

## Louisiana Primary Care Association

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**For Immediate Release**



*Left to Right:* Rhonda Litt, LPCA Executive Director, Carol Smith, LPCA Board Secretary, Eric Taylor, LPCA Board President, Jerry Luke LeBlanc, DOA former Commissioner, Bill Black, DOA Research and Government Accountability Department

### **STATE INVESTS MONEY IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS**

BATON ROUGE – The State of Louisiana through the Division of Administration and Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) finalized and executed the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement on January 10, 2008. The \$41,500,000 dollar allocation was distributed on January 11, 2008 to the LPCA, as part of the Community Clinics Initiative.

“I’m happy to have been able to deliver on this landmark commitment to primary and preventative care in Louisiana and to make available medical care for more than 186,000 uninsured citizens of Louisiana,” stated Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco.

The monies were appropriated by Act 203 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature to the Division of Administration and allocated for the statewide planning, acquisition and construction of Community Primary Health Care Clinics. LPCA will manage the initiative and facilitate the construction and improvements of the FQHCs.

The purpose of the legislation was to increase availability of primary care health services to the underserved areas of Louisiana and to assist in restoring services to areas impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The state’s significant investment will increase Louisiana citizens’ access to quality primary and preventative health care.

Act 203 authorized the Division of Administration to leverage the Appropriation with the federal New Market Tax Credits program and other available federal tax credit programs to maximize the funding available for Federally Qualified Health Centers or FQHC infrastructure development.

Eric Taylor, LPCA Board President stated, “Through the grace of God, the Governor, the Legislature, and private advocacy groups, such as the Public Affairs Research Council, the State of Louisiana has taken historical steps toward increasing access to primary health care for thousands of uninsured and underinsured residents who suffer disproportionate quality health care outcomes. On behalf of the entire membership of Louisiana Primary Care Association, we are humbled by the opportunity to serve and provide additional primary health care in a cost-efficient model of care. We also look forward to working with the State to implement evidenced based and patient-centered models of primary health care.”

LPCA is the voice of Louisiana's Health Centers, who believe that all Louisianians deserve access to the highest quality healthcare. LPCA promotes community-based health services through advocacy, education, public awareness, and leveraging resources.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please contact Rhonda Litt, Executive Director, at (225) 927-7662 or e-mail [Rhonda@lpca.net](mailto:Rhonda@lpca.net).