



Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR

Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders

May 22, 2015

Commission Members

Thomas P. Lief
New Orleans - MHSD

Anthony Wickramasekera
New Orleans - MHSD

Shelley Mockler
Baton Rouge - CAHSD

Kathleen Leary
Houma - SCLHSA

Vacant
Lafayette - AAHSD

Vacant
Lafayette - AAHSD

Lana Bel
Lake Charles - ImCal

Michael Slocum
Alexandria - CLHSD

Dr. Susan Tucker
Shreveport - NLHSD

Damon Marsala
Monroe - NEDHSA

Vacant
Monroe - NEDHSA

Kerri Cunningham
Chairperson
Madisonville - FPHSA

Freddie Landry
Jefferson - JPHSA

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

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

The Honorable Scott M. Simon
House Committee on Health and Welfare
Post Office Box 44281
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

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

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

Kathy H. Kliebert, Secretary
Department of Health and Hospitals
Post Office Box 629
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

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

P.O. Box 4049, Bin 18
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Louisiana Commission on Addictive Disorders

Annual Report

*A report on the activities of the Louisiana Commission
on Addictive Disorders.*

2014

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 Disorders⁵. The same Act created the state agency known as the Office for Addictive Disorders⁵. 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)⁵. The new OBH is responsible for serving the needs of Louisiana citizens challenged by mental health issues, addictive disorders, and co-occurring disorders⁵.

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;”⁵
- 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;”⁵
- 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;⁵ and
- 4) To “serve as liaison among all State and local government entities concerning addictive disorders”⁵

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. Hurst, 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 Commission's 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

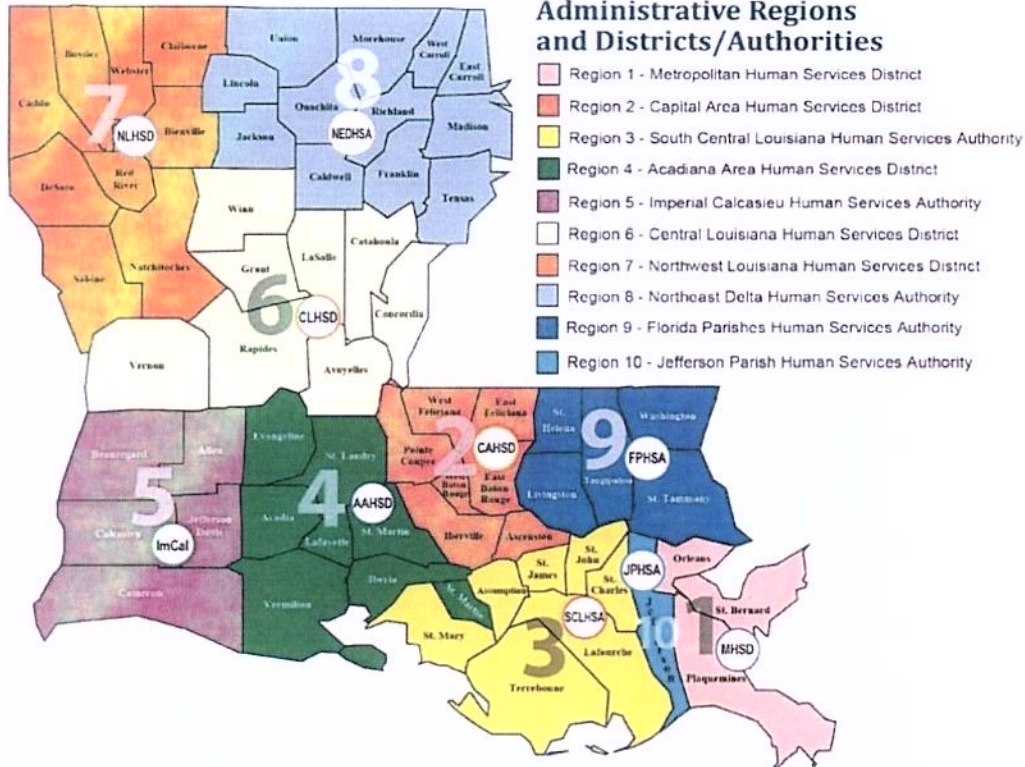
Goal 3: By 2017, LCAD will implement the legislative requirements of the commission

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 commissioned³. The Assistant Secretary of the Office of Behavioral Health serves as the Commission's Executive Director in an *ex officio* capacity⁵. 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.



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HOSPITALS**



**Metropolitan
Human Services District (MHSD)**

Thomas P. Lief
1521 Hillary St.
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 861-4756

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) 408-4283

**South Central Louisiana Human
Services Authority (SCLHSA)**

Kathleen Leary
212 Lake Crescent Cir.
Houma, LA 70360
(985) 868-4826

**Acadiana Area Human Services
District (AAHSD)**

First Position is Vacant
Second Position is Vacant

**Imperial Calcasieu Human Services
Authority (ImCal)**

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 71363
(225) 342-9692

**Northwest Louisiana Human Services
District (NLHSD)**

Dr. Susan C. Tucker
2984 Old Plain Dealing Rd.
Plain Dealing, LA 71064
(318) 935-2011

**Northeast Delta Human Services
Authority (NEDHSA)**

Damon Marsala
P.O. Box 104
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 323-8871, Ext. 108

**Northeast Delta Human
Services Authority (NEDHSA)**
(continued)

Second Position is Vacant

**Florida Parishes
Human Services Authority
(FPHSA)**

Kerri Cunningham - Chair
111 Liberty Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70805
(337) 456-9111

**Jefferson Parish Human
Services Authority (JPHSA)**

Freddie Landry
3504 Taft Pk.
Metairie, LA 70002
(504) 454-3880

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