

1 WHEREAS, SAMHSA has developed an accreditation for opioid treatment programs
2 to provide medication-assisted treatment, as well as a range of other treatments; and

3 WHEREAS, a panel of experts convened to study the opioid epidemic in Louisiana
4 recommended in December 2018 that Louisiana undertake the following steps, among
5 others, to address opioid addiction in Louisiana:

6 (1) Expand access to evidenced-based treatment for opioid addition.

7 (2) Establish a statewide quality improvement system for addiction treatment.

8 (3) Address addiction as a chronic illness.

9 (4) Expand the use of peer recovery specialists for those with opioid use disorder.

10 (5) Invest in models of care to support women and families; and

11 WHEREAS, individuals in rural parishes do not have adequate access to medication-
12 assisted treatment for substance use disorder.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to issue regulations to allow the
15 establishment of new opioid treatment programs and methadone dosing sites.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in considering the expansion of new opioid
17 treatment programs, the Louisiana Department of Health shall consider all of the following:

18 (1) Developing an application process for new opioid treatment programs that
19 prioritizes the expansion of organizations already operating opioid treatment programs in
20 the state and in good standing with the office of behavioral health, and the integration of new
21 sites with federally qualified health centers and health systems.

22 (2) Providing new opioid treatment programs that offer all three Food and Drug
23 Administration-approved medications for opioid use disorder, obtain certification as a
24 Medicaid provider, and deliver services to patients covered under the Medicaid program.

25 (3) Creating an application process and necessary regulations for the establishment
26 of medication units to expand the availability of methadone; engaging with local governing
27 entities, opioid treatment programs, federally qualified health centers, and health systems
28 to establish these dosing sites. Rural parishes with higher rates of overdose deaths should
29 be considered for these dosing sites.

1 (4) Entering into partnerships with providers offering physical health services, such
2 as federally qualified health centers or health systems, either by direct integration with these
3 facilities, co-location or providing physical health services within the opioid treatment
4 program. These partnerships should prioritize the screening and treatment of comorbid
5 conditions, such as Hepatitis C and HIV.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these new regulations for opioid treatment
7 programs be issued by the Louisiana Department of Health by December 31, 2020.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health issue an
9 annual report to monitor the progress of this new opioid treatment program expansion,
10 including the number of Medicaid patients served at the opioid treatment programs and
11 other measures of success.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Dustin Miller

Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to issue regulations by December 31, 2020 for the establishment of new opioid treatment programs and methadone dosing sites.