

Thursday, May 22nd, 2025

9:00 a.m.

**Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association
543 Spanish Town Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

Name	Committee Attendance	Attendance
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)	Absent
Sue Fontenot	Louisiana Department of Health	Present
Jeff Gaudé	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)	Present
Haley Williams	Louisiana Department of Health	Present
Zoom		Lishunda Franklin, Mary Staples, LIPA Staff, Denise

		HBI, Emily Ragland, Chris LaGrange, Tiffany Marshall, Andy, Ruth Kennedy, KLaGrange, Christina Breaux, C. Cloud, Jeanine Plante, Sarah Perkins, Vanessa Smith, ABH, Julie F. Zeno, Kolynda Parker, Rachel Broussard, Leslie Pittman, Josiah Howell, John Costanza, Denise HBI, Robert Rock, nick, Robin Deshotel,
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- **Call to Order**
 - The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.
- **Introductions and Quorum Determination**
 - The roll was called. A quorum was confirmed.
- **Review and approval of the April 22nd, 2025, meeting minutes**
 - Kim Wixson and Ashley Acosta Chanove approved the April meeting minutes.
- **LDH response to Council Letter to the Secretary regarding the draft Cost of Dispensing Survey**
 - M.J. Terrebonne: After the April meeting, I emailed the letter to the Secretary.
 - LDH: We have no updates regarding the letter.
- **Auto Refill**
 - M.J. Terrebonne: We discussed the auto refill at the last meeting. The information is located on your iPad.
 - Randal Johnson: There is a substantial number in the cost per claim. Is this after Prime normalized their MAC?
 - LDH: In December, you started seeing the trend going back down. The maintenance med report we provided has several tabs about the top 25. We have to do a change request report for any report we request. If there is something you want, you can email us, and we can get what you need.
 - Randal: Regarding this report, can the report be broken down by the month?
 - LDH: We would have to make the request.
- **340B Milliman Report**
 - M.J. Terrebonne: Kim Sullivan stated Milliman performed an analysis. There was a request to receive the report. I do not have the report. Is there any information?
 - LDH: I do not have any information.
- **Update on Reforming the Medicaid PBM Program**

- M.J. Terrebonne: One of the Secretary's initiatives is reforming the PBM program.
- LDH: We have begun transitioning from the single pbm. All the MCOs said October 1 is the go-live date. Medicaid continues to meet twice or thrice a week with other vendors, like Prime or Gainwell. LDH Pharmacy has received 97 questions from the MCOs in the last two weeks.
- Randal Johnson: Can the providers and MCOs be available in the same call?
- Kolynda Parker: This is similar to what we did with the single PBM. We are in the beginning stages of the single PBM. Once we get the process going and moving, we will transition from Prime. Right now, because we are at the beginning, we are identifying what we need. We will have additional stakeholder sessions as well.
- Randal Johnson: I think this is important.
- Ashley Acosta Chanove: Why are we going back to six PBMs?
- Haley: The decision was made on the first day our current Secretary started.
- Sheree: This was costing the MCOs quite a bit, which was costing the state money.
- Randal Johnson: What changes are proposed for the PDL for July 1st
- LDH: Nothing major. Only new drugs. We added one or two therapeutic classes.
- **Pharmacy reimbursement security issues**
 - M.J. Terrebonne: At the last few meetings, there was discussion on provider payment.
 - Haley: We talked to Prime's legal counsel. They maintain they did not do anything. We implored them to pay in the meantime. I followed up and have not received a response.
 - Dana Antoon: What is the department's plan on this?
 - Haley: There is not much we can do while there is a dispute between the two sides. State police and the Feds are investigating this. I have not heard anything recently. They were doing subpoenas. I followed up with Nick yesterday.
 - Randal Johnson: I have a pharmacist who received a check for \$50,000, and Prime is not honoring that check. The pharmacy's prompt payment of the contract has been violated.
 - Dana: We are locked out of our account. I cannot see anything.
 - Haley: What is the plan for those locked out of their accounts to ensure these pharmacies get access to the information and everything in the portal?

- Leslie Pittman: The check has been reissued. This was a different issue. I do not know the answer to this.
- Dana Antoon: Is this a pharmacy dealing with the same issue?
- Leslie: It is one of those pharmacies. They are now using paper checks after they were hacked. It is an entirely unrelated issue. This check has been reissued.
- Randal Johnson: The fifteen-day prompt payment period is fifteen days from when the claim was submitted.
- Leslie: For the portal, you should still have view access on your portal.
- Haley: Is there any other pharmacy that was issued a paper check?
- Leslie: Not to my knowledge.
- Haley: Have there been any other issues with bank accounts being changed?
- Leslie: No. We have no other issues with bank changes. We put in a system where if anyone attempts to change banking information, we contact the pharmacy and verify the information.
- Dana Antoon: This proves to me that this is not a pharmacy issue, but a Prime issue.
- Haley: Leslie, how soon can Prime send the RA for the check to Haley and Dana?
- Leslie: Can you send us an email telling us exactly what you need?
- Kim Wixson: In total, how much money is owed to these pharmacies
- Randal Johnson: I believe a quarter million dollars. When did Prime tell the MCOs, and did they report in the manner that is required? The law requires an official notice for the misappropriation of dollars. We started reporting this on January 29th. This would have prevented future occurrences if something had been done in February.
- Leslie: I think we need to let the lawyers discuss this.
- **Reports**
 - **LDH Reports**
 - M.J. Terrebonne: At some point, the subcommittee will meet with the department.
 - Randal Johnson: What cost trends are we seeing in the expenditure? What kind of data do we have to see if the right decision was made?
 - LDH: There was an initial rate drop. Rates are set for the whole package.
 - M.J. Are they looking at expenditures?
 - LDH: Yes.
 - **Report list from the Subcommittee**
 - M.J. Terrebonne: I emailed council members inviting them to the subcommittee. M.J., Dana, and Dr. Gordon developed a list called Draft

Utilization Data for all Medicaid recipients. This is only for review. Dr. Gordon would like to meet with the department.

- **R.S. 46: 450.7- Medicaid Prescription Drug Benefit Program**
 - Randal Johnson: The department is discussing the different MCOs. We have several threats right now. We have several different things going with the state's contractor. These pharmacies are licensed and in good standing in the Medicaid program. Prime wants to push down some aggressive provider agreements. They are asking for claims data. Limit the pharmacy's ability to share information. Limiting the requirements under HIPAA creates a tremendous business interference.
 - Haley: Prime has to credential pharmacists. I talked to Prime's attorney and intended to contact our program integrity section and the board of pharmacy to see if these are concerns. Randal: This is something the chain drug stores are engaged in.
 - Haley: Send me the information about the other two
 - M.J. Terrebonne: We can get an update at the next meeting.
- **Pharmacy Notifications**
 - M.J. Terrebonne: April 30th, there was a pharmacy diabetic supply non-preferred list. On May 15th, Prime had an updated pharmacy directory.
 - LDH: The 6/1 notification should come out today or tomorrow. 6-1 will include the DUR from the March meeting.
- **Call for Public Testimony**
 - Cedric Cloud mentioned that some of these NPIs failed credentialing. There was an issue with OIG heat zone or heat map indicators that are known for extensive fraudulent activity. Could anyone speak to this?
 - Randal Johnson: These are some conversations we had in the past. Since you mentioned heat zones, Baton Rouge is listed as a heat zone for Medicare. We want to continue to work with you.
- **Other Business**
 - Randal Johnson: What consideration does the department have for out-of-state pharmacies dispensing to Medicaid patients?
 - LDH: Mail order cannot exceed one percent of the pharmacy claims. This is limited to 50 miles from the border.
- **Future Meeting Dates**
 - The next meeting will be held on June 25th
- **Adjournment**
 - The meeting was adjourned at 11.08 a.m.

