



Louisiana Rural Health Association
P.O. Box 387, Napoleonville, LA 70390
985-369-3813 (phone) 985-369-3630 (fax)
www.lrha.org

Prescription Assistance Programs to Become More Resourceful Through Health Access Planning Network (HAPN)

(Napoleonville, LA, May 12, 2005) - The National Evaluation Plan for the Better Health for the Delta- Phase II Program is stressing a more data oriented approach to improving access to health care in rural America. Therefore, Louisiana Rural Health Association has responded by creating Health Access Planning Network (HAPN) for Assumption, Iberia, Iberville, and Pointe Coupee Parishes. Representing their respective parishes, HAPN's current network partners are ACE Incorporated, Assumption Community Hospital, H.O.P.E. Ministry of Pointe Coupee, Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center (ICCHC), and St. Gabriel (Eastside) Community Health Clinic.

The organizational meeting for HAPN was held on May 9th, 2005 at Assumption Community Hospital in Napoleonville. The purpose of the meeting was to identify a health access focus area, develop a workable strategic plan using a logic model, and to build a shared understanding of the overall goal of the multi-parish network.

The first order of business was to develop a cohesive group that was committed to developing a mutually beneficial health care access focus area. After discussing the pros and cons of tobacco cessation, youth obesity, primary care, behavioral health integration through health education a consensus was reached – coordination, categorizing and support of patient assistance prescription programs in the four parish area.

HAPN is going to achieve this lofty goal by establishing a clearinghouse for prescription assistance programs. The purpose of the clearinghouse will be to assess existing programs, create reporting standards, develop best practice models, and provide a conduit for the free-flow of information. HAPN will also develop tools that will help fill the gaps identified by the parish assessment. Ultimately, the result of this activity will be an increase in the number of people served by prescription assistance programs and better, more productive communication between the programs. Patients will be better served and the prescription assistance programs will be able to do more with less – making them more efficient.

For more information about Health Access Planning Network, or if you are interested in becoming a partner, please contact Stacy Fontenot at (985) 369-3813 or emailing her at lrhahapn@bellsouth.net.

The Louisiana Rural Health Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of the citizens of rural Louisiana. The membership provides leadership in rural health care issues through advocacy, communication and education. Our membership is composed of individuals and organizations interested in making a difference in the quality of the health care delivery system for Louisiana's rural citizens.

