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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LSU INTERIM HOSPITAL OPENS INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC CARE UNIT ON DEPAUL CAMPUS

**Baton Rouge (September 21, 2007)** –The LSU Interim Hospital will hold the ribbon-cutting and press conference for the opening of a temporary 33-bed inpatient psychiatric care unit in the Seaton Building on the campus of the former DePaul Hospital, 1035 Calhoun St., in New Orleans, at 10:30 AM, Tuesday, September 25, 2007.

LSU Interim Hospital will use the building for inpatient mental health services only. It will not offer a crisis intervention unit in the building. As staffing increases, the number of staffed beds will increase up to the planned 33 beds.

“The opening of the inpatient psychiatric care unit addresses a critical mental-health care need in the region,” said Dr. Michael K. Butler, acting CEO of the LSU Health Care Services Division. “We know that additional mental health beds are desperately needed, and we are pleased to be able to partially address that need. The unit will provide care in the short-term while LSU builds a hospital that will provide care well into the twenty-first century.”

All patients will be medically screened, and those patients needing admission will be admitted to the Seaton Building.

“As in the provision of all LSU health care, patient safety is a paramount concern,” said Dr. Dwayne Thomas, hospital administrator for LSU Interim Hospital. “We’re confident that the Seaton Building will provide for patients a safe and appropriate environment and that the safeguards we have in place will ensure that the facility will be a safe and quiet presence for its neighbors.”

Previously used as an inpatient mental health facility, the Seaton Building has the required features for psychiatric care. LSU Interim Hospital has updated the building for its use as its psychiatric care unit and will provide security for patient and public safety.

On May 31, 2007, the LSU Board of Supervisors approved a temporary five-year lease of the Seaton Building. LSU will not establish a permanent facility in this building.

The fifth largest public hospital system in the country, the LSU Health Care Services Division is the medical provider for almost 20% of Louisiana’s population. It has over 60,000 admissions, 350,000 patient days, 1 million outpatient visits, and over 350,000 emergency department visits. Each year 1700 residents from the LSU and Tulane

schools of medicine and Ochsner Health System and 4,000 nurses and allied health students from many colleges and universities are trained in LSU HCSD facilities.

LSU HCSD is the largest single provider of uncompensated inpatient care in Louisiana and provides over 95% of the health care for Louisiana's prisoners. LSU hospitals have an economic impact of over \$1.6 billion in asset business activity, \$918 million in personal earnings, and support over 10,000 jobs.

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