

## **Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 - 2021 Interim Session  
March 26, 2021

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

Representative Rick Edmonds, chairman of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The committee administrative assistant called the roll.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

Representative Rick Edmonds, chairman  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative Thomas A. Pressly  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.

#### **REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT:**

Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore

#### **SENATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Bob Hensgens  
Senator Patrick McMath

#### **SENATORS ABSENT:**

Senator Regina Ashford Barrow  
Senator Heather Miley Cloud  
Senator Jimmy Harris  
Senator J. Cameron Henry, Jr., vice chairman

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Katie Andress, committee administrative assistant  
Shayla Cockerm, attorney  
Drew Murray, legislative analyst  
Chas Nichols, budget analyst

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

### III. DISCUSSION

#### **Discussion regarding improving data analytics in the Medicaid Program industry best practices in healthcare data analytics**

Mr. Mayur Yermaneni, chief strategy and growth officer, and Mr. Sean Marchiafava, chief information and technology officer, eQHealth Solutions, 8440 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 926-6353, discussed certain utilization management services provided by eQHealth Solutions, certain Medicaid trends in other states who use eQHealth Solutions services, and the cost savings associated with using these services with Representative Edmonds.

Mr. Yermaneni and Mr. Marchiafava also discussed the ways in which data analytics can mitigate and reduce the risk of fraud within the Medicaid Program with Representative Edmonds.

Mr. Yermaneni discussed the obstacles for eQHealth Solutions to provide services in Louisiana, and Mr. Marchiafava discussed the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) approval of the use of certain data analytics technology with Representative Wheat. Mr. Yermaneni also discussed certain contract agreements with Representative Wheat.

Mr. Yermaneni provided statistics regarding the number of fee-for-service states who work with eQHealth Solutions with Senator Hensgens.

Mr. Yermaneni and Mr. Marchiafava discussed services provided to New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) recipients and the impact of turnover rates for service providers with Representative Bacala.

Mr. Yermaneni discussed certain services provided by eQHealth Solutions compared to Managed Care Organization (MCO) services with Senator Hensgens and Representative Bacala.

Mr. Yermaneni discussed certain services provided to MCOs in Florida with Representative Edmonds. Mr. Yermaneni and Mr. Marchiafava also provided statistics regarding certain states who have implemented modernization within the Medicaid Program with Representative Edmonds.

Ms. Ruth Johnson, undersecretary, and Ms. Mitzi Hochheiser, chief technology officer, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed the department's utilization management practices within the Medicaid Program and funds budgeted for modularization per CMS guidelines with Representatives Edmonds and Pressly.

Ms. Hochheiser and Ms. Johnson discussed certain contracts recently awarded for Medicaid services with Representative Edmonds.

Ms. Hochheiser and Ms. Tara LeBlanc, interim Medicaid director, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, discussed LDH's current data analytics system for quality of care management with Representative Edmonds and Senator Hensgens.

Ms. Johnson discussed the department's efforts to improve the state's medical outcomes with Representative Edmonds. Ms. Johnson also discussed the services provided by Deloitte with Representative Bacala.

Ms. Hochheiser discussed the largest components of modularity within the Medicaid Program with Representative Bacala.

Ms. Johnson discussed the department's modularization efforts and the potential penalties for noncompliance with Representative Wheat. Ms. Johnson and Ms. LeBlanc also discussed the department's efforts to gauge the return on investment of the state's MCOs and penalties for noncompliance with Representatives Edmonds and Pressly.

#### **Discussion of the proposed money follows the patient hospital payment methodology**

Ms. Johnson discussed the status of CMS approval of the proposed money follows the patient hospital payment methodology with Representative Edmonds. Ms. Johnson also discussed the department's excess budget authority in the department's FY22 budget, the commercial rate for certain hospitals, and the impact of commercial rate reductions on certain hospitals with Representatives Bacala and Wheat.

Representative Bacala took a personal privilege to acknowledge the department's work and cooperation with the committee.

#### **Presentation from the Office of Behavioral Health regarding the opioid epidemic in Louisiana including prevention and treatment**

Ms. Karen Stubbs, assistant secretary, Office of Behavioral Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, presented an overview and discussed Louisiana's opioid epidemic. Ms. Stubbs also provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Ms. Stubbs discussed certain statistics regarding opioid prescriptions written in Louisiana with Representatives Edmonds and Wheat. Ms. Stubbs also discussed certain statistics within the Hope Council report, the public's access to Naloxone, and the department's efforts to prevent opioid abuse in schools with Representative Edmonds.

Ms. Stubbs discussed the success of OBH's 2019 Opioid Response Summit and the correlation between opioid use and vaping with Representative Wheat.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Persons who do not feel comfortable giving testimony in person at this time may submit a prepared statement in lieu of appearing before the committee:

A. Any interested person or any committee member may file with the committee a prepared statement concerning a specific instrument or matter under consideration by the committee or concerning any matter within the committee's scope of authority, and the committee records shall reflect receipt of such statement and the date and time thereof.

B. Any person who files a prepared statement which contains data or statistical information shall include in such prepared statement sufficient information to identify the source of the data or statistical information.

For the purposes of this Paragraph, the term "source" shall mean a publication, website, person, or other source from which the data or statistical information contained in the prepared statement was obtained by the person or persons who prepared the statement.

NOTE: Only statements mailed to [andressk@legis.la.gov](mailto:andressk@legis.la.gov) and received prior to noon on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, will be included in the record for this committee meeting.

All persons desiring to participate in the meeting shall utilize appropriate protective health measures and observe the recommended and appropriate social distancing.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Rick Edmonds  
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Date adopted: