

**Health Works Commission**  
Minutes  
Thursday, October 10, 2024  
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Sandra Brown called the October Health Works Commission meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Melanie Sandahl called roll and a quorum was established.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Austin Lewis	Governor's Office
John Becknell (designee)	LA State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners (LSBPNE)
Melissa Nunn (designee)	LA Association of Nurse Practitioners
Sandra Brown	Southern University System
Susannah Craig	LA Board of Regents
Sharon Dunn	LSUHSC-Shreveport
Jeannine O'Rourke (proxy)	University of Louisiana System
Tina Holland	LA Association of Independent Colleges & Universities
Carrie Templeton (proxy)	Department of Health
Jessica Lemoine (designee)	LA Community & Technical College System
Paul Salles	LA Hospital Association, President
Emily DePalma	LA Dept of Labor Workforce
Jeffery Williams	LA State Medical Society
Coletta Barrett (designee)	LA Nurses Association
Wes Hataway	LA Nursing Home Association
<b>Members Not Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Ahnyel Burkes	Nursing Supply & Demand Council
Jawanda Givens	Occupational Forecasting Conference
Ragan Leblanc	LA Academy of Family Physicians
Karen Lyon	LA State Board of Nursing (LSBN)
Rep. Dustin Miller	House Committee on Health & Welfare
Jim Carlson	Senate Committee on Health & Welfare, Chair
Demetrius Porche	LSUHSC- New Orleans, Chair of Health Works
<b>Ad-Hoc Member Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Daryl Lofaso	Simulation Medical Training & Education Council

### APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2, 2024, MINUTES

Dr. Sandra Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2024, Health Works Commission meeting. A request was made to correct the spelling of Dr. Dunn on the last page.

**On motion of Dr. Sharon Nunn, seconded by Dr. Melissa Dunn, the Commission voted to approve the minutes as edited.**

### SIMULATION AND MEDICAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION COUNCIL UPDATE

Dr. Brown introduced Dr. Daryl Lofaso from the Louisiana Simulation and Medical Training and Education Council (SMTEC-LA). He noted the mission of SMTEC-LA is to enhance the use of simulation training for current and future healthcare professionals throughout the state through webinars, expos, camps, and other educational opportunities.

Dr. Lofaso stated that the Council had received eight proposals from different health education institutions to train faculty and/or provide expos to healthcare professionals and students. He added that of the eight proposals reviewed, the executive committee selected four for support. Dr. Lofaso stated that they are requesting \$61,608 to fund the proposals of the chosen healthcare agencies. He provided descriptions on the approved projects and the requested amount for each project. Dr. Tina Holland asked about availability of the funding and Dr. DeMeulenaere answered that the funds were currently available for these projects. Dr. Lofaso stated that another round of proposals will be considered next year and clarified the current recommended proposals must be complete their work by June 30, 2025. Dr. Brown called for a motion to approve the proposals as recommended.

**On motion of Dr. Melissa Dunn, seconded by Mr. Paul Salles, the proposals were approved.**

### NURSING SUPPLY AND DEMAND COUNCIL UPDATE

Dr. Brown introduced Mr. Wes Hataway, the Legal and Policy Director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association. Mr. Hataway noted the areas of funding directed by the Nursing Supply and Demand Council. The four main areas of funding include:

- Nurse Capitation Funding
- Allied Health Funding
- Additional Funding – Includes the SIM council and also CNA funding
- Healthcare Employment Reinvestment Opportunity Fund (H.E.R.O. Fund)

Mr. Hataway noted the Nurse Capitation funding of approximately \$2.2 million is appropriated through legislature. He added information regarding the programs funded and their suggested amounts. He stated that the funding is determined by an application process. Mr. Hataway presented the breakdown of the Allied Health funding, which totaled \$357,000 and allocated to the participating systems. He then presented the breakdown of the additional funding as provided by the Board of Regents, with a total of \$315,000 for SIM, LACANE, and LCTCS CNA.

Mr. Hataway discussed the funding for the H.E.R.O. Fund, which next year will be run by the Louisiana Department of Health. Dr. Craig provided information on the source of this funding, as it will transfer from the Board of Regents to the LDOH. Further discussion ensued on the timeline of the transfer and the amount. Dr. Craig stated that the law changed during the 2024 Regular Legislative Session and this transfer is based on the new legislation. A request was made for information regarding the number of students impacted by this funding. Dr. Craig stated that the information will be provided at the next meeting. She added information regarding H.E.R.O. Fund support for BRCC. A discussion was held regarding the implications of the budget in the future and Mr. Paul Salles emphasized the importance of these funds for expanded enrollment.

#### LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

Dr. Brown introduced Ms. Carrie Templeton from the Louisiana Department of Health. Ms. Templeton presented information regarding the changes and amendments to HB 329 and Act 607, which relate to the H.E.R.O. Fund, including:

- Responsibility for the funding and administration shifts to LDH
- Expanded purposes include dual enrollment, career pathways, and development of apprenticeship programs

- Establishes the Fund to increase the number of healthcare training and educational opportunities including providing financial assistance
- Requires the Healthcare Industry Partner to match the grant award
- Termination date will be 2026

Ms. Templeton discussed the future pathway, which will include outreach and collaboration with education/training programs, outreach and collaboration with HCOs, and identifying data and developing measurements for healthcare needs including nursing and allied health. She noted the draft timeline for 2025-2026, defining timeframes for outreach, publishing funding, evaluating proposals, and announcing awards. The Council discussed outreach opportunities, progress of development of a webpage to disseminate information on this process, and extension of due dates for certain programs.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

#### NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or announcements, Dr. Brown asked for a motion to adjourn.

**On motion of Mr. Wes Hataway, seconded by Mr. Austin Lewis, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.**

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES & GUESTS

Name	Affiliation
Cynthia Bienemy	All Things Professional