

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
February 25, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Rick Edmonds, chairman of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 Regina Ashford Barrow
Senator Heather Miley Cloud
Senator Jimmy Harris

SENATORS ABSENT:

Senator J. Cameron Henry, Jr., vice chairman
Senator Bob Hensgens
Senator Patrick McMath

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Katie Andress, committee administrative assistant
Ms. Shayla Cockerm, attorney
Mr. Drew Murray, legislative analyst
Ms. Stephanie Little, attorney
Mr. Chas Nichols, budget analyst

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ms. Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION

Representative Edmonds took a personal privilege to acknowledge staff from both the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare for their work on the committee.

Representative Edmonds took a personal privilege to acknowledge the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH) staff for their positive working relationship with the committee.

Representative Edmonds identified and discussed the makeup of the committee.

Consideration of form and content of the first annual report of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee required by Joint Rule No. 11(E), including potential findings and recommendations

Representative Edmonds presented an overview of the accomplishments section of the first annual report of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee.

Ms. Ruth Johnson, undersecretary, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 999-0944 presented and discussed a handout, Exhibit A, with Representative Bacala. The handout is included in the committee records and will be discussed further during the March 2021 meeting.

Representative Edmonds presented an overview of the proposed recommendations and goals section of the first annual report of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee.

Representative Edmonds discussed Section B(2) of the proposed recommendations section of the report regarding the process to disenroll ineligible Medicaid recipients with Senator Barrow.

Ms. Johnson addressed the committee regarding Section C of the proposed recommendations listed in the report.

Representative Bacala offered an amendment to combine sections E and G of the proposed recommendations.

Mr. Drew Murray, legislative analyst, House Commercial Regulation Division, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8601, explained to Senator Barrow the amendment offered by Representative Bacala.

Representative Edmonds presented an overview of the appendices within the report.

Ms. Johnson provided feedback on behalf of LDH regarding the committee's report.

Discussion of responses provided by the Louisiana Department of Health to questions submitted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in February 2021 regarding the proposed money follows the patient hospital payment methodology

Ms. Johnson and Mr. Steve Russo, executive counsel, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 999-0944, discussed LDH's response to questions posed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the proposed money follows the patient (MFP) hospital payment methodology, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Consideration of form and content of the first annual report of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee required by Joint Rule No. 11(E), including potential findings and recommendations

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the amendment to combine sections E and G of the proposed recommendations. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Bacala, Pressly, and Wheat and Senators Barrow, Cloud and Harris voted yea.

Senator Cloud offered a motion to approve the report of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee as amended. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Bacala, Pressly, and Wheat and Senators Barrow, Cloud and Harris voted yea.

Approval of minutes from meetings held on: June 18, 2020; September 25, 2020; October 21, 2020; November 20, 2020, December 15, 2020; and January 29, 2021

Representative Pressly offered a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Bacala, Pressly, and Wheat and Senators Barrow, Cloud and Harris voted yea.

Senator Barrow offered a motion to allow the staff to make technical corrections to the report. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Bacala, Pressly, and Wheat and Senators Barrow, Cloud and Harris voted yea.

Discussion of responses provided by the Louisiana Department of Health to questions submitted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in February 2021 regarding the proposed money follows the patient hospital payment methodology

Mr. Russo provided the names of certain providers involved in the MFP certification process to Representative Pressly. Mr. Russo also discussed hospital provider fees with Representatives Pressly and Wheat.

Mr. Russo and Ms. Johnson discussed certain payment methodology concerns from CMS with Representative Edmonds and Bacala.

Ms. Johnson discussed certain alternatives to the proposed MFP hospital payment methodology with Representatives Wheat, Bacala, and Pressly. Ms. Johnson also discussed the average commercial rate for Medicaid patients with Representative Bacala.

Discussion of the requested budget adjustment to the Uncompensated Care Costs program within Medical Vendor Payments regarding Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments

Ms. Johnson discussed the requested budget adjustments to the Uncompensated Care Costs (UCC) program within the Medicaid program regarding Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments, Exhibit C, with Representatives Edmonds and Bacala. Exhibit C is included in the committee records.

Mr. Andrew Perilloux, section chief for rate setting and audit, Medicaid, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 999-0944, discussed components that comprise the Medicaid shortfall with Representative Bacala.

Ms. Johnson discussed the department's plan to cover the cost of increased Medicaid recipients due to the COVID-19 pandemic with Representative Edmonds.

Discussion of responses provided by the Louisiana Department of Health to questions submitted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in February 2021 regarding the proposed money follows the patient hospital payment methodology

Ms. Johnson discussed the distribution of funding for certain regions in Louisiana under the proposed MFP hospital payment methodology with Representative Pressly.

Mr. Russo and Ms. Johnson discussed the initial construction of the proposed MFP hospital payment methodology with Representative Bacala.

Ms. Johnson discussed LDH's authority over certain aspects of the proposed MFP hospital payment methodology with Senator Barrow.

Ms. Johnson discussed alternatives to the proposed MFP hospital payment methodology with Representatives Pressly and Wheat.

Representative Bacala took a personal privilege to acknowledge Mr. Russo's promotion to the director of LDH's Legal Audit and Regulatory Compliance section.

Mr. Russo discussed the definition of base rates for hospital repayments under the constitution with Representative Bacala.

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 and received prior to noon on Wednesday, February 24th, 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 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Rick Edmonds
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Date adopted: