

## **House Committee on Appropriations**

Minutes of Meeting  
2018 Regular Session  
April 10, 2018

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Cameron Henry, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, called the meeting to order at 8:10 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 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 Reid Falconer  
Representative Franklin J. Foil, vice chairman  
Representative Lance Harris  
Representative Bob Hensgens  
Representative Walt Leger, III  
Representative Jack G. McFarland  
Representative Blake Miguez  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Steve E. Pylant  
Representative Jerome Richard  
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative James K. Armes, III  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Scott M. Simon

Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Katie Andress, Secretary

Mr. Peter G. E. Conroy, Legislative Analyst

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

None

**III. DISCUSSION**

**House Bill No. 1 of the 2018 Regular Session by Representative Henry**

**Louisiana Department of Health**

Representative Henry discussed the email that Dr. Hollier received from Dr. Steve Nelson, which was referred to during the April 8, 2018, Appropriations meeting. Representative Henry stated a copy of the LDH termination letter was requested; emails were received instead.

Dr. Rebeka Gee, Secretary, Mr. W. Jeff Reynolds, Undersecretary, and Mr. Steve Russo, Executive Counsel, Louisiana Dept. of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed with Representatives Henry and Leger the op/ed letter from The Advocate.

Dr. Gee, Mr. Steve Russo, Ms. Michelle Aletto, Deputy Secretary, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed the New Orleans public/private partnership (PPP), reductions, and medical vendor savings.

Mr. Michael Boutte, Medicaid Deputy Director, La. Dept. of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 342-1112, and Mr. Reynolds discussed Medicaid fraud with Representative Leger.

Dr. Gee, Mr. Reynolds, and Ms. Aletto discussed Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) with Representatives Leger and Bacala.

Mr. Mark Thomas, Deputy Secretary, La. Dept. of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1112, discussed state operating facilities, hospital community-based services, and waiver slots with Representative Bacala.

Dr. Gee and Representative Lance Harris discussed primary-care access to Medicaid patients and the effects of budget reductions on the state's private/public partnerships (PPP) in the Rapides Parish area.

Dr. Gee, Mr. Reynolds, and Mr. Russo discussed Medicaid rate adjustments, state general fund, and Medicaid medical transportation (Friends and Family Providers) with Representative Lance Harris.

Mr. Manfred Dix, Economist, Division of Administration, Office of Planning and Budget, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7000, provided answers to Representative Lance Harris's questions about impact analysis proposed on the executive budget.

Representative Edmonds inquired if there were administrative changes that the department might consider as it relates to administration, operations costs, travel, and personnel. Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Alletto discussed the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and the Office of Public Health (OPH) with Representative Edmonds.

Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Aletto discussed the increasing cost of care for the state's uninsured population and the impact of a disproportionate share of funding to programs for senior citizens with Representative Billiot.

Ms. Jen Steele, Medicaid Director, 628 North Fourth Street, La. Dept. of Health (LDH), Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, discussed the Medicaid expansion program, and Ms. Karen Stubbs, Assistant Secretary, Office of Behavioral Health, La. Dept. of Health (LDH) Bienville Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA (225) 342-1435, discussed the Coordinated System of Care (CSoc) with Representatives Amedée and McFarland.

Commissioner Dardenne and Mr. Reynolds discussed with Representatives McFarland and Hensgens capitated rates with other contracts state-wide and their cost control compared to the remainder of the state.

Ms. Aletto, Mr. Reynolds, and Representative Hensgens discussed waiver slots, Miller Trust for Medicaid eligibility population, and long-term community-based services.

Dr. Gee, Mr. Russo, and Mr. Reynolds discussed the impact of closing the University Medical Center in New Orleans with Representative Gary Carter.

Mr. Reynolds discussed potential efficiencies and implementing improvements within LDH with Representative Bacala.

**Public testimony regarding the appropriations proposed in House Bill No. 1 of the 2018 Regular Session**

Representative Henry indicated that the committee would hear public testimony regarding the appropriations proposed in House Bill No. 1, schedule by schedule.

### **Higher Education - Schedule 19**

Mr. Arthur Williams, Jr., Council of Student Body Presidents, 1201 North Third Street, #6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 771-2529, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Adarian Williams, Council of Student Body Presidents, 1202 North Third Street, #6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 936-3754, spoke for information only on Bill No. 1.

Mr. Anthony Kinney, Council of Student Body Presidents, 1201 North Third Street, #6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 771-2585, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Benjamin Rice, Council of Student Body Presidents, 1201 North Third Street, 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 257-4565, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr Zachary Hitt, Council of Student Body Presidents, 1201 North Third Street, 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 345-9153, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Austin Wendt, Council of Student Body President, 1201 North Third Street, 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 936-3754, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1.

### **Louisiana Department of Health - Schedule 9**

Mr. Al Robichaux, Executive Director, Jefferson Council on Aging, 6620 Riverside Drive, Suite 216, Metairie, LA 70003, (504) 888-5880, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Howard Rodgers, Director, New Orleans Council on Aging, (no address provided) (504) 821-4121, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Mike Rome, Executive Director, Madison Parish Voluntary Council on Aging, (no address or phone number provided), spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. April Dunn, La. Council Chairperson, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (LADDC) 3902 White Sands Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, (225) 272-4080, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Ashley McReynolds, 1862 Tudor Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 715-5740, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Nina Savoie, 11571 Homeport Drive, Maurepas, LA 70449, (225) 289-1962, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Crystal White, 404050 Champagne Avenue, Ascension Parish, (no further address given), (985) 507-6958, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Jamie Duplechine, 1307 West Willow Street, Apt. 113-A, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Kodi Wilson, 16022 Batavia, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 279-8870, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Lillian DeJean, 404 Hidden Wood Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508, (337) 852-4057, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Jeannette Plourde, 9363 Rainford Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (203) 508-5383, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Kim Basile, 42 Rosedown Drive, Destrehan, LA 70047, (504) 914-5095, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Sandy Winchell, Executive Director, La. Developmental Disabilities Council (no card), 626 Main Street, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 342-6804, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Jeff Arseneaux, People First Louisiana, 606 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Ellis Burrell, 1122 East Ascension Complex, Gonzales, LA, (225) 621-2000, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. David Gassie, 24615J Gerald Berret Boulevard, Plaquemine, LA 70764, (225) 682-4062, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Pat Cranford, ARC of Monroe, 901 North Fourth Street, Monroe, LA 71201, (318) 387-7817, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Tina Holly, 901 North Fourth Street, Monroe, LA 71201, (318) 387-7817, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Joy Barbin, 546 S. Main Street, Marksville, LA 71351, (318) 481-0922, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Kathleen Abels, TARC, 408 Cypress Street, Hammond, LA 70401, (985) 345-8811, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Veronica Booksh, TARC, 408 Cypress Street, Hammond, LA 71401, (985) 345-8811, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Ryan Griffin, TARC, 301 Oakland Drive, Apt. 7, Hammond, LA 70403, (985) 8811, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Rubye Noble, Volunteers of American National Board, 632 Orion Avenue, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 831-7370, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Caroline Meehan, Volunteers of America, 4152 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 482-9707, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Sue Yacovissi, Pinecrest Intermediate Care Facility, 610 Woodmere Drive, Shreveport, LA 71115, (318) 797-3509, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Julie Sancho, 40463 Ethel Street, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 715-5981, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Terry LaFleur, 169 Rue Richoumer, Ville Platte, LA, (337) 363-4230, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Renee Wells, Rapides Pediatric Day Health Center, 168 Harry Ray Road, Glenmora, LA 71433, (318) 659-5776, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Kelli Granger, Pediatric, Day Health Center, 10761 DeVille Lane, Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 664-5435, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Tiffany Netters, Louisiana Primary Care Association, 503 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 892-4133, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

#### **Louisiana Workforce Commission - Schedule 14**

Mr. Lynn Blanchard, Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center, 409 West St. Mary Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 234-6492, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Pam Allen, National Federation of the Blind, 101 South Trenton Street, Ruston, LA, (318) 251-2891, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Beau Ellerbe, National Federation of the Blind, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Father Patrick Mascarella, Baton Rouge Catholic Diocese, addressed the committee on Louisiana Rehabilitative Services, Affiliated Blind of Louisiana, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Andrew Mull, American Association of Retired Persons, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (no phone number provided) spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Edward Carlson, Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House Louisiana, 1125 North Tonti, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 494-9628, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Mr. Mike Martin, Executive Director, Responsibility House, 1799 Stumpf Boulevard, Suite #4, Terrytown, LA 70056, (504) 366-6217, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Melanie Bronfin, Executive Director, La. Policy Institute for Children, P. O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA 70185, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

Ms. Angela Lori, Tach Mommas of Louisiana, 11850 Wangling Avenue, #A8, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 778-7765, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative McFarland offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 21 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry, Abraham, Amedée, Bacala, Bagley, Berthelot, Billiot, Gary Carter, Chaney, Edmonds, Falconer, Foil, Lance Harris, Hensgens, Leger, McFarland, Miguez, Dustin Miller, Pylant, Richard, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Cameron Henry  
House Committee on Appropriations