



LOUISIANA  
HEALTH CARE  
QUALITY FORUM

## PRESS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

#### LOUISIANA HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**BATON ROUGE, LA** – (Nov. 5, 2012) – The Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE) celebrated its one year anniversary on Nov. 4, 2012.

LaHIE was officially launched on Nov. 4, 2011, at the Louisiana Health Information and Management Systems Society Conference with Lafayette General Medical Center and Opelousas General Health System as pilot sites in the Acadiana region. The two pilot sites went live with LaHIE in December 2011.

Partnering with LaHIE has allowed Lafayette General Medical Center to “provide timely and meaningful information to providers in our community and across parish lines,” says Edwina Mallory, Assistant Vice President of the Information System Department.

“Our vision has been to promote continuity of care in a secure environment to the patients we serve by facilitating access to their health records with our providers,” explains Mallory. “Our goal was to improve care and reduce redundant cost that our patients may be experiencing from duplicative tests and/or procedures. In essence, LaHIE allowed us to improve health in the community that we serve.”

Jared Lormand, Vice President of Information Technology and CIO of Opelousas General Health Center, says the hospital is very excited about having piloted LaHIE in its first year, and notes that LaHIE has been a crucial component in the hospital’s mission to provide providers access to important patient information.

“Opelousas General Health System is looking forward to the growth of the exchange in its second year,” Lormand says, adding, “We are leading the nation in increasing the access of critical patient data to our providers.”

Also now live with LaHIE are Lafayette General Surgical Center in Lafayette and St. Martin Hospital in Breaux Bridge.

In its first year, many hospitals and affiliated clinics – including the CHRISTUS network of hospitals and Baton Rouge General Medical Center – along with ambulance companies, care clinics, home health providers and school-based health centers have signed participation agreements with LaHIE.

In addition, the exchange achieved the ability in July 2012 to facilitate public health reporting in Louisiana by connecting providers with organizations such as the Louisiana Office of Public Health and the Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS) through its web portal.

According to Nadine Robin, Health Information Technology Program Manager for the Quality Forum, while the accomplishments of LaHIE in its first year have been exciting, even greater successes are expected as the exchange continues to grow in 2013.

“As we move forward, we will continue to increase functionality to support providers and hospitals in their achievement of future phases of meaningful use and other exchange needs,” says Robin. “National level exchange and patient portal offerings will be a priority for 2013 as we grow to meet the expanding needs of Louisiana’s health care providers and residents.”

Cindy Munn, Executive Director of the Quality Forum, says, “We are proud to have achieved so many goals during LaHIE's first year, and we look forward to further development in the coming months as the exchange gains momentum with more pledges of participation from hospitals, physicians and other providers across the state.”

Munn adds, “LaHIE represents an important step in advancing health care and health care delivery in Louisiana, with the residents of our state benefitting from its continued growth.”

For more information about LaHIE, contact [lahie@lhcf.org](mailto:lahie@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, Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST), outreach/education and health information technology (IT). With regard to health IT, the Quality 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.lhcf.org](http://www.lhcf.org).

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