May 22, 2015

Commission Members

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004

The Honorable John A. Alario
President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183, State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9183

The Honorable David R. Heitmeier
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

The Honorable Charles E. Kleckley
Louisiana Speaker of the House
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: 2014 ANNUAL REPORT – Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders

Dear Sirs and Madam:

The Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders is required by Act 899 of the 1984 Regular Session of the Legislature to provide an annual written report to the Governor, the chairpersons of the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

Attached please find the 2014 Governor’s Annual Report from the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders.

If you would like further information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kerri Cunningham, Chair
Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders

Attachment

c: Rochelle Head-Dunham, M.D.
OBH Assistant Secretary
I. About the Commission

A Message from the Chairperson

Dear Legislators and Stakeholders,

The mission of the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders is to assess, evaluate, and recommend programs and/or services supported by the Office of Behavior Health at the local level; to represent the needs of the office legislatively; and to act as advocates for addictive disorders’ services. Each year the Commission submits an Annual Report outlining the state of addictive disorders services and needs throughout the State of Louisiana. The following report outlines the activities of the Commission along with valuable insights into how addictive disorders impacts many areas of government and the citizens of Louisiana.

The Commission represents thousands of Louisianans’ who are impacted by substance use and abuse. Throughout the years the commission has worked closely with the Office of Behavioral Health within the Department of Health and Hospitals to address the need of the addictive disordered population and evaluate how these agencies can better serve its citizens. Commission members have taken an active role, in the Louisiana Behavioral Health Advisory Council, local Regional Advisory Councils, and within their Area Human Service districts. The role of commission members in these agencies is to ensure that the needs of the addictive disordered population and those affected by it remain at the forefront of treatment discussions and funding. The Commission leadership also continues to play an active role on the Louisiana Drug Policy board to ensure education, prevention, and treatment are included in policy and the legislative process.

The Louisiana Commission on Addictive disorders vision is to promote and educate Louisiana citizens on addiction, treatment, prevention and recovery support. Through our participation in boards, commissions, and advisory councils the commission is able stay abreast of opportunities for education, prevention, and treatment in our respective areas and state wide.

It is with great pride that commission members carry out the mission and vision of our organization. We look forward to another year to represent the needs of and advocate for those impacted by the wrath of addiction. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us.

Warmest regards,

Commission on Addictive Disorders
History and Role of the Commission

Act 899 of the 1984 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature created the Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders. The same Act created the state agency known as the Office for Addictive Disorders. During the 2009 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, Act 384 merged the Office for Addictive Disorders with the Office of Mental Health to create a single Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). The new OBH is responsible for serving the needs of Louisiana citizens challenged by mental health issues, addictive disorders, and co-occurring disorders.

The statutory duties and responsibilities of the Commission are as follows:

1) To advise the Office of Behavioral Health “concerning the policy of the State with respect to addictive disorders;”

2) To “recommend an annual State Plan to the [Office of Behavioral Health] setting forth proposed policy, program planning initiatives and goals relative to the prevention and treatment of addictive disorders;”

3) To submit an annual report to the Governor, the Joint Health and Welfare Committee of the Louisiana Legislature, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals as to the activities of the Commission and the Office of Behavioral Health for the previous calendar year, as well as recommendations concerning future program initiatives; and

4) To “serve as liaison among all State and local government entities concerning addictive disorders”

Commission Activities – 2014

The Commission on Addictive Disorders is a viable, active committee, meeting regularly, with activities that have included assisting and supporting the Office of Behavioral Health with the following initiatives:

- The Commission met 12 times during the 2014 calendar year. All of the meetings were held at OBH Headquarters in Baton Rouge.

- Commission members participated in the Public Forums held by the Office of Behavioral Health in 2014. These forums are held annually in areas represented by the local governing entities (LGEs)/districts around the state as a requirement of the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funding. These Public Forums represent valuable opportunities to obtain input and feedback from consumers, stakeholders, and the public regarding prevention and treatment needs, as well as to demonstrate the accountability of the Office. Interested state legislators also participated in these forums.

- Commission members have become active in the Louisiana Behavioral Health Advisory Council and several of the Regional Advisory Councils throughout the state. Monthly and quarterly reports are given to the commission.

- The Commission chairman is a member of the Louisiana Drug Policy Board and reports to the commission quarterly.

- The Commission has maintained a close working relationship with the Louisiana Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority and Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse
Counselors and Trainers. A representative from each attends monthly commission meetings.

- The Commission has invited the following speakers to share their expertise in various programs related to addictive disorders:
  - Quinetta Womack, OBH Director of Adult Residential Services.
  - Monique Hurst, OBH Program Manager.
  - Reese Middleton, Louisiana Association of Compulsive Gambling.
  - Janet Miller, CORE Program Director.
  - A.J. Scnerchia, Vice president of communication for Young People in Recovery.

Ms. Womack, Ms. Hurt, Mr. Middleton, and Ms. Miller informed the commission that the targeted population for gambling treatment was not being reached and that new awareness campaigns were developed to reach this population. Evidence based trainings will also be offered for emergency rooms and care managers. Commission members assisted in disseminating the gambling information provided to them to the areas they represent.

- A.J. Scnerchia, Vice president of communications for the Young in Recovery

Mr. Scnerchia spoke with the commission in 2014 about the struggles of young people in early recovery. He reported the lack of funding for addictive disordered organizations limit trainings and seminars for youth in their communities. Through local chapters of Young People in Recovery youth have access to important resources and education to maintain long term sobriety. Commission members brought this information back to their respective districts to explore chapters in their area. A representative from LASACT also requested that Mr. Scnerchia speak at the 2014 LASACT conference.

- Strategic Planning

This strategic planning process began with an assessment of the last strategic plan done in 2008. It was the consensus of the Commission that the goals and strategies in the plan needed to be reviewed, reassessed and operationalized. During the October 2014 strategic planning process, the Commission determined that it was an important time to assess the outcomes of the Commission to date and to assess how to move forward to accomplish their legislative mandate. Following review of the Commissions 2008 Strategic Plan and Legislation it was determined that the majority of the Goals and Strategies were still applicable while some were no longer historically relevant and others did not align with the legislative mandate of the Commission. Therefore, the Commission engaged in prioritizing its current goals and strategies. According to best practices the Commission revisited their vision and mission and engaged in developing action plans regarding the prioritized goals and strategies which would operationalize their future work. Following are the outcomes of the 2014 Strategic Planning by the Commission:

Vision: Promote and educate Louisiana Citizens on addiction, treatment, prevention and recovery support.
Mission: The purpose of the commission is to assess, evaluate, and recommend programs and/or services supported by the Office of Behavior Health at the local level; to represent the needs of the office legislatively; and to act as advocates for addictive disorders’ services.

Goals and Objectives:
Goal 1: By 2017, there will be an increase in the capacity of the LCAD
   Strategy 1: Establish organizational and operating procedures
   Strategy 2: Explore rule changes
   Strategy 3: Assess Capacity strategies from 2008 LCAD Strategic Plan
Goal 2: By 2017, there will be an increase in public and political support for the LCAD
   Strategy 1: Establish a network of key stakeholders and advocates
   Strategy 2: Conduct ongoing campaigns to raise awareness and support for the LCAD
   Strategy 3: Assess increasing Political and Public support strategies from 2008 LCAD Strategic Plan
Goal 3: By 2017, LCAD will implement the legislative requirements of the commission

Representation
The Commission is comprised of thirteen members who represent the Local Governing Entities (LGE’s) and Districts of the state; one of whom shall be elected the chairman. All members shall be appointed by the governor and shall serve at his pleasure until their respective successors shall have been appointed and commissioned\(^1\). The Assistant Secretary of the Office of Behavioral Health serves as the Commission’s Executive Director in an ex officio capacity\(^2\). Currently, the Commission has three vacant commission seats. Assistance is requested from the Office of Boards and Commissions, Division of Administration, in filling the vacancies identified below as well as replacing those Commissioners who have been inactive. The commission’s membership is detailed on the map below.
Administrative Regions and Districts/Authorities

- Region 1 - Metropolitan Human Services District
- Region 2 - Capital Area Human Services District
- Region 3 - South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority
- Region 4 - Acadiana Area Human Services District
- Region 5 - Imperial Calcasieu Human Services District
- Region 6 - Central Louisiana Human Services District
- Region 7 - Northwest Louisiana Human Services District
- Region 8 - Northeast Delta Human Services Authority
- Region 9 - Florida Parishes Human Services Authority
- Region 10 - Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority

Metropolitan Human Services District (MHSD)
Thomas P. Lief
1521 Hillary St
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 881-4756
Anthony Wickramasekera
6609 Schouest St.
Metairie, LA 70003
(504) 887-0429

Capital Area Human Services District (CAHSD)
Shelley Mockler
2913 Three Oaks Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70820
(225) 406-4283

South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority (SCLHSA)
Kathleen Leary
212 Lake Crescent Cir.
Houma, LA 70360
(985) 886-4826

Acadiana Area Human Services District (AAHSD)
First Position is Vacant
Second Position is Vacant

Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority (ICal)
Lana Bel
3748 Burton Ln
Lake Charles, LA 70605
(337) 478-4744

Central Louisiana Human Services District (CLHSD)
Michael Slocum
400 A Big Lake Rd
Pineville, LA 71353
(225) 342-9992

Northwest Louisiana Human Services District (NLHSD)
Dr. Susan C. Tucker
2984 Old Plain Dealing Rd
Plain Dealing, LA 71064
(318) 635-2011

Northeast Delta Human Services Authority (NEDHSA)
Damon Marsala
P.O. Box 104
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 323-8871, Ext. 108

Second Position is Vacant
Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA)
Kerri Cunningham - Chair
11 Liberty Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70505
(337) 456-9111

Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA)
Freddie Landry
3504 Taft Pk.
Metairie, LA 70002
(504) 454-3660

Members of the Commission also serve on other boards and committees, including:
- Freddie Landry
• Behavioral Health Planning Advisory Council
• The Drug Policy Board
• Prevention System’s Committee of Drug Policy Board
• Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition
• Greater New Orleans Behavioral Health Alliance for Faith Based and Community Organizations
• Board of Directors for the Jefferson Performing Arts Society

• Kathleen Leary
  • Board of Directors for the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling
  • Behavioral Health Planning Advisory Council

• Thomas P. Lief
  • Community Service Center Board of Directors
  • Louisiana Indian Heritage Association Board of Directors

• Damon Marsala
  • The Lotus Club of Monroe – President
  • Young Presidents Organization Louisiana Chapter Board
  • University of Louisiana Monroe Foundation Board
  • Crime Stoppers of Ouachita Parish Board Member
  • Community Trust Bank Regional Advisory Board

• Shelley Mockler
  • Girls On The Run of South Louisiana
  • Baton Rouge Area Sports Foundation
  • New Orleans/Baton Rouge Super Regional Committee Member

• Dr. Susan Tucker
  • Interagency Sex Offender Committee

• Anthony Wickramasekera
  • Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition
  • New Orleans Behavioral Health Coordination Committee

• Kerri Cunningham
  Louisiana Drug Policy Board
  Louisiana Behavioral Health Advisory Council