nolan, Frank Opelka, John Overton, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, Dr. Patrice Sentino, Elizabeth Sumrall, Judy Wagner, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and LaCosta Wix

Staff present:

Crystal Stutes and Crystal Lewis

Dr. John Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted for the record.

Arnold Goldberg moved to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2022, and the November 17, 2022, meetings and the motion was seconded Butch Sonnier. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Maureen Hensley-Quinn, Senior Program Director, National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) presented on the *Educating the Consumer on Health Care and Cost of Care*

Jeff Drozda, Chief Executive Officer, Louisiana Association of Health Plans, presented on *Relevant Health Bills that Passed in the 2023 Legislative Session*.

Dustin Moyer, Director of State Initiatives, Center for Improving Value in Health Care (CIVHC), presented on *Colorado's All-Payer Claims Database*.

Subcommittee meeting planning was discussed; staff to coordinate meetings with subcommittee chairmen and members.

With no further business Dr. Fraiche moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Goldberg seconded the motion. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Louisiana Health Care Commission Meeting Minutes
Poydras Building Hearing Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
November 30, 2023

Members present: Joshua Alford, Lauren Bailey, Derrell Cohoon, Jeff Drozda, Jack Duvernay, Susan Ellender, Dr. John Fraiche, Dr. Grimsley, Representative John Illg, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Darrel Langlois, Senator Robert Mills, Barbara Morvant and Frank Opelka

Members absent: Jeff Albright, Katie Brittain, Lisa Colletti, Dr. Alecia Cyprian, Diane Davidson, Rachel Durel, DDS, Dr. William Furgeson, Lisa Gardner, Arnold Goldbert, Linda Hawkins, Randal Johnson, Dr. Jesse Lambert, Jennifer McMahon, Andrew Muhl, B. Ronnell Nolan, John Overton, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, Dr. James C. “Butch” Sonnier, Judy Wagner, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins, LaCosta Wix and Elizabeth Sumrall

Staff present: Crystal Lewis

Dr. John Fraiche called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted for the record.

Susan Ellender moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2023, meeting and the motion was seconded Derrell Cohoon. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Joe Fontenot, Executive Director of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy provided an update on the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).

Dr. Eric Griggs, President of community Health Affairs – Access Health Louisiana, presented on Preventative Health and Consumer Health & Wellness Awareness.

Mr. Drozda moved to approve the recommendations proposed by the subcommittee on the Affordability and Rising Health Care Costs. Mr. Cohoon seconded the motion. Without objection, the recommendations were approved.

Frank Opelka, Deputy Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Insurance, provided a departmental update on health.

With no further business Dr. Fraiche moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Goldberg seconded the motion. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Availability & Access of Health Care
2023 Meetings

The Subcommittee on the Availability and Access of Health Care in the state was created at the November 17, 2022, Louisiana Health Care Commission, general meeting. During the 2023 calendar year, the subcommittee held four meetings: January 20, 2023, February 2, 2023, September 22, 2023, and October 20, 2023.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Availability & Access of Health Care
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2023

Members present: Katie Brittain, Lauren Bailey, Derrell Cohoon, Senator Robert Mills, Alecia Cyprian, Rep. John Illg, Faye Grimsley, Susan Ellender, Barbara Morvant, Joshua Alford, Arnold Goldberg and Ronnell Noland

Members absent: Lisa Colletti, Alecia Cyprian, Diane Davidson, Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. Faye Grimsley, John Fraiche, Arnold Goldberg, Linda Hawkins, Jennifer McMahon, Jessee Lambert, Eva Lamendola, Darrell Langlois, Frank Opelka, Barbara Morvant, Andrew Muhl, B. Ronnell Nolan, Dr. James Sonnier, Judy Wagner, John Overton, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, LaCosta Wix, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and Elizabeth Sumrall

Staff present: Crystal Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Sarah Deyo, DMSc. MMS, PA-C, provided information on Physician Assistant shortages.

Maria Bowen, Louisiana State Medical Society provided information on accessibility of health care in the state.

L. Faye Grimsley, PhD, CIH, MSPH, presented on Provider Shortage and Social Determinants of Health.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Availability & Access of Health Care
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2023

Members present: Katie Brittain, Lauren Bailey, Derrell Cohoon, Rep. John Illg, Barbara Morvant, Dr. Patrice Sentino and Elizabeth Sumrall

Members absent: Lisa Colletti, Alecia Cyprian, Diane Davidson, Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. Faye Grimsley, John Fraiche, Arnold Goldberg, Linda Hawkins, Jennifer McMahon, Jessee Lambert, Eva Lamendola, Darrell Langlois, Frank Opelka, Barbara Morvant, Andrew Muhl, B. Ronnell Nolan, Dr. James Sonnier, Judy Wagner, John Overton, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, LaCosta Wix, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and Elizabeth Sumrall

Staff present: Crystal Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m.

Kathy Baldrige, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, presented on the availability and access of health care from the LANP perspective.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Availability & Access of Health Care
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2023

Members present: Katie Brittain, Lauren Bailey, Derrell Cohoon, Senator Robert Mills, Alecia Cyprian, Rep. John Illg, Faye Grimsley, Susan Ellender, Barbara Morvant, Joshua Alford, Arnold Goldberg and Ronnell Noland

Members absent: Lisa Colletti, Alecia Cyprian, Diane Davidson, Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. Faye Grimsley, John Fraiche, Arnold Goldberg, Linda Hawkins, Jennifer McMahon, Jessee Lambert, Eva Lamendola, Darrell Langlois, Frank Opelka, Barbara Morvant, Andrew Muhl, B. Ronnell Nolan, Dr. James Sonnier, Judy Wagner, John Overton, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, LaCosta Wix, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and Elizabeth Sumrall

Staff present: Crystal Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Dr. Karen Wyble, Ochsner and Chair of the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force, presented on Health Disparities.

Charlotte Martin, Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, presented on the availability and accessibility of health care from the perspective of the LPTB.

Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers, presented on the availability and accessibility of health care from the perspective of social workers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Availability & Access of Health Care
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2023

Members present: Josh Alford, Lauren Bailey, Katie Brittain, Derrell Cohoon, Susan Ellender Rep. John Illg, Randal Johnson, Senator Robert Mills, Barbara Morvant and Dr. Patrice Sentino

Members absent: Lisa Colletti, Alecia Cyprian, Diane Davidson, Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. Faye Grimsley, John Fraiche, Arnold Goldberg, Linda Hawkins, Jennifer McMahon, Jessee Lambert, Eva Lamendola, Darrell Langlois, Frank Opelka, Barbara Morvant, Andrew Muhl, B. Ronnell Nolan, Dr. James Sonnier, Judy Wagner, John Overton, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, LaCosta Wix, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and Elizabeth Sumrall

Staff present: Crystal Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m.

Dr. Benita Chatmon and Dr. Ahnyel Burkes, Louisiana State Nurses Association, provided information on the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

Dr. Demetrius Porche, Professor and Dean of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, presented on the availability and accessibility of health care from a provider shortage perspective.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Affordability & Rising Costs Subcommittee
2023 Meetings

The Subcommittee on the Affordability and Rising Cost of Health Care in the state was created at the November 17, 2022, Louisiana Health Care Commission, general meeting. During the 2023 calendar year, the subcommittee held three meetings: January 9, 2023, January 23, 2023, and January 31, 2023.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Affordability & Rising Costs of Health Care
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023

Members present: Jeff Albright, Jeff Drozda, John Overton, Josh Alford, Katie Brittain, Lisa Gardner, Senator Robert Mills and Susan Ellender

Members absent: Lauren Bailey, Joshua Alford, Derrell Cohoon, Lisa Colletti, Alecia Cyprian, Diane Davidson, Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. Faye Grimsley, John Fraiche, Arnold Goldberg, Linda Hawkins, Jennifer McMahon, Representative John Illg, Randal Johnson, Jesse Lambert, Eva Lamendola, Darrell Langlois, Frank Opelka, Barbara Morvant, Andrew Muhl, B. Ronnell Nolan, Dr. Patrice Sentino, Dr. James Sonnier, Judy Wagner, John Overton, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, LaCosta Wix, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and Elizabeth Sumrall

Staff present: Crystal Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m.

Jeff Drozda delivered a comprehensive overview of the subcommittee's mission.

He also discussed the Mandated Health Benefits Commission, seeking an update on the progress of the commission's work.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Affordability and Rising Costs of
Health Care
January 23, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Lauren Bailey, Michael Bertaut, Katie Brittain, Jeff Drozda, Jennifer McMahan, John Overton, Mara Osman, Miranda Motter, Derrell Cohoon, Arnold Goldberg, Aaron Tucker, Frank Opelka, Senator Robert Mills and Susan Ellender

Members absent:

Ruby Brewer, Dr. Alecia Cyprian, Diane Davidson, Susan Ellender, Arnold Goldberg, Dr. Faye Grimsley, Representative Illg, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Ronnell Nolan, Jeff Albright, Josh Alford, Dr. Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. John Fraiche, Lisa Gardner, Randal Johnson, Jesse Lambert, Darrell Langlois, Senator Robert Mills, Barbara Morvant, Andrew Muhl, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, Dr. Patrice Sentino, Dr. James “Butch” Sonnier, Elizabeth Sumrall, Judy Wagner, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and LaCosta Wix

Staff present:

Crystal M. Stutes, Kevin Smith and Crystal Lewis

Chairperson Jeff Drozda called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Jeff Drozda provided an overview of the subcommittee’s work.

Miranda Motter provided information to the subcommittee that was recently presented at the 2022 NAIC Fall National meeting. Ms. Motter fielded questions from commission members after her presentation.

Michael Bertaut of Blue Cross Blue Shield presented on Threats to Affordable Insurance. Mr. Bertaut fielded question from commission members after his presentation.

Jennifer McMahan presented on Advancing Affordability, Value and Equity in Health. Ms. McMahan fielded questions from commission members after her presentation.

Crystal Lewis provided a summary of the recommendations mentioned throughout the meeting and asked members to provide comments to commission staff.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Louisiana Health Care Commission
Subcommittee on the Affordability and Rising Costs of
Health Care
January 31, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Katie Brittain, Lauren Bailey, Jeff Drozda, John Overton, Frank Opelka, Patrice Sentino, Representative Illg, Derrell Cohoon, Jennifer McMahon, Joshua Alford and Barbara Morvant

Members absent:

Ruby Brewer, Dr. Alecia Cyprian, Diane Davidson, Susan Ellender, Arnold Goldberg, Dr. Faye Grimsley, Dr. Eva Lamendola, Ronnell Nolan, Jeff Albright, Josh Alford, Dr. Rachel Durel, Jack Duvernay, Dr. William Ferguson, Dr. John Fraiche, Lisa Gardner, Randal Johnson, Jesse Lambert, Darrell Langlois, Senator Robert Mills, Andrew Muhl, Ed Parker, Debra Rushing, Dr. Patrice Sentino, Dr. James “Butch” Sonnier, Elizabeth Sumrall, Judy Wagner, Scott Webre, Dr. Frances Wiggins and LaCosta Wix

Staff present:

Crystal M. Stutes and Crystal Lewis

Chairperson Jeff Drozda called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

Jeff Drozda included an overview of the subcommittee’s work and suggested that the committee create studies on the high costs of pharmaceutical drugs, promoting home-based care and on promoting the use of specialty pharmacies.

John Overton spoke about the small business insurance options and providing consumers information on their options.

Derrell Cohoon, agreed with Jeff Drozda on high pharmaceutical costs and made reference to the high cost of in-patient care costs.

Katie Brittain noted that we are not ready for a solution and suggested beginning with an educational component or a study.

Jeff Drozda that the committee look at educating doctors on the cost of drugs that are prescribed to patients. Mr. Drozda also emphasized the issues surrounding brand and generic drug availability and their efficacies. Additionally, he noted the options for patients in both traditional and home-based care settings; noting that home-based care options are often less expensive than the care performed in many facilities.

Derrell Cohoon spoke about the high cost of care being broader than the cost of prescription drugs. Mr. Cohoon referenced the impacts of mandated benefits and how they influence the rise of health care.

Mike Bertaut emphasized a need transparency in how health care is financed. Mr. Bertaut noted a common misconception on where the health care dollar is spent. He also expressed interest in educating legislators on the biggest part of the state's budget by leading the charge for an educational forum for legislative leaders.

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Katie Brittain referenced Mr. Bertaut's statement on where the average health care dollar is spent. Ms. Brittain noted that through legislation someone will be helped but someone will also be hurt. Ms. Brittain also emphasized a need to conduct more hearings to receive more data on the flow of the health care dollar and a expressed a desire to create an information packet.

Frank Opelka provided an update on the Mandated Health Benefits Commission. Deputy Commissioner Opelka noted that the goal is to get the commission restarted before the start of the legislative session. He also provided information that references how health insurance bills could potentially be scored differently based on statute and joint rule.

Jeff Drozda spoke about a recommendation to limit the previous studies that he mentioned to one or two high-cost areas. Mr. Drozda also noted the price-setting capabilities of drug manufacturers; mentioning that those companies are allowed to increase the price of drugs up to four times per year.

Derrell Cohoon emphasized the idea of a strong recommendation to the legislature.

Jeff Drozda noted that mandated benefits are causing the cost of health insurance to continue to go up because they are very expensive, and many times cater to a very specific group.

Crystal Lewis provided a summary of the recommendations mentioned throughout the meeting and asked members to provide comments to commission staff.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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2023 Recommendations

Subcommittee on Affordability and the Rising Cost of Health Care

- 1) Engage and Strengthen Louisiana Mandated Health Benefits Commission
- 2) Pharmacy Drug Cost Transparency
- 3) Mandated Long Term Services and Support Study Committee

Engage and Strengthen Louisiana Mandated Health Benefits Commission ([R.S. 22:2187](#))

With the legislature increasing passage of mandates each year, it is important to understand the relation these mandates have to increases in health insurance premiums and costs to the state, to properly follow existing state law and to revise such law as needed.

Recommendation: As required by law, the commission appointees should be named as soon as possible in preparation for the upcoming legislative session. The commission should meet at least monthly; one month prior to and every month during a legislative session to accurately analyze the true costs of each mandate being considered and report that information to the appropriate legislative committees. The commission shall consider and report on all new and expanded mandates, and legislation may be needed to assist with proper implementation.

Pharmacy Drug Cost Transparency

With pharmacy drugs accounting for 26 cents on every health care dollar, there is a need for more education for both provider and patient when a drug is being prescribed. There are organizations such as Arrive Health, that uses real-time cost comparisons on generic and brand drugs. This information, which benefits the provider and patient, can be shared with the patient before leaving the doctor's office.

Recommendation: All medical providers and health systems should implement drug cost transparency technology within the next two to three years.

No legislation required.

MLTSS Study Committee

Many states continue to move toward offering more at-home health care options for those who do not need to be placed in an institutional setting. Managed Long Term Services and Support (MLTSS) can offer these options at a cost which may be significantly lower than other alternatives so that loved ones can continue to live independently.

Recommendation: The legislature should enact a study committee to direct the Louisiana Department of Health to review what other states have done in implementing MLTSS and report the findings back to the legislature and the Louisiana Health Care Commission. The study committee should contact the National MLTSS Health Plan Association to gather information on best practices.

Requires Legislation.

2023 Recommendations

Subcommittee on the Availability and Access to Health Care

Creation of a Statewide Research Institute that Mimics the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research in North Carolina.

Creating a state-wide research institute is a crucial step towards promoting innovation, fostering economic growth, and addressing critical societal issues. By consolidating resources and expertise from various universities, industries, and government agencies, a state-wide research institute can efficiently tackle complex problems that require interdisciplinary collaboration. This institute can serve as a hub for cutting-edge research in health care.

Furthermore, a state-wide research institute can attract top talent and create a conducive environment for collaboration and knowledge sharing. By bringing together researchers and experts from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, the institute can facilitate cross-disciplinary collaborations that lead to breakthrough discoveries and advancements. This collaborative approach can help to accelerate the pace of research and drive progress in key areas that are critical to the state's future prosperity.

In addition, a state-wide research institute can play a key role in fostering partnerships between academia, industry, and government, leading to the commercialization of research findings and the development of new technologies and products. By working closely with industry partners, the institute can ensure that research efforts are aligned with the needs of the private sector, increasing the likelihood of successful technology transfer and commercialization. This, in turn, can support economic growth, create job opportunities, and enhance the state's competitiveness in the global marketplace. Overall, establishing a state-wide research institute is a strategic investment that can yield significant benefits for the state and its residents in the long term.

Requires Legislation.

Providing Incentives for Providers Serving Rural Health Areas

Incentivizing health care providers to go to rural areas is essential for ensuring that all individuals have access to quality healthcare services regardless of where they live. Rural communities often face challenges in attracting and retaining healthcare professionals, which can lead to disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. One way to incentivize healthcare providers to work in rural areas is by offering financial incentives such as student loan repayment programs or higher salaries. These incentives can help offset the challenges associated with practicing in rural areas, such as lower patient volumes and limited resources.

In addition to financial incentives, providing support and resources to healthcare providers in rural areas can also help encourage them to stay. Incentives can include offering professional development opportunities, mentoring programs, and access to state-of-the-art medical technology. By creating a supportive and collaborative environment for healthcare providers in rural areas, they are more likely to feel valued and invested in their work, which can lead to improved job satisfaction and retention.

Lastly, improving the overall infrastructure and healthcare system in rural areas is crucial for attracting and retaining healthcare providers. Improvements can include investing in telemedicine services, expanding access to specialty care, and building new healthcare facilities. By enhancing the healthcare infrastructure in rural areas, healthcare providers are more likely to see the value in practicing in these communities and providing much-needed care to underserved populations. Incentivizing healthcare providers to work in rural areas is essential for ensuring that all individuals have access to quality healthcare services, regardless of where they live. By offering a combination of financial incentives, support, and resources, we can help address the healthcare disparities that exist in rural communities and improve health outcomes for all individuals.

Requires Legislation.

Providing Subsidies for Providers Accepting Medicaid Patients

Providing subsidies for healthcare providers who accept Medicaid patients is crucial in ensuring that low-income individuals have access to quality healthcare. Many healthcare providers are reluctant to accept Medicaid patients due to the low reimbursement rates offered by the program. By offering subsidies to providers who accept Medicaid patients, the government can incentivize more healthcare providers to participate in the program, thus ensuring that low-income individuals have access to the care they need.

Furthermore, providing subsidies for accepting Medicaid patients can also help to reduce healthcare disparities among low-income populations. Studies have shown that individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid often face barriers to accessing healthcare, such as difficulty finding providers who accept their insurance. By offering subsidies to providers who accept Medicaid patients, the government can help to alleviate these barriers and ensure that all individuals have access to quality healthcare regardless of their income level.

In conclusion, providing subsidies for healthcare providers who accept Medicaid patients is essential in promoting health equity and ensuring that all individuals have access to the care they need. By incentivizing more providers to participate in the Medicaid program, the government can help to reduce disparities in healthcare access and improve health outcomes for low-income populations. It is crucial that policymakers continue to prioritize efforts to support providers who serve Medicaid patients in order to create a more equitable healthcare system for all individuals.

Requires Legislation.

Pilot Program to Include Social Workers in Libraries

Libraries are often seen as pillars of communities, providing resources, information, and a safe space for people of all ages. However, in recent years, libraries have faced challenges in meeting the diverse needs of their patrons, including those who may require social services. By offering a pilot program for social workers in libraries, these institutions can better address the underlying needs of their communities and provide more comprehensive support to those in need.

Social workers are trained professionals who are equipped to address a wide range of issues such as mental health, homelessness, substance abuse and poverty. By having a social worker on staff

in a library setting, patrons can access critical services and resources in a familiar and non-stigmatizing environment. This initiative can help bridge the gap between social services and local communities, providing a more holistic approach to addressing social issues.

Additionally, by providing a pilot program for social workers in libraries, these professionals can reach a wider audience and serve individuals who may not otherwise seek help. Libraries are often perceived as neutral and welcoming spaces, making them an ideal setting for social workers to connect with individuals who may be hesitant to seek assistance elsewhere. This innovative approach can ultimately strengthen the relationship between libraries and their communities, demonstrating their commitment to supporting the well-being of all patrons.

H.R. 3006, by Representative Sylvia R. Garcia of Texas, directs the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the placement of students and licensed professional social workers in public libraries. The bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on April 23, 2023, but has yet to be scheduled by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Requires Legislation.

Addressing Nursing Shortage

Nursing shortage is a pressing issue that is affecting healthcare systems worldwide. To address this problem, legislation must be implemented to attract and retain qualified nurses in the workforce. One way to do this is by increasing funding for nursing education programs and offering scholarships and loan forgiveness programs for individuals pursuing a career in nursing. By providing financial support for aspiring nurses, more individuals may be encouraged to enter the field and help alleviate the shortage.

Additionally, legislation can focus on improving working conditions for nurses to retain current staff and prevent burnout. Legislation can include implementing staffing ratios to ensure nurses are not overwhelmed with patient care responsibilities, as well as offering competitive salaries and benefits packages. By creating a supportive and conducive work environment for nurses, healthcare facilities can prevent the high turnover rates that often contribute to the shortage of nursing staff.

Furthermore, legislation can also promote the use of technology and innovative solutions, such as telehealth and virtual nursing, to expand the reach of healthcare services and alleviate the burden on nursing staff. By embracing technology, nurses can have access to tools and resources that can streamline their workflow and improve patient care outcomes. Expanding technology can also help attract tech-savvy individuals to the nursing profession, further bridging the gap in the workforce. In conclusion, addressing the nursing shortage through legislation is essential to ensure the quality and accessibility of healthcare services for all individuals. By investing in education, improving working conditions, and embracing technological advancements, policymakers can make significant strides in alleviating the shortage and ultimately improving the overall well-being of patients and the healthcare system as a whole.

Requires Legislation.

2023 Annual Conference

The Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) held its second combined event sponsored by the LDI in conjunction with the Louisiana Health Care Commission, the Property and Casualty Commission and the Louisiana Automobile Theft & Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority.

The conference was held over the course of two days on Monday, March 27 and Tuesday, March 28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The conference addressed topics including a preview of the 2023 Louisiana Legislative Session, federal updates from the NAIC, health care cost transparency and contractor fraud.

Other topics lined up for this event include the benefits of FORTIFIED Homes building standards, PBM reforms, the impact of distracted driving on insurance premiums and more.

Looking Ahead

The Louisiana Health Care Commission will continue to study, monitor and make recommendations related to the availability and affordability of health care and health care coverage to the commissioner of insurance.

The Louisiana Health Care Commission will continue to study the issue of the uninsured and underinsured to make recommendations as to mechanisms to further expand coverage options.

Additionally, the Louisiana Health Care Commission will collaborate with stakeholders from across the health care industry, including providers, insurers, policymakers, and community organizations, to develop comprehensive strategies for improving health care delivery and outcomes in the state.

The Louisiana Health Care Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of federal health care reform as policies develop at both state and national level.

By staying informed about legislative developments at both the federal and state levels, the commission can provide timely recommendations to the commissioner of insurance on how best to navigate changes in health care policy that may affect Louisiana residents. Through its ongoing research and analysis efforts, the commission aims to ensure that all Louisianans have access to high-quality, affordable health care services.

MEET OUR TEAM

Our dedicated team



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Offer Input to the
Louisiana Health
Care Commission

DON'T BE SHY! EMAIL US!

LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE 2023

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