

1 Louisiana Association of Health Plans; and

2 WHEREAS, the work group met weekly from April 23, 2014, through the fall of
3 2014; and

4 WHEREAS, in February 2015, on behalf of the work group, the department
5 submitted a report to the legislature that included five strategies that the membership agreed
6 upon to decrease primary care utilization in hospital emergency departments; and

7 WHEREAS, the five strategies were:

8 (1) Establish an electronic ED Visit Registry to provide timely notification
9 of Medicaid members' ED use to Bayou Health plans.

10 (2) Develop and implement a communications plan to educate patients on the
11 appropriate use of hospital EDs and alternate access points to care.

12 (3) Develop and issue prescribing recommendations to discourage narcotic
13 seeking in hospital EDs.

14 (4) Promote use of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy's Prescription
15 Monitoring Program to identify potential narcotic seekers in the ED.

16 (5) Develop baseline and progress measures for quarterly reporting on the
17 implementation of agreed upon strategies. These measures are hospital participation
18 in the ED Visit Registry, the completeness of data reported to the ED Visit Registry,
19 accuracy of Medicaid member identification from the ED Visit Registry, pre-ED
20 visit primary care contact rate, post-ED visit follow up rate, and the number of ED
21 visits per 1,000 member months; and

22 WHEREAS, in its closing paragraph, the department reported being "optimistic about
23 the potential for the strategies developed by the SR 29 Working Group to reduce ED
24 demands and constrain Medicaid expenditure growth"; and

25 WHEREAS, it has been more than two years since the work group first convened and
26 it is unclear whether these strategies have been implemented or, if implemented, what the
27 outcomes have been; and

28 WHEREAS, primary care use of the emergency department continues to be a
29 significant problem, with some hospitals now even offering website links or apps to
30 "check-in" or book your emergency room visits in advance; and

