

**Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis C Education,
Prevention and Treatment
March 25, 2022
9:00 am – 11:00 am
Virtual Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/7789959325>
Or Telephone:
USA 602 333 0032
Conference code: 712643**

Commission Members Present:

Anthony Basco, Baylor Boyd, Angie Brown, Sam Burgess, DeAnn Gruber, Mitch Handrich, Austin Matthews, Amanda Dumas, Paulette Pinargote, Andrea LaPlante, Lauren Richey (Proxy), Tavell Kindal

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 9:05am by Austin Matthews, Chairperson

II. Roll Call

Roll called by Jimmy Gale. Quorum reached.

III. Old Business

a. January Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes made by Mitch Handrich, seconded by Andrea LaPlante.

b. Committee Reports

i. Strategic Planning Committee – Mitch Handrich

Handrich provided an overview of the planning process. Proposed changes include removing AIDS from the name of the commission, updating membership guidelines in regards to attendance, and process for discussing inactive members.

ii. HIV Decrim Workgroup – Austin Matthews

Matthews provided an overview of the outcomes following the Modernize It Summit. Proposed requests include more educational sessions, shorter and more frequent meetings, and a return to in-person meetings. Fran Lawless stated that the Summit should be an annual or semi-annual event, highlighting that hosting this event on a regular basis will be increase validity and community awareness. Matthews agreed and informed the commission that the legislative mandate would require events like these to happen annually. Both Matthews and Lawless thanked Aisha McKenzie for her hard work in planning the Summit and the execution of the event.

c. Commission Renewal (HB266)

Matthews provided an overview of the proposed legislation to extend the Commission, highlighting some of the proposed changes being made to the bill. Changes include those listed above in the Strategic Planning Committee report.

IV. New Business

a. Presentation: “Mental Health and HIV” – John Wells, MD, LSU Health Science Center

b. Presentation: “Overview of Substance Use Treatment” – Quinetta Rowley Womack, LPC, LAC-CCS, CCGC, Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Behavioral Health

Handrich - Mental health is important in substance abuse and HIV. Pain management is lacking for Medicaid patients and it's necessary. General providers don't have training to create a program for pain management. I would like more resources to go toward pain management.

c. Legislative Review/Updates – Austin Matthews, Chair

Matthews informed the Commission that 21 legislative bills have been identified that would have a lasting impact on the communities we serve. The list had been emailed to the full Commission list for review prior to the meeting.

Matthews requested a motion to move forward with the legislative priorities noted in the document.

Dr. Lauren Richey pointed out that SB315 was listed as a bill on the list of supported legislation and that it includes increased penalties for those caught selling fentanyl.

Matthews stated that the commission does not support increased penalties in general, but do support the removal of fentanyl test strips from the drug paraphernalia list.

Matthews entertained a motion on the priority list of Legislation. Handrich made a motion to move forward on the priority items and to write letters to the Legislature regarding the bills the Commission supports and opposes. Angie Brown seconded the motion. A vote was held with 7 Yes votes, 2 abstains. Motion passes.

V. Other Business

a. Announcements

Matthews reminded the Commission that the bill for the current Commission is set to expire in September of this year, unless the new legislative bill passes. Discussed the need to identify priorities and tasks for the Commission. Suggested bylaws revisions will be shared with Commission members prior to the next full meeting. Please attend the next meeting ready to review and vote on changes to the bylaws.

Lawless suggested that the Strategic Planning Committee should be formed and made a motion, seconded by Amanda Dumas. Motion passed with no opposition.

Matthews announced HRSA and SAMSA funding opportunity for HIV and Substance Use capacity development.

Matthews announced that the SHHP has several open positions and encouraged attendees to review the current job openings by visiting louisianahealthhub.org/careers

b. Public Comment - None

c. Next Meeting – June 3rd, 9am-11am

VI. Adjournment

Matthews adjourned the meeting at 10:37am.