

**Health Works Commission**

Minutes

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Iowa Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Claiborne Building  
1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Demetrius Porche, Chair of the Health Works Commission, called the May Health Works Commission meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Ms. Mellynn Baker. A quorum was established.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Christina Constanza	LA State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
Ahnyel Burkes	Nursing Supply and Demand Council
Sandra Brown	Southern University System
Mellynn Baker	LA Board of Regents
Sharon Dunn	LSUHSC-Shreveport
Tina Holland	LA Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
Chaquetta Johnson	Department of Health
Karen Lyon	LA State Board of Nursing
Wendi Palermo	LA Community and Technical College System
Demetrius Porche	LSUHSC –New Orleans
Paul Salles	LA Hospital Association
<b>Members Not Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Ecoee Rooney	LA Nurses Association
Rep. Chris Turner	House Committee on Health and Welfare
Kristi Anderson	Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Jawanda Givens	Occupations Forecasting Conference
Jeannine O'Rourke	University of Louisiana System
Kathy Baldrige	LA Association of Nurse Practitioners

Claire Stevenson	Governor's Office
Wes Hataway	LA Nursing Home Association Executive Director
Ragan LeBlanc	LA Academy of Family Physicians
Kellie Taylor-White	LA Workforce Commission
Jeffery Williams	LA State Medical Society
<b>Ad-Hoc Member Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Daryl Lofaso	Simulation Council**

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2022 MINUTES

**Dr. Porche asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022, Health Works Commission meeting. On the motion of Dr. Sharon Dunn, seconded by Dr. Wendi Palermo, the Commission voted to approve the minutes.**

H.E.R.O. FUND BUDGET REVIEW AND VOTE

Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, gave an outline of the H.E.R.O Fund budget and gave a brief overview of the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership applications. She noted that twenty-three applications were received but that details of these applications would not be given as this would be considered a conflict of interest to those members who were voting. Mr. Paul Salles asked if there was a range in the nature of the applications received; Ms. Baker responded that there was a wide range in the type of application received and that every part of the state was represented in these applications. Discussion regarding return on investment, focused on assessing the importance of identifying regional needs. Dr. Porche noted the importance of looking at long-term goals when framing out programs.

Ms. Baker then detailed two different scenarios of how to utilize the funding available to the Commission through the State General Fund as well as the H.E.R.O. Fund. She stated that \$4.251 million remains of the \$5 million received. Ms. Brasseaux reminded the group that some of the H.E.R.O fund was capitation put in Regents' recurring State General Fund allocation, which redirected the H.E.R.O fund. Discussion continued and Ms. Baker proposed to the Commission to expand the original funding amount of

\$2 million to be spent on the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership program in FY 24, to now be \$4.251 million due to the volume of applications received.

**On motion of Mr. Paul Salles, seconded by Ms. Tina Holland, the Commission voted to approve the State General Fund budget and the agreed-upon H.E.R.O. fund budget scenario for FY 24, allowing for any programmatic adjustments to be made, if needed.**

#### REPORT REGARDING SENATE RESOLUTION 129 OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dr. Porche introduced the next item, the response regarding Senate Resolution 129 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session and asked the chair of the Nursing Supply and Demand Council, Dr. Ahnyel Burkes, to present.

Dr. Burkes noted that Senate Resolution No. 129 (SR 129) of the 2022 Regular Session charged the NSDC to conduct a study to improve statewide nurse retention in response to the nursing workforce shortage. To meet this charge, a survey was developed for all Licensed Practical and Registered Nurses in Louisiana and a review planned of statewide retention occurring in other states. After receiving IRB approval from LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, the survey was sent on October 27, 2022, and received 1,209 total responses. Dr. Burke then shared the results to the several survey questions. Survey questions and responses included:

- *How likely are you to advise a qualified individual to pursue a career in nursing?* Results for this survey question were: 30% definitely would, 35% probably would, 27% probably would not, and 8% definitely would not.
- *Concerning staffing, how often does your unit have the right number of nursing staff with the right knowledge and skills?* Results for this survey question were: 21% less than 25% of the time, 25% 25-49% of the time, 24% 50-75% of the time, 23% more than 75% of the time but less than all the time, and 7% all the time.
- *In the past year, in your work, have you experienced any of the following? Please select all*

*that apply.* Results for this survey question were: 12% sexual harassment, 16% physical abuse, 20% discrimination, 44% have not experienced any, and 50% verbal abuse.

- *Who has been involved in these verbal abuse experiences? Please select all that apply.*

Results for this survey question were: 12% from an administrator, 14% from a nurse manager, 14% from other healthcare personnel, 19% from another nurse, 23% from a physician, 63% from patients' families/significant others, and 76% from patients.

- *Who has been involved in these sexual harassment experiences?* Results for this survey question were: 8% from other healthcare personnel, 14% from another nurse, 16% from a physician, 22% from patients' families/significant others, and 85% from patients.

- *Who has been involved in physical abuse experiences?* Results for this survey question were: 0% from a physician, other healthcare personnel, an administrator, or a nurse manager, 10% from patients' families/significant others, and 98% from patients.

- *How likely would each of the following be to influence you to reconsider your plans to leave your present position?* Results for this survey question showed that the following factors would "very likely" cause majority of workers them to leave their present position: more respect from administration, more flexible scheduling, higher salary and benefits, and better staffing.

Recommendations discussed were promoting Transition To Practice (TTP) programs for Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), endorsing recommendations set forth in response to HCR 36 of the 2022 Regular Session (Healthcare Workplace Violence Task Force), and exploring the feasibility of a statewide marketing campaign to promote nursing.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2023 UPDATES

Dr. Porche opened the next item on the agenda to Commission members. He asked for updates

related to the current legislative session.

A few healthcare-related bills included:

1. **HB 320 (Turner) – Pending Senate Referral:** Permits a student to register as an LPN if the student completes two years of clinical courses in a registered nursing program. Permits a nursing student who completes a course in the fundamentals of nursing offered by a practical or registered nursing program shall not be required to complete a certified nursing training or competency evaluation program and may register as a certified nurse aide (CNA) in this state.
2. **SB 20 (McMath) – Pending House Health and Welfare:** Provides relative to hospital service districts and scholarships for certain healthcare professionals.
3. **SB 181 (Cloud) – Pending Senate Finance:** Creates the Expanding Louisiana’s Health Care Workforce Fund.

#### COUNCIL AND EVENT UPDATES

Dr. Porche then called for updates on the various groups that also convene relative to the healthcare graduates and workforce.

Dr. Porche provided an update on to the Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education (LACANE). He said that a board meeting and a presentation on academic practice partnerships will be held on Thursday. LACANE will go through recommendations and tools to assess readiness and three to four schools will be there to discuss their academic partnerships. There will be an election of officers and a new treasurer will be chosen. The Louisiana Association of Student Nurses will also be discussed.

Dr. Daryl Lofaso then discussed updates regarding the Simulation Medical Training and Education Council of Louisiana (SMTEC-LA). He noted that SMTEC-LA met in April and discussed details regarding Camp Fast Forward. They also hosted a Lunch and Learn, with another planned in September and discussed potential funding for the Simulation Expo, scheduled in April 2024.

Dr. Burkes then discussed updates related to Nursing Supply & Demand Council (NSDC). She said the NSDC members submitted their study, reported to the Board of Regents, and are working on scheduling dates for the rest of the year.

Lastly, updates regarding the Louisiana Interprofessional Consortium were discussed. Ms. Baker noted that the representative from the Consortium provided a one-page summary of a training recently offered using funding from this Commission. This was a successful event, with 478 students in attendance.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Cynthia Bienemy submitted a public comment regarding diversity in the nursing workforce and proposed conducting a statewide study to expand beyond the original focus to include LPNs as well. She also discussed a project to look at the forecast model to determine the gaps with the nursing workforce and mirroring the population served at state, regional and parish levels. She discussed the possibility of identifying funding to conduct this research and noted the importance that these data could have for the state.

#### NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or announcements, Dr. Porche asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

**On the motion of Dr. Sharon Dunn, seconded by Dr. Ahnyel Burkes, the meeting was adjourned.**

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES & GUESTS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Crystal Lee	SLCC
Cary DeAtley	SLCC
Cynthia Bienemy	All Things Professional LLC
Jamisha Politte	LCTCS
Diane Meridino	LSUHSC – School of Allied Health