



LOUISIANA
HEALTH CARE
QUALITY FORUM

CONTACT: Linda Morgan, Marketing/Communications Director
225 300 4824 (o) or 504 473 6861 (m) ▪ lmorgan@lhccf.org

For Immediate Release – Photo Included

EAST CARROLL PARISH HOSPITAL JOINS LOUISIANA’S HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE Community to Benefit from Health Information Technology

Baton Rouge, LA – April 24, 2012 – According to the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, East Carroll Parish Hospital is the first hospital in northeastern Louisiana to join the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE). LaHIE is the mechanism that allows for the secure exchange of health information among authorized providers and across Louisiana’s health care system to help improve patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes.

Located in Lake Providence, La., East Carroll Parish Hospital is a 23-bed acute care facility with two rural health clinics. As a participating member of LaHIE, East Carroll’s physicians and employees will soon be able to better serve their patients by securely accessing necessary information designed to provide coordinated care.

As Hospital Administrator LaDonna Englerth notes, “This milestone aligns well with our mission to provide the best possible health care to the people we serve. We want to pave the way for the state’s health information exchange in this area and take coordinated care and customer service to new levels for our providers and patients.”

“I commend East Carroll Parish Hospital for advancing patient-centered care in northeastern Louisiana,” said Cindy Munn, Forum Executive Director. “Enrolling with LaHIE will soon enable the hospital and its providers to connect with the larger health care community throughout the state and introduce a new level of care, safety and savings to Louisiana patients.”

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 the State-Designated Entity to oversee planning, development and implementation of LaHIE. The exchange went “live” in December 2011 with Lafayette General Medical Center and Opelousas General Health System as pilot facilities in the Acadiana region and is currently available for hospitals and providers to use. For more information, please visit <http://lhccf.org/lahie-about> or call toll-free (877) 676-9298.

-more-

Photo Identification

From left: East Carroll Parish Hospital's Project Manager Jennifer Gilfoil and Administrator LaDonna Englerth review LaHIE agreement with Client Executive Lonnie Dufour.

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 health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records and to lead the planning and implementation of the state's health information exchange. For more information, visit www.lhcqf.org.

###