



LOUISIANA
HEALTH CARE
QUALITY FORUM

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO SHARE HEALTH IT STORIES IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

BATON ROUGE, LA – (June 18, 2012) – On June 18 and 19, 2012, the White House and Health and Human Services (HHS) will recognize four health care providers from Louisiana in Washington, D.C., for their leadership in advancing health information technology (IT) in the state.

The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum nominated these individuals for championing the use of health IT in their respective communities. They include: Justin Bennett, NP (Owner, Riverside Family Medicine in Maurepas); Jared Lormand (Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Opelousas General Health System); Edwina Mallery (Assistant Vice President of Information Systems, Lafayette General Medical Center); and Deano Thornton (Chief Executive Officer, Winn Community Health Center in Winnfield).

On June 18, the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) is hosting a Health IT Vanguard Conference in which these individuals will join 78 other providers from across the country to share lessons learned in adopting and implementing electronic health records. At the White House Health IT Town Hall on June 19, senior White House and HHS officials will discuss progress and barriers to a national health IT system with the Louisiana group in attendance.

Riverside Medical Center has received assistance from the Louisiana Health Information Technology (LHIT) Resource Center, which is administered by the Forum, to successfully achieve meaningful use (MU) and to complete requirements for NCQA recognition as a patient-centered medical home. Through a partnership with the Louisiana Primary Care Association, Winn Community Health Center also received MU assistance from the LHIT Resource Center and is preparing to connect with the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE), another Forum initiative.

Lafayette General Medical Center and Opelousas General Health System partnered with the Forum and served as pilot sites to launch LaHIE in the Acadiana region. With their support, LaHIE went live in December 2011 and is now available to hospitals and providers across the state.

In Louisiana, the LHIT Resource Center is working with more than 1,200 health care providers and 20 critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records. LaHIE is the mechanism that allows authorized providers and organizations to electronically access and share health-related information through a secure and confidential network to improve patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes. For more information about these initiatives, contact info@lhcf.org.

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 (IT). With regard to health IT, 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.

To learn more about EHR adoption, meaningful use and other areas of health IT, visit www.healthit.gov. Information on ONC's broad range of activities may be viewed at http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_home/1204

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