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# LRHA Update

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Volume XII, Issue XI

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**LRHA Mission Statement:**

*To serve as a unified voice for the promotion of rural health care through advocacy, education, and leadership.*

## 2005 Rural Health Conference

### ***Reaction, Response, Resolve:***

### ***Rural Health in Louisiana***

December 12—13, 2005 ~ Lafayette Hilton

***Sponsored by: Louisiana Rural Health Association—  
with support from The Louisiana Hospital Association, The Rural Hospital Coalition, and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health***

The Louisiana Rural Health Association, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Rural Hospital Coalition, and the DHH Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health have been working diligently to address the needs of our combined members and constituents following the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In the wake of the devastation to our state and the impact on the rural health sector, the Annual Fall Rural Health Conference has been redesigned to address issues related to the aftermath of the storms as well as provide access to and information from state and federal leaders on the most current rural health issues. ***Reaction, Resolve, Response: Rural Health in Louisiana*** will provide rural health care professionals with a chance to seize an opportunity where members can discuss challenges, gather information, and plan for the future of rural health in Louisiana. All sessions will focus on education of participants with opportunities for interactive dialogue while encouraging a multi-disciplinary approach to improving rural health systems.

*All sessions/presentations subject to change based upon events impacting rural health delivery. Questions regarding the conference may be directed to Erin Watson or Adrienne Naquin of LRHA by calling (985) 369-3813.*

## **Mark your Calendars!**

**Registration form located on back cover.**

***Conference agenda & additional information available at:***

***www.lrha.org***



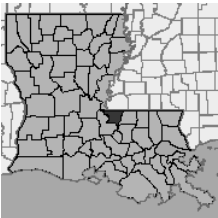
OperationUSA and LRHA award grant funds to LaSalle General Hospital. Pictured accepting the award from LRHA Staff Member Stacy Fontenot are Health Veuleman and Mary Moffett of LaSalle General Hospital.

### ByNet awarded AHRQ Grant

LRHA extends congratulations to ByNet for being awarded an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Health Information Technology (HIT) three-year implementation grant to establish an integrated clinical and human services information network for public and private providers serving residents of St. Mary and surrounding areas.

The lead project team includes ByNet, Franklin Foundation Hospital, Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI), Tulane Center for Clinical Effectiveness and Prevention (TCCEP), and Community Health Systems of Louisiana.

### Kudos to the Voters of West Feliciana Parish



West Feliciana voters agreed to renew three taxes for their parish including one for LRHA member facility, West Feliciana Parish Hospital. A 2-mill property tax for the hospital was renewed for ten years, a parish-wide half-cent sales tax and another half-

cent sales tax for the parishes unincorporated areas were renewed for seven years.

According to Hospital Administrator and LRHA Board Member Mark Chustz, "West Feliciana Parish Hospital depends on this revenue to maintain its services. The support of the community, as demonstrated by this tax renewal, is vital to the continued delivery of quality health-care at the local level."

## HHS Announced Three New Regulations to Promote Use of E-Rx and E-Health Records

The Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt announced October 5th a series of regulations intended to accelerate the use and adoption of electronic records. These records will be used in prescribing medications and in record keeping. The regulations would create standards for an e-prescribing system and allow hospitals and other health care providers to more easily obtain and exchange electronic health records. CMS will award \$6 million to fund pilot programs that use the new standards.

### Reminder!

**Health care providers are required by law to apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI). To apply online, visit:**

**<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>, also...**

Announcing the new CMS web page dedicated to providing all the latest NPI news for Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medicare providers! Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/npi/default.asp> on the web. While this page is dedicated to the FFS community, it contains helpful information and links that may benefit all health care providers.

### FindLADocs.com

*Louisiana's Displaced Physician Community*



[FindLADocs.com](http://www.findladocs.com) is a registry created for displaced Louisiana physicians and a point of connection to their patients. The website provides a portal for physicians to reestablish contact with their patients and colleagues. Physicians can post their new contact information so that patients can learn how and where they may be reached. Another goal of the launching of this website is to assist physicians in reestablishing their practices and to help rebuild Louisiana's health care system in the storm affected areas. The website is supported by Louisiana Health Care Review, Inc., Louisiana State Medical Society, Louisiana Medical Group Management Association, Louisiana Hospital Association, and the Orleans Parish Medical Society.



### ***Input Wanted & Welcome!***

*Contributions to the LRHA Update by members are encouraged and welcome. If you would like to submit an article for inclusion in the Update, simply forward your article or comments to [Jeanne at lrhaoffice@bellsouth.net](mailto:lrhaoffice@bellsouth.net).*



**Save the Date...**

**2006**

# Rural Health Clinic Education Event

January 25–26, 2005

Paragon Casino & Resort—Marksville, LA

For more information, contact LRHA @ 985-369-3813.

## National Rural Health Association Helps to Connect Rural Facilities and Job Seekers Through Rural Health Career Center

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) has launched a new and improved Rural Health Career Center, which focuses primarily on positions in rural health care and offers access to a large field of candidates primarily interested in working in a rural setting. NRHA members may post anonymous resumes for free on the site, which are viewed by the prospective employer, who then signals their interest by contacting the candidate through a blind contact process. The candidate only releases their personal contact information to the employer if they have an interest in pursuing the relationship with this employer further.

These resumes and job postings are exchanged with other member organizations in the healthcare field for maximum exposure of your ad through dozens of other associations and organizations members. NRHA members, at the Individual level and above, may post unlimited job openings on the site at the discounted price of \$75/ad for a 30-day posting and \$100/ad for a 60-day posting. Non-members, affiliate and advocate members pay \$250/ad for a 30-day posting and \$300/ad for a 60-day posting. The Career Center is easy to use and requires no specialized skills. Just enter your information into the easy to use form and submit! To visit the Career Center, go to: <http://careers.NRHArural.org>.



### **Congratulations**

To the students of Jackson, LA who will now have access to health care through LRHA member,

**Primary Care Providers for a  
Healthy Feliciana.**

## LRHA Welcomes Michael Calabro

We are pleased to announce that Michael P. Calabro has recently become a staff member of the Louisiana Rural Health Association.

Prior to joining LRHA, Calabro served as a government relations Manager at Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc., located in Washington, DC. During that time, he advocated various client interests to both state and federal legislatures, along with many regulatory and executive agencies.

From the years 2000 to 2003, Calabro worked as a legislative aide to United States Senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire where his legislative focus was concentrated on the federal budget, social security solvency, tax, governmental affairs, telecommunications and appropriations. He also has considerable experience in defense acquisition, research and development, intelligence, and science and technology.

Calabro received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, along with a certificate of excellence in Political Science from Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH.

## Health Access Planning Network (HAPN) Update

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage is finally a reality! On November 15th, seniors and adults with disabilities in Louisiana, who are eligible for Medicare, can take the first step to gaining prescription drug coverage by enrolling in what is known as Medicare Part D. Actual coverage will begin on January 1, 2006 for those who enroll in a plan prior to that date.

Over the past several months, HAPN, in collaboration with an in-house partnership with the Rural Enrollment Initiative, held Medicare Part D workshops in Assumption, Iberia, Iberville and Pointe Coupee parishes. The workshops were designed to provide “the basics” to assist seniors with understanding how the plan can help them. Now that enrollment has begun, HAPN will continue to take an active role by conducting enrollment events in all four cluster parishes. HAPN also has the capability to provide “train-the-trainer” workshops for organizations who are interested in enrolling seniors into a Medicare Part D Drug plan using the online tool that can be found on Medicare’s website, [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

For more information on the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit and for help joining a Medicare drug plan, call toll free **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227) or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).



**Annual LRHA  
Business Meeting**  
Monday, December 12, 2005  
in conjunction with Annual  
Rural Health Conference

**2005 Rural Health Conference Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee**

*Members of LRHA, LHA & the Rural Hospital Coalition.....\$195*

*Non Members.....\$215*

**Payment must accompany registration**

**Total registration fee paid** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MasterCard #(circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that registrations with credit card payment may be faxed to 985/369-3630.*

*Make check payable to: Louisiana Rural Health Association  
PO Box 387 ~ Napoleonville, LA 70390*

Registrations may be mailed or faxed directly to the Louisiana Rural Health Association. Registrations that are mailed should include payment by check or credit card. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. You may fax your registration to 985-369-3630, with a Visa or MasterCard number. Cancellations are possible prior to the actual program date minus a \$20.00 processing fee. No refund will be granted if the registrant fails to appear for the seminar without giving notice or does not cancel prior to the date of the program.

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