



Louisiana Commission on HIV & Hepatitis C Education, Prevention, and Treatment

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

New Orleans Regional AIDS Planning Council
Hybrid: 1450 Poydras St., Suite #1801, New Orleans, LA

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93009514501>

9:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order Dr. Tavell Kindall, Chair
A. Meeting called to order at: 9:07 AM
- II. Roll Call Aisha McKenzie, Sr. Strategic Advisor SHHP, LDH
A. Roll attached
B. 12 present, quorum not achieved
- III. Old Business Dr. Tavell Kindall, Chair
A. January 14, 2025 Minutes Approval
1. Public Comment
a. Quorum not achieved, N/A
2. Vote
a. Quorum not achieved, N/A
B. March 11, 2025 Minutes Approval
1. Public Comment
a. Quorum not achieved, N/A
2. Vote
a. Quorum not achieved, N/A
C. Membership Application for Faith-based representative
1. Public Comment
a. Quorum not achieved, N/A
2. Vote
a. Quorum not achieved, N/A
3. Looking for a Commissioner representing the LA NASW to fill the vacancy left by Austin Matthews. Aisha to contact LA NASW to ask for referrals.
D. 2025 Commission Capitol Day Discussion
1. Capitol Day canceled due to lack of committed attendance by Commissioners.
2. Will look into partnership with another organization to see about getting a better calendar/spot for next session.
E. 2025 Legislative Session Discussion
1. Staff provided review of letters written this session and status updates on those bills.
2. Sam thanked the Commission for engagement this session.
- IV. New Business Dr. Tavell Kindall, Chair
A. Federal Update and Impact on Commission's Work Dr. Samuel Burgess
1. Dr. Burgess sent Commissioners a spreadsheet covering all CDC HIV prevention grants and contracts.
2. LDH has received notice that the SHIELD grant is ending officially in June (providing for interviews of late stage diagnosis patients in order to study causes) because there is no Federal Staff to administer/oversee/monitor the project.
3. Potential for reduction or eliminations in CORE HIV funding (prevention, surveillance, and EHE). Notice of award should be arriving this month or early June.
4. NCSA and NASTAD have been putting out frequent updates on the funding situation. NCSA is hosting 2x weekly Priority One calls (Tuesday/Thursday 11 AM Central time).
5. Next year's federal budget looks like it will show massive health care cuts.
6. Tamara Dioubate explained that all organizations receiving Federal grants (specifically from the CDC) are now required to provide line-item detail justifications for all grant pull-down dollars.
B. HCV Elimination Plan Update Anthony James, Deputy Director, SHHP, LDH
1. As part of the "Big Bet" in Louisiana, 17,845 persons have accessed treatment for HCV (15,156 persons on Medicaid, 2,689 persons who are incarcerated). More than 2000 providers have been trained to treat HCV through this program.

Notes taken by:

Aisha McKenzie

Sr. Strategic Coordinator, SHHP, LDH, Staff to the Commission

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2. Louisiana is leading the nation in addressing HCV.
 3. ANNUAL REPORT: section examining low levels of HCV funding and tremendous success with it.
 4. Request from Commission for data regarding HIV and HCV coinfection and how it affects SVR.
 5. Request from Commission for information regarding success of HCV provider training (provider types and trained via ECHO), and linkage to care information for September’s Annual Public Hearing.
 6. Slides emailed to Commission and attached again.
- C. Presentation: HIV and Black Women Monica Johnson, HEROES
1. Heroes, in Columbia, LA, exists to support, educate and uplift NE LA communities through adult wellness, youth education, and community healing. Started with a focus on Black Women and expanded to everyone and to provide services statewide.
 2. Heroes may be contact at: heroeslouisianana@gmail.com, 318-649-5816, 472 Hwy 849, Columbia, LA 71418
 3. Presentation slides attached.
- D. Discussion: HIV prevention and treatment in Louisiana’s Rural Communities
1. Eric Johnson with Well Ahead joined the discussion with the Commission for this meeting, speaking to STI prevention and education efforts in rural areas in Louisiana.
 2. Rural healthcare clinics are a big opportunity for education and prevention; challenges include stigma, lack of anonymity in small towns.
 3. ANNUAL REPORT (Eric Johnson’s list of rural programs/resources):
 - a. Union General Hospital: “It’s a Girl Thing: Making Proud Choices” (Claudia Wade, cwade@uniongen.org)
 - b. Southeast Community Health Systems: EHE Prevention Grant from HRSA (Nakeisha Cleveland, ncleveland@shhc.org)
 - c. Oakdale Women’s Health Systems: desire to do STI education with adolescent patients (Dr. Medha Kulkarni, medha_kulkarnilawfirm@yahoo.com)
 - d. All 244 rural health clinics were referred to Lawrence Goughisha’s clinical education for nurses in 2024.
 4. Dr. Kindall asked: if people can go into the rural healthcare clinics and ask for PrEP and receive it; asking additionally how the Commission can assist. Discussion determined the best way to support would be a collaboration between SHHP and Well Ahead (and perhaps AETC) to produce a single page factsheet about PrEP and/or a webinar for all the
 5. HIV testing is not a required service, so there is no tracking of rural providers offering these services.
- V. Other Business Dr. Tavell Kindall, Chair
- A. Open Discussion / Announcements
 1. None.
 - B. General Public Comment
 1. None.
 - ~~C. Commission Capitol Day: June 2, 2025~~
 1. Commission Capitol Day has been CANCELLED.
 - D. Next Meeting Date: July 8, 2025 (hybrid), 9:00 AM
- VI. Adjournment Dr. Tavell Kindall, Chair
- A. Dr. Sam Burgess motioned to adjourn; Dr. George Nawas seconded.
 - B. Meeting adjourned at: 11:02 AM.

Roll Call 5/13/25 (note votes, quorum not achieved)

Name	Roll
Marvin Anderson	Absent
Meta Smith-Davis	Present
Tavell Kindall	Present
Tamara Dioubate	Present
Mitchell Handrich	Present
Samuel Burgess	Present
Norma Porter	Present
DeAnn Gruber	Present
Shayla Polk	Absent
Susan Dupont	Present

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Randy Lavespere	Absent
Rebecca DeLaSalle	Present
Lauren Richey	Absent
Paulette Pinargote-Cornejo	Absent
David Mushatt	Absent
H. Glenn Anderson, Jr.	Present
George Nawas	Present
Phillip Griffin	Present
Myra Kleinpeter	Absent
Aimee Cloyd	Absent
Regina Barrow	Absent
Joy Walters	Absent

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