

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham for her dedicated public service with the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of behavioral health.

WHEREAS, Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham was appointed Interim Assistant Secretary for the office of behavioral health on October 18, 2013, and was confirmed by the Louisiana Senate on June 2, 2014; and

WHEREAS, she began her career with the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) in 1990 and served as Medical Director for the office of behavioral health (OBH), formerly the office of addictive disorders from 2005; and

WHEREAS, in her position within OBH, and as the Louisiana Single State Agency (SSA) Director for the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) and as State Mental Health Commissioner of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), Dr. Head-Dunham fostered many innovative changes within the new construct of statewide managed behavioral healthcare for the state; and

WHEREAS, she is a New Orleans native who completed a Bachelor of Science in chemistry at Xavier University of New Orleans, an MD degree at Tulane University School of Medicine, and Psychiatry Residency training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York, was the first fellow to complete a Substance Abuse Fellowship at Tulane in 1991, and is board certified in both Adult General and Addiction Psychiatry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Head-Dunham advanced the skills, knowledge and application of standards of care in the treatment of co-occurring mental illness and addictive disorders for a broad array of providers and stakeholders, both statewide and nationally; and

WHEREAS, her academic appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry is served at both Tulane and LSU Schools of Medicine and her academic leadership has, throughout her career, served as a bridge to the behavioral health (substance use and mental illness) knowledge chiasm, pioneering statewide advances in knowledge, skills, and application of standards of care for co-occurring mental and addictive disorders; her work

in this area has been foundational to statewide readiness, for Louisiana's aggressive move to fully reform and integrate physical and behavioral healthcare systems; her anchoring to the commitment of holistic healthcare has expanded her reach to engage national attention and support for state-led integrative efforts; and her transformative leadership style galvanizes and motivates buy-in for shared vision by the members of her team; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Head-Dunham's pragmatic style has fostered inter and intra departmental collaborations resulting in systematic unprecedented changes within the new construct of Louisiana statewide integrated management of primary and behavioral healthcare; and

WHEREAS, she served as a governor's appointee to the Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee and the HIV Commission and previously managed a very robust solo private practice in New Orleans for fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her publications and research accomplishments, Dr. Head-Dunham is a member of several professional, medical, and civic organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, she resides in New Orleans with her husband and two daughters and is a practicing member of the Baptist faith serving in leadership positions at her local church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Head-Dunham's last day in the office was Friday, March 11, 2016; and

WHEREAS, her dedicated public service has resulted in better health and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana, and she has also touched the lives of those who have been privileged to learn from, work with, and know her.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham for her dedicated public service to the state and its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham.