



LOUISIANA
CENTER FOR
HEALTH
EQUITY

Louisiana Center for Health Equity

NEWSLETTER

First Edition—March 2011

LCHE Seeks Input on "We Are More" Youth Outreach and Education Program

LCHE along with the One Light Baton Rouge Association hosted a meeting on Saturday, March 19. A small group gathered to discuss "I Am More, You Are More, Together *We Are More*" and share ideas about its relevance and activities to further planning.



Rev. Larry D. Hood and Alma C. Stewart listen closely to participants' ideas.

We Are More is a youth outreach and education program aimed at transforming the future outlook of youth in our communities. Through a partnership with the faith-based community and other community organizations, the goal is to equip youth whose circumstances make them vulnerable to poor performance with both spiritual and secular attributes, as well as basic knowledge for an opportunity to live a healthy life without struggling to get by or considerable concerns about unsafe streets.

This program is the brain child of Rev. Mary L. Wade, Ph.D. of Philadelphia. Dr. Wade is implementing *We Are More* in her community; she is also the founder of One Light. One Light promotes personal spiritual development.

Rev. Larry D. Hood, pastor of Logos and Life Bible Church in Plaquemines, Louisiana, and an educator with the East Baton Rouge Parish School system and Dr. Wade are providing leadership and guidance for this initiative.

COMING SOON....

www.lahealthequity.org

The LCHE website will feature information on LCHE and health disparities in Louisiana, as well as how to get involved in helping to improve the community health outcomes across the state.

DID YOU KNOW....

Many Louisiana residents are struggling financially and many are without health insurance, and despite high per capita public health funding, Louisiana ranks 49th in the United States according to the 2010 America's Health Rankings.

LCHE, established in January 2010, is a nonpartisan, public charity, nonprofit organization, with IRS 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status.

About LCHE

LCHE works to address the increasing disparities in health and health care across Louisiana. LCHE represents the interest of health equity by promoting the elimination of health disparities caused by poverty, lack of access to quality health care and unhealthy environmental conditions with a focus on wellness and community health.

What We Do

- Reach out to local communities by providing information and education
- Serve as a means for collaboration with other entities on health disparities
- Identify and distribute information about effective and proven practices

What You Can Do

- Volunteer with LCHE
- Become a friend of LCHE on Facebook
- Contribute to LCHE personally
- Follow us on Twitter
- Learn more about LCHE

Donate to LCHE

Your generous, tax deductible donations make it possible for LCHE to provide educational outreach activities to communities throughout the state. These activities are geared toward creating individual/ community awareness as well as involvement in community health improvements.

Visit www.lahealthequity.org

LCHE Welcomes New Board Members

LCHE announces the appointment of seven new board members

"The current board of LCHE is happy to welcome the new board members. LCHE is currently working to address the increasing disparities in health and health care across Louisiana. LCHE will reach out to the local communities by providing information and education, and identify and distribute information about effective and proven practices," said Alma Stewart, LCHE President.

New members include:

Melody L. Counts, M.D., is a board-certified family medicine physician in Clinton, Louisiana. She completed her family medicine residency at the Baton Rouge General in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is on the Louisiana Physician's Council on Cancer and has participated in the Felicianas Asthma Coalition and Louisiana Tobacco Disparities Coalition. She enjoys providing medical care in underserved areas.

Gina E. Eubanks, Ph.D., has served as Vice Chancellor for Extension at the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center since 2002. Among her duties, Gina provides strong intellectual leadership for all extension educational programming; participates as a team member of the Chancellor's executive council in policy-making, strategic planning, goal-setting and troubleshooting on issues that impact the Center; maintains and updates memorandum of understanding with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center; reviews and assists in the preparation and implementation of the Center's budget and other fiscal matters; serves as liaison for the Center through service to the community and coordination with federal, state and local advisory groups; and assist in seeking external funding for the Center.

Diane Hargrove-Roberson, MSW, is the Total Community Action Neighborhood Center Supervisor of the Central City Economic Opportunity Corporation located in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has worked as a public health professional and a community organizer for 25 years in areas including emergency preparedness planning, the prevention and elimination of tobacco use, and working to control and prevent chronic diseases. Her particular interest focuses on the elimination of health disparities among special populations, with a philosophy of client empowerment as her guiding principle. As a long time community activist, she advocates for improving the health of families and communities. Diane serves on many boards, committees and task forces.

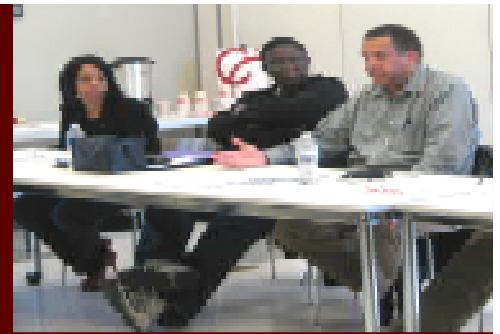
Arthur James Lathan is the Co-Founder and serves as the Executive Director of Gibsland Youth Community Resource Center. He is retired from the United States Air Force and is very active in his community. Mr. Lathan serves on several local boards and commissions in Bienville Parish, and holds leadership positions in his church. His passion is working with youth and helping families dealing with problems, sponsoring local activities that focus on family involvement, such as parenting classes, recreation activities for youth, and social events to enhance spiritual growth in the community. He works with all races to help combat health disparities within local communities, especially with the underserved and rural population.

Tiffany D. Magee is Director of Financial Aid at Our Lady of the Lake College. Magee, who has over twelve years of experience in higher education, is also a site coordinator for College Goal Sunday. She is the State Director for Miss Black Louisiana USA, an affiliate of Miss Black USA. It is the mission of Miss Black Louisiana USA to provide educational opportunities via scholarship and financial literacy to outstanding young women of color and to develop the "whole woman mind, body, and spirit" while serving the communities within the state of Louisiana.

Dr. Paul Race, J.D., M.D., joined the Southern University Law Center Faculty in 2003 as a visiting professor. Race, formerly in private practice in Durham, North Carolina, earned his juris doctorate in 1997 from Duke University School of Law. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Rice University in Houston, Texas. Dr. Race has specialized in non-profit and small business law, as well as medical malpractice, personal injury, and insurance fraud.

Mayor Bobby Washington currently serves as the president of the Louisiana Municipal Association. In addition to serving in his fifth term as Cullen mayor, a post he has held for the past 19 years, Washington is also on the board of directors for Carter Federal Credit Union. He is actively involved as Pastor of Holy Temple First Church of God in Christ and serves on the board of Springhill Medical Center, National Conference of Black Mayors and Coordinating Development Cooperation.

The Board oversees LCHE's finances, policies and practices, strategic planning and statewide outreach.



Magee, Eubanks and Race pictured above.

LCHE Officers and Board Members

Alma C. Stewart, R.N., M.S.,
LCHE President
A. Charles Stewart Consultants
Baton Rouge, LA

Carliss Y. Washington, Ph. D.,
LCHE Vice President
Southern University Department of
Rehabilitation and Disabilities Studies
Baton Rouge, LA

Frances R. Wiggins, DDS, FAGD
LCHE Secretary
Private Practice
Plaquemine, LA

Melody Counts, M.D.
Family Medicine Practitioner
Zachary, LA

Gina E. Eubanks, Ph.D
Southern University, A & M College
Agricultural Research and Extension
Center
Baton Rouge, LA

Diane Hargrove-Roberson, MSW
Total Community Action, Inc.
New Orleans, LA

Arthur Lathan
Gibsland Youth Center
Gibsland, LA

Tiffany D. Magee
Our Lady of the Lake College
Miss Black Louisiana USA
Baton Rouge, LA

Paul A. Race, J.D., M.D.
Southern University Law Center
Baton Rouge, LA

Mayor Bobby Washington
Louisiana Municipal Association
Cullen, LA

LCHE Supports Proposed Louisiana Tobacco Tax Increase

LCHE supports the tobacco tax increase that is projected to deter youth smoking and use of other forms of tobacco products that may threaten or harm their health. In a letter to major Louisiana newspapers on behalf of the LCHE, Dr. Melody Counts, LCHE Board Member and a family physician, stated, “an increase in the tobacco tax in Louisiana would provide many benefits for the people of this state. The national average tobacco tax is \$1.45. Louisiana’s tobacco tax is only 36 cents. If we were to increase it to \$1.25, which is still below the national average, we could provide funding for much-needed state programs and also save lives.” She went on to provide several reasons for LCHE’s recent vote to support the tobacco tax. According to the Coalition for a Tobacco – Free Louisiana increasing the tobacco tax would save Louisiana \$25.4 million in tobacco-related health costs. This savings would come from fewer heart attacks, strokes, low birth weight babies, etc. The New Orleans Times Picayune is among the newspapers recently running her letter.

Chi Eta Phi Professional Nursing Sorority Joins LCHE to Promote Health



Chi Eta Phi nurses Nichelle Cyrus, Rose Cain and Coleatha Fowler (far right) pause for a pose with Alma C. Stewart, LCHE President (2nd from right).

Families came from far and near to enjoy games, activities and prizes in Ben Burge Park on Saturday, March 26. BREC’s Easter event for children and youth in the Gardere area was filled with fun activities including an Easter egg hunt. LCHE participated in the event by providing parents with health information about nutrition and physical activity, and giving away pedometers and other donated items.

Psi Phi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Professional Nursing Sorority assisted LCHE with promoting health during this event by providing free blood pressure screenings. Walgreens Pharmacy located at Burbank and Bluebonnet also supported the effort by supplying pertinent health information, snacks and giveaways. “Many of the participants expressed their appreciation” stated Annie Durant, LCHE Volunteer (pictured to the right). Families left the event more informed about their health and the supporters left with the satisfaction of taking part in an enjoyable community event.





Alma C. Stewart (on left) enjoyed meeting 9News Neighborhoods Web Producer Michelle McCalope (second from left) and networking with other contributors, including Frances Boyd Farlow and Bea Gyimah.

Stewart Represents LCHE at Recent 9News Open House

Alma C. Stewart, LCHE President, attended the WAFB's Community Content Provider (CCP) Open House along with nearly 40 other invited guests from throughout the Greater Baton Rouge area on February 24. The event was held to provide information about WAFB.com's 9News Neighborhoods website and the importance of the CCP's role.

9News is a website dedicated to community news including announcements, fundraisers and events, just to name a few. Stewart is already a CCP contributor submitting a recent story announcing the LCHE's new Board Members to the website.

As part of the event, Stewart and other guests watched the 6 o'clock news live in the studio and met the WAFB news team, including 9News Neighborhoods Web Producer Michelle McCalope.

Free Health Screenings

Coming Soon

LCHE is participating in
BREC's "SpringFest"

Saturday, April 16, 2011

10:00 am– 3:00 pm

Kerr Warren Park

4100 Geronimo Road

Baton Rouge, LA

Mark Your Calendars

LCHE will be hosting
2nd Annual "Your Community

Health Is Wealth" Fair

Saturday, September 24, 2011

1:00 to 5:00 pm

5509 Winbourne Avenue

Baton Rouge, LA



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LCHE Holds Board Orientation and Development

On Saturday, January 22, LCHE held a board orientation meeting at Carver Branch Library in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The meeting featured several guest speakers. Matthew Valliere, MPA, DHH Chronic Disease Control and Prevention Unit Director (pictured on left) discussed putting social determinants of health into perspective. Mark A. Perry, MPA, DHH Asthma Program Manager explained the importance of addressing health disparities in Louisiana. Thomas Durant, PhD, LSU Emeritus Professor of Sociology also joined the discussions, providing a report on a community dialogue co-hosted by LCHE along with the Mid South Sociological Association in October 2010.

The meeting also laid out LCHE's board responsibilities, board policies, action plan and board member expectations.



Matthew Valliere MPA, provides overview of pertinent health data in Baton Rouge communities.