

## **Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee**

Minutes of Meeting  
2021 Interim  
October 29, 2021

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

Representative Rick Edmonds, chairman of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Rick Edmonds, chairman  
Representative Tony Bacala  
Representative Roy Daryl Adams for Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore  
Representative Thomas A. Pressly  
Representative William "Bill" Wheat, Jr.  
Senator Regina Ashford Barrow  
Senator Heather Miley Cloud  
Senator Bob Hensgens  
Senator Patrick McMath

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Jimmy Harris  
Senator J. Cameron Henry, Jr., vice chairman

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

Meah Johnson, attorney  
Drew Murray, legislative analyst  
Chas Nichols, budget analyst  
Kristy Neubrandner, committee administrative assistant

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

Faye Talbot, House sergeant at arms  
Fate Mitchell, Senate sergeant at arms  
Anthony Lumbard, House sergeant at arms  
Stephanie Little, attorney, House Committee on Appropriations

### III. DISCUSSION

#### **Medicaid hospital finance update**

Pam Diez, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only.

Ruth Johnson, LDH, 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only.

Steve Russo, LDH, 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only.

Representative Bacala provided a handout, Exhibit A, which lists a proposed set of guiding principles for the next LDH hospital payment reform plan. A copy of Exhibit A is included in the committee records.

Representative Bacala offered a motion for the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee to adopt, at the next meeting of the committee, a set of principles that should guide the next LDH hospital payment reform plan. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Bacala, Adams, Moore, and Wheat and Senators Barrow, Cloud, Hensgens, and McMath voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only.

***Further discussion was taken up by the committee on Representative Bacala's set of principles on November 29, 2021. Please check for the agenda item Consideration of principles to guide the LDH hospital payment reform plan to complete the record of discussion.***

#### **Status of the La. Department of Health's home- and community-based services spending plan and requests by disability services system providers regarding the plan**

Patrick Gillies, LDH, 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only. He stated that LDH dedicated 82% of the funding for one-time expenses for dedicated activities such as rate increases, bonuses, and retention payments. He emphasized that LDH considers retaining providers for vital services to be an urgent need.

Kelly Zimmerman, LDH, 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only.

Chairman Edmonds asked LDH to apprise him of when the spending plan will go into effect and when the first check to a worker is issued.

Ruth Johnson, LDH, 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only.

Caroline Meehan, Community Provider Association, P.O. Box 19571, New Orleans, LA, 70179, (202) 374-8695, spoke for information only.

**Update on the intermediate care facility (ICF) workforce crisis and other challenges faced by ICFs**

Caroline Meehan, Community Provider Association, P.O. Box 19571, New Orleans, LA, 70179, (202) 374-8695, spoke for information only. She emphasized that there is a huge disparity in funding between home- and community-based services and ICFs, with the former receiving more funding than the latter. She said that the consequence of this disparity for the ICFs is a workforce shortage crisis.

Randy Davidson, Holy Angels, 10450 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport LA, 71106, (225) 954-0510, spoke for information only.

Ruth Johnson, LDH, 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only. She said LDH is planning to address the ICF funding concerns during the upcoming legislative session. Chairman Edmonds said he would like to work with LDH in finding more funding for the ICFs.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Cloud offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Bacala, Adams, Moore, and Wheat and Senators Barrow, Cloud, Hensgens, and McMath voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Rick Edmonds  
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Date adopted: