

House Committee on Appropriations

Minutes of Meeting
2016 First Extraordinary Session
February 16, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in Room 5, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Cameron Henry, Chairman
Representative Mark Abraham
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative James K. Armes, III
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Robert E. Billiot
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Charles R. Chaney
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Franklin J. Foil, Vice Chairman
Representative Lance Harris
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Jack G. McFarland
Representative Blake Miguez
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Steve E. Pylant
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Scott M. Simon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Penny B. Bouquet, Administrative Secretary
Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, Legislative Analyst
Ms. Nancy Keaton, Legislative Analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

None

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**IV. OTHER BUSINESS****Department of Health and Hospitals**

Mr. Chris Keaton, Deputy Director, and Ms. Nancy Keaton, Legislative Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-1964, gave an overview and discussed the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budgets for the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH).

Mr. Jeff Reynolds, Undersecretary of DHH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6726, gave an overview and discussed the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budgets for DHH.

Ms. Jen Steele, Interim Medicaid Director for DHH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, answered questions regarding the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget for Medicaid.

Mr. Jared Stark, Chief Executive Officer for University Hospital and Clinics in Lafayette, 2390 West Congress Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 261-6000; Mr. Scott Wester, Chief Executive Officer of Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, 5000 Hennessy Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 765-6565; and Mr. Rene Ragas, Chief Executive Officer of Our Lady of the Angels Hospital, 433 Plaza Street, Bogalusa, LA 70427, (985) 730-6700, were called to the table to give witness testimony on the impact the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget reduction has on hospital operations and the public/private partnerships.

Mr. Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, discussed the Governor's plan for Medicaid expansion.

Ms. Tara LeBlanc, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Aging and Adult Services, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, discussed the Community Choice waiver.

Mr. Reynolds, Ms. Steele, and Dr. David J. Holcombe, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public Health, P.O. Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 342-9500, discussed Medicaid co-payments and Federally Qualified Health Centers with the committee.

The meeting recessed at 11:59 a.m. and reconvened at 1:24 p.m.

Mr. Darryl Purpera and Mr. Chris Magee, Legislative Auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 339-3800, discussed the audit findings within DHH.

Ms. Steele and Mr. Reynolds discussed additional Table of Organization positions requested in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget, merit increases within the DHH, and the "worst case" scenario for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget with the committee.

Mr. Purpera discussed contracts with Magellan Health Inc.

Dr. James E. Hussey, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Behavioral Health, P.O. Box 629, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 342-9500 gave an overview of services provided by the Office of Behavioral Health.

Special Schools and Commissions

Mr. Tim Mathis, Budget Analyst for the House Fiscal Division, gave an overview of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budgets for Special Schools and Commissions.

Mr. Ralph Thibodeaux, Superintendent of Louisiana Specials Schools, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 757-3200, gave an overview and discussed the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget for the Louisiana School for the Deaf and Visually Impaired and the Louisiana Special Education Center.

Dr. Patrick Widhalm, Executive Director, and John A. Allen, Director of Finance and Operations for the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts (LSMSA), 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (318) 357-2520, gave an overview and discussed the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budgets for LSMSA.

Senator Gerald Long provided testimony regarding the achievements and accolades of LSMSA.

Mr. Kyle Wedberg, President and Chief Executive Officer of New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), 2800 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 940-2787, gave an overview and discussed the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budgets for NOCCA.

Ms. Beth Courtney, President and Chief Executive Officer of Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) and Executive Director of the Louisiana Educational Television Authority (LETA), 7733 Perkins

Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 767-4200, gave an overview and discussed the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget for LETA.

Ms. Shan Davis, Executive Director, and Ms. Daria Martin, Accountant Administrator of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), 1201 North Third Street, Suite 5-190, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-5840, gave an overview and discussed the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget for BESE.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Pylant offered a motion to adjourn, to which there was no objection. The motion passed by a vote of 23 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Armes, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Foil, Harris, Hodges, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Miller, Pylant, Richard, Schroder, Smith, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry
House Committee on Appropriations