

**Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association**  
**543 Spanish Town Road**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Committee Attendance</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
M.J. Terrebonne	Pharmacist (House Committee on Health & Welfare)	Present
Kim Wixson	Louisiana Pharmacists Association	Zoom
Randal Johnson	Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association	Present
Dr. Stewart Gordon	Physician (House Committee on Health & Welfare)	Present
Melwyn Wendt	Louisiana Department of Health	Present
Jeff Gaude	National Association of Chain Drug Stores	Absent
Pam Reed	LA Alliance of Retail Pharmacies	Absent
Dr. Jamie Edwards	Physician (Senate Committee on Health & Welfare)	Absent
Dana Antoon	Louisiana Board of Pharmacy	Present
Lishunda Franklin	Louisiana Board of Pharmacy	Zoom
Ashley Acosta Chanove	Pharmacist (Senate Committee on Health & Welfare )	Zoom

Zoom		Ashley Chanove, LIPA Staff, Steph Bancroft, Dr. Lishunda Franklin, Renesha Yarbrough, Kolynda Parker, Catie Chaucer- Aetna, Sarah Perkins, Leslie Pittman, Jeanine Plante, Kim's pink iPad, Wendy, TJ Woodard, Sheree tallion, Wendy McMillan, Christine Brown, Nicole Chauvin, Vanessa Smith-ABHLA, Denise HBI
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- **Call to Order**
  - The meeting was called to order at
- **Introductions and Quorum Determination**
  - The roll was called.
- **Review and approval of the February 25, 2025 meeting minutes**
  - The February meeting minutes were unable to be approved due to a lack of a quorum present.
- **LDH response to Council Letter to Secretary regarding the Cost of Dispensing Survey**
  - M.J. Terrebonne: On your iPad is an email copy of the letter submitted to the department
  - LDH: We did send the email to Michael and we did not get an official response. Kim is waiting for an update in her 1:1 with Drew. I hope that this will be done next week. Kim did not have any discussion with Michael.
  - Randal Johnson: Could we see a copy of the response? I will send a public records request for all communication needs.
  - M.J. Terrebonne: M.J. will email Drew the letter from the Council.
- **TPL Issues**
  - LDH: For TPL, the issue was identified. Prime was ingesting information being sent from HMS. Prime has updated its system.
  - Leslie: There were a couple of issues. We received some inaccurate information. However, this has been fixed. We received approval for overrides to last 14 days. We did not send out a notice for the extended duration. The process is still the same for the pharmacy. The call center has been notified.
  - Randal Johnson: What is the length of time it took for the corrupted file?
  - Leslie: It came in January, and we were not notified it was corrupt until the end of February.

- Randal Johnson: For a month, we had patients and providers searching for this correction issue.
- Dr. Stewart Gordon: When will this file be corrected?
- LDH: The file was corrected on March 3rd
- **340B Utilization**
  - LDH: Milliman did an analysis on the outpatient pharmacy side. It appears, though, that on the outpatient hospital side, the hospitals are billing with the 340 B discount. On the MCO outpatient pharmacy side, reimbursement is not like fee-for-service. This is allowed in the MCO contract. Milliman ran an analysis to see how much money we would save. This is pending with the Secretary. I am assuming this will wait until the permanent Secretary arrives.
  - Dr. Stewart Gordon: How much would this save?
  - LDH: 100 million dollars. We are awaiting a final decision.
  - Ashley Acosta-Chanove: Is this affecting any contract pharmacies that contract out Medicaid already?
  - LDH: Medicaid does not allow contract pharmacies. We would not be impacted by this.
- **LDH Reports**
  - ***Timeline of implementation of NADAC and Contract Amendments***
  - LDH: We have the timeline from Prime. Michael made a decision not to move forward with the changes.
  - ***Contractual obligations of the single PBM***
  - LDH: They have to meet the percentages that are in the contracts.
  - Dr. Stewart Gordon: It sounds like they are meeting their contractual obligations. Are chains still being paid more?
  - LDH: Yes, chains are still being paid more for brand drugs, not for generic drugs.
  - M.J. Terrebonne: Would you have a report?
  - LDH: We do not have any official report. I do not think Milliman did anything specifically regarding the performance review. We did not ask them to do any official review of Prime. They have all our claims and encounter data. It is easy to see if they met the reimbursement requirement.
- **Magellan, IPS Audit Selection Process**
  - M.J. Terrebonne: I emailed the council members this information on March 5<sup>th</sup>. This information is also on your iPad. Does anyone have any questions?
  - Randal Johnson: The information we have is indicative of what we are finding in the space out there.
- **LDH Reports**

**SIN Reports, Listing of pharmacy program reports, Specialty Drugs**

- M.J. Terrebonne: At the last meeting, we discussed the report and reviewed data. There was some discussion about the SIN report at the February meeting. The SIN Report is located on your iPad. Maybe the department has some ideas as they move forward. I think it would be nice to know what the department is using. I compared the 2023 report from Magellan to the 2024 report.
- M.J. Terrebonne: How can we, as a provider group, assist the department?
- LDH: In regard to expenditures, we started meeting with the pharmacy directors from the managed care plans.
- M.J. Terrebonne: Can you present this to the council?
- LDH: Yes. Emily can present this to the council. We had two DUR Board meetings where these changes were introduced. Most of the changes have to go through the DUR Board meeting. We can run through the changes we made in the last several months for the next meeting. Concerning the TPL issue, TPL is an issue across the board. I think we can improve TPL significantly if we get a new vendor. It is not just for pharmacy. This is across the board for all our providers.
- Dr. Stewart Gordon: I think we need to tell the department we would like to see certain things and have them produce a quarterly report.
- Dr. Stewart Gordon: Perhaps the six MCOs could work with the department and do a presentation for us. We could get together with the pharmacy directors.
- Emily Ragland: Prime can pull the data since they have everybody.
- Dana Antoon: Specialty drugs would be a place to start.
- LDH: Prime does have a list they use to define a specialty drug. You do not have to go to a specialty pharmacy unless it is a limited distribution.
- Dr. Stewart Gordon: It would make more sense for Prime to produce the report since they work with all six MCOs.
- LDH: They have the specialty list posted on the Prime website.
- M.J. Terrebonne: If they have questions, we could have Myers & Stauffer attend the next council meeting. For the next meeting, will we have a presentation on all the changes we made in the last four months and a report on specialty drugs. (1)Where are the most dollars being spent? We would like to see data from October 2023 until the present. (2) If dollars are coming from out-of-state specialty pharmacies. How can the MCOs partner?
- LDH: Ten percent of our spending was GLP-1s.

- Dana Antoon: Are there some clinical dollars to assist? CPESN had some big changes. CPESN is a national program where you are paid for value-based care.
- LDH: What do you think we need to add?
- Dana Antoon: Almost all of us are dispensing GLP-1s. We mostly have CLIA waivers. Even if you are paying for quarterly A1C testing, you have probably prevented several hospitalizations.
- Emily: As a local pharmacy, how would you interface with them to share the data?
- Dana Antoon: I believe the outcomes platform. If you use outcomes, the MCOs would have to populate. Outcomes is the platform you could use if you do point-of-care testing.
- LDH: I think we need to incorporate more pharmacies.
- M.J. Terrebonne: Have case management outcomes improved?
- LDH: We cannot get people to engage.
- Emily: The patient sees the pharmacists several times per month. This would be a great partnership opportunity.
- Dana Antoon: This would have to be ongoing.
- LDH: With specialty drugs, we do not assign on case management. We are getting ready to put out a contract amendment. We will have opt-out case management. The biggest obstacle is getting people to engage and accept the help.
- Dana Antoon: Who would decide if we would do a pilot? Would the pharmacist have to be a provider?
- M.J. Terrebonne: Dana can bring her perspective, the department can give their perspective, and the MCOs can give their perspective regarding testing and dispensing.
- **Pharmacy Notifications- LDH, Magellan**
  - M.J. Terrebonne: On March 24<sup>th</sup> there was a memo regarding auto refills. Are there any questions?
  - Randal Johnson: This seems to be contrary to what the department has led in the past. Looking at the pharmacies, many are putting patients on auto-refill. This one does not take effect until May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Cyber Attacks**
  - LDH: The state police and Attorney General are aware this is happening. This is a national investigation.
  - Randal Johnson: The significant concern we have is that banking information is being changed.
  - LDH: Prime did an analysis on their system. They are hacking into the pharmacy system. We do not have the expertise in Medicaid to do a

forensic analysis. Prime said they have looked into their security, and it is not their system.

- Dana Antoon: Prime stated they tried to call me several times. Prime stopped the fraudulent bank account March 10<sup>th</sup>. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, someone went in and changed our account again. How did this happen and why is there no internal stop? When are we getting that money back?
- Randal Johnson: On February 10<sup>th</sup>, we pointed out to the Medicaid Pharmacy team that there is a cyber-fraud unit at GOHSEP. The department still has not contacted them.
- LDH: I cannot answer any of those questions. Prime can answer. The AG is calling the state police.
- Randal Johnson: Little Dave started notifying Prime about this at the end of January. Prime is not going to pay the money until they receive money back from the fraudulent account.
- LDH: That is correct. If it is not Prime's fault, why should they have to pay for this?
- Leslie Pittman: It appears they are hacking the email addresses of the pharmacies.
- Dr. Stewart Gordon: Did Prime report this to authorities?
- Leslie: It was not reported to the police, but this was reported to our special investigative unit. I am not the investigations unit. If you have further questions, I think we need to set-up further meetings.
- Randal Johnson: How much money is missing from Delta Drugs?
- LDH: I do not know the amount. We have not heard from Delta.
- Randal Johnson: I would like to request we have a meeting of law enforcement and Prime as soon as possible.
- LDH: Prime has already offered to speak to the police. Prime is willing to assist but no one has contacted them on the law enforcement level.
- Kim Wixson: This is a big deal to pharmacies. There are pharmacies that are brutally affected by this.
- Leslie: Prime understands the urgency, and we have been more than cooperative. We have offered our assistance and services. I cannot speak to this matter further without my investigations unit and legal.
- LDH: If Prime has taken the position, this is not their fault; I would have to get our legal folks involved. This type of thing is not addressed in our legal contract. Unfortunately, this may get into a legal dispute. I cannot pay for a claim twice. I will update our executive counsel when I get back to the office.
- **Pharmacy Notifications- LDH, Magellan**
  - Randal: The one Prime has for the MCO side indicates whether the drug is payable or not payable. Can the department add a notice on the website?

Could there be some notice to the pharmacy that this is not a payable drug?

- LDH: We can do this. The LDH website is switching to a completely different website tonight. The addresses are still the same. This website should be more user-friendly.

- **Call for Public Testimony**

- N/A

- **Other Business**

- N/A

- **Future Meeting Dates**

- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22, and Thursday, May 22.

- **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.