



LOUISIANA
HEALTH CARE
QUALITY FORUM

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BUNKIE GENERAL HOSPITAL JOINS LOUISIANA’S HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Baton Rouge, LA – March 8, 2012 – The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum has announced that Bunkie General Hospital in Bunkie, La., became the first Critical Access Hospital (CAH) in the state to enroll as a participant in the state’s health information exchange, known as LaHIE.

“We are very happy to welcome Bunkie General to the statewide health information exchange,” noted Cindy Munn, Executive Director of the Forum. “Connecting rural providers and hospitals in Louisiana to LaHIE is a key goal for us so that they and their patients can benefit from the improved coordination, quality and efficiency in health care.”

According to Linda Deville, Bunkie General’s Chief Executive Officer, the 25-bed acute care hospital is ready to take the next step. “Being the first CAH in Louisiana to join LaHIE is an achievement of which we are very proud,” she states. “Being connected to LaHIE will give our physicians and employees access to current patient information in order to deliver safe, timely, efficient and effective, patient-centered care. And in turn, we believe that this sharing of health information will lead to a higher quality of care and coordination for our patients.”

LaHIE is the mechanism that allows for the secure exchange of health information among authorized providers and organizations across Louisiana’s health care system to help improve patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes. Benefits of LaHIE include timely access to patient records, improved patient safety, increased security of records, better coordination of care and patient management, reduced health care costs and improved public health reporting.

In 2009, the Forum was named as the State-Designated Entity to oversee planning, development and implementation of LaHIE. The exchange launched in November 2011 with Lafayette General Medical Center and Opelousas General Health System as pilot facilities in the Acadiana region of the state. In December 2011, LaHIE went “live” and is currently available for hospitals and providers to use.

For the latest information about LaHIE, visit lhccf.org or call toll-free (877) 676-9298.

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About the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum

The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum is a private, not-for-profit organization, dedicated to advancing evidence-based, collaborative initiatives to improve the health of Louisiana residents. 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. The Forum is the State-Designated Entity to support the state’s health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records and lead the planning and implementation of the state’s health information exchange. For more information, visit www.lhccf.org.