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GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H.
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Joseph McPherson, Chair
The Honorable Sydnie Mae Durand, Chair

FROM: Frederick P. Cerise, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary *F. Cerise*

SUBJECT: Mental Health System Modernization Preliminary Report to the House and Senate Committees And Request For Extension of Time To Submit Final Report

DATE: January 28, 2005

Enclosed is the following Department of Health and Hospitals' preliminary report as required by HCR312 and SR119 of the 2004 Regular Session. Both resolutions call for DHH to "investigate, study, and develop a plan or strategy to modernize and improve the state mental health system, focusing particularly on an assessment of the current operation and maintenance of East Louisiana Mental Health System, Central Louisiana State Hospital, New Orleans Adolescent Hospital and Southeast Louisiana State Hospital, with the resulting plan and strategy detailing how Louisiana can modify the current system to reflect the best practices in mental health care today."

The Department of Health and Hospitals also requests an additional ninety days to complete the final report on the system modernization project. This additional time will permit completion of a feasibility study for the project.

The enclosed preliminary report includes information regarding the current status of DHH's efforts to obtain a feasibility study and cost/benefit analysis of construction of new facilities, sale of currently held property, and re-investment into community-based services. It also includes information regarding national trends and other states' experience with this issue.

We will keep you informed as we continue our Mental Health System Modernization planning efforts. We expect to be able to provide the Committee with an external feasibility study by April 25.

FPC/sr/rmj

Enclosure