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Contact:
Cynthia Michael
Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum
(225) 300-4836
cmichael@lhcfq.org

Nelson Named Vice-Chair Of National POLST Paradigm Task Force

BATON ROUGE, La. – March 6, 2014 – Susan Nelson, MD, Chair of the LaPOST Coalition, a statewide
network of health care professionals, has been named Vice-Chair of the National Physician Orders for
Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Paradigm Task Force (NPPTF) and its Executive Committee.

According to Amy Vandenbroucke, Executive Director of the National POLST Paradigm, the purpose of
the NPPTF is to advance education and science related to POLST and end-of-life planning. The NPPTF is
dedicated to overseeing the success of the POLST Paradigm in every state and to establishing clear
tenets of the POLST Paradigm. As Vice-Chair, Nelson will serve as a key leader in shaping the direction of
the National POLST Paradigm, she said.

“Dr. Nelson is bringing the success she has achieved in implementing and developing the Physician
Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment program in Louisiana - known as LaPOST - to the national level as
Vice-Chair of the National POLST Paradigm Task Force. I look forward to working with her in
strengthening the National POLST Paradigm to ensure all seriously ill and/or frail patients have their
treatment wishes honored,” Vandenbroucke stated.

As Chair of the LaPOST Coalition, Nelson has worked tirelessly to increase awareness and provide
education about the Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST) document. Designed to
improve the quality of end-of-life care, the LaPOST form is based on effective communication of the
wishes of patients with serious, advanced illnesses, a promise by health care professionals to honor
these wishes and documentation of the corresponding medical orders on a brightly colored form.

In addition to her role as Chair of the LaPOST Coalition, Nelson is board-certified in internal medicine,
geriatrics and hospice and palliative medicine and serves as Medical Director of Senior Services and
PACE Baton Rouge, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System and St. Joseph Hospice. She is a
fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative
Medicine as well as an advocate for senior health. She works with the Louisiana State Medical Society
Council on Public Health and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), and she serves on
the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum.
“I am honored and excited to be a part of the national efforts to advance POLST education and awareness. It has been very gratifying to see the POLST program expand to so many states and to see its growth here in Louisiana, and I look forward to working with the National POLST Paradigm’s dedicated team to help develop policies and strategies to take the program even farther,” said Nelson.

To learn more about LaPOST, please visit www.la-post.org.

About LaPOST
The LaPOST Coalition is organized through the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing evidence-based, collaborative initiatives to improve the health of Louisiana residents. In addition to LaPOST, its focus areas include quality measurement and analytics, clinical quality improvement, the patient-centered medical home/care coordination model, outreach/education and health information technology (IT). With regard to health IT, the Quality Forum supports health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records and leads the planning and implementation of the state’s health information exchange. For more information, visit www.lhcqf.org.

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