



# LSU

## HEALTH CARE SERVICES DIVISION

### LOUISIANA'S HEALTH SYSTEM

BOGALUSA MEDICAL CENTER  
EARL K. LONG MEDICAL CENTER-BATON ROUGE  
HUEY P. LONG MEDICAL CENTER-ALEXANDRIA  
LALLIE KEMP REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER-INDEPENDENCE  
L. J. CHABERT MEDICAL CENTER-HOUMA  
MEDICAL CENTER OF LOUISIANA AT NEW ORLEANS  
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER-LAFAYETTE  
W. O. MOSS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER-LAKE CHARLES

EXECUTIVE VP/CEO: DONALD R. SMITHBURG

DEPUTY CEO: ROBERT M. PLAISANCE

MEDICAL DIRECTOR: MICHAEL K. BUTLER, M.D.

## IN THE NEWS...

Friday, June 16, 2006

LRA endorses concept of health reform recommendations

The Associated Press; 06.15.06

PAR recommends health-care improvements

The Advocate; 06.16.06

Panel backs health changes

The Advocate; 06.16.06

PAR says don't drop the ball on health care reform

GBRBR Daily Report; 06.15.06

Hurricane evacuees say they want to come back to La.

GBRBR Daily Report; 06.15.06

Emergency room crisis

KATC TV; 06.15.06

Legislator takes job to help rebuild state

The Advocate; 06.16.06

Seniors affected by Hurricane Katrina get Medicare drug-plan enrollment help

The Advocate; 06.16.06

Louisiana House approves smoking ban

Shreveport Times; 06.16.06

EDITORIAL: First aid for hospitals

Times – Picayune; 06.14.06

Daily Briefing

Health Care Advisory Board

## **LRA endorses concept of health reform recommendations The Associated Press; 06.15.06**

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — The governor's hurricane recovery panel agreed Thursday to the guiding principles of a sweeping report suggesting recommendations to revamp Louisiana's hurricane-damaged health care system, but chose to leave the design to another group.

That means the specifics of the charity hospital system's role in caring for the poor and uninsured — one of the cruxes of the heated health care reform debate — will be determined by a panel separate from the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

The recovery group didn't sign on to each specific recommendation in the report by consultant PricewaterhouseCoopers, like politically volatile recommendations to restructure health spending and for LSU to reduce its role in managing state-owned charity hospitals that aren't teaching facilities.

The LRA will have a subcommittee that will work with a newly-formed health care reform "collaborative," whose makeup is being worked out by the Legislature and will be guided in the state health department. The collaborative will include groups such as hospitals, nursing homes and others with a financial stake in the current system.

State Health and Hospitals Secretary Fred Cerise said Louisiana, after working through the health reform collaborative, will present a detailed plan to federal officials by mid-October, including major changes in the way health care is delivered and paid for in New Orleans.

The health reform plan will be crafted in cooperation with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt.

LRA officials said they didn't need to have a competing set of recommendations to those that ultimately will be endorsed by the health reform collaborative, which has yet to begin debating the nuances of the PWC report.

But LRA members are "very interested, and they're going to be very involved in the process," said Catherine Heitman, a spokeswoman for the recovery authority.

LRA board members have disagreed about what the authority's role should be in health reform efforts, but the Blanco administration has backed the creation of the separate reform collaborative.

<http://www.nola.com/newsflash/louisiana/index.ssf?/base/news-25/1150414760156740.xml&storylist=louisiana>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)





Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who addressed the group before the resolution was discussed, offered general support while noting such efforts are always difficult.

“We have an opportunity to improve our health-care system statewide,” Blanco said. “I say let’s do it.”

Barry Erwin, president of the Council for a Better Louisiana, said he can see how the new committee could pave the way for health-care changes in hard-hit New Orleans but that making it happen statewide raises questions.

He said he does not see how the committee being put together by the Legislature will get the job done.

David Hood, a health-care policy analyst for the Public Affairs Research Council, called the resolution a step forward. Hood, former secretary of the state Department of Health and Hospitals, noted that the state still lacks a plan to rebuild health care nearly 10 months after Hurricane Katrina.

Under the resolution, a subcommittee of the LRA will work with the health-care committee to push improvements.

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/3062616.html?showAll=y>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)







## **Legislator takes job to help rebuild state**

### **The Advocate; 06.16.06**

Rep. Bryant Hammett to oversee reconstruction of storm-damaged infrastructure  
By MICHELLE MILLHOLLON

One of the governor's key floor leaders is resigning from the Legislature to take a \$140,000-a-year job with her administration.

Rep. Bryant Hammett, an engineer, will oversee part of the hurricane recovery for the Division of Administration's Office of Community Development.

The Ferriday Democrat will focus on fixing state and local government infrastructure that was damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The job begins in early July.

Hammett, 49, is the sole owner of Bryant Hammett & Associates LLC, a civil engineering and land surveying business that employs 20 people.

He received clearance from state ethics officials to maintain his firm as long as it doesn't do any business with the government unit he will be involved with. Hammett said he won't manage the firm day to day.

Hammett was elected to the House in 1991. As chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, he handled the multibillion-dollar state construction budget for the Blanco administration. His panel also reviews legislation to change taxes.

Term limits would have forced Hammett to leave the House in 2008. Now he will resign at the end of the current legislative session.

The administration did not approach him about the job, Hammett said. A friend saw the job description and thought it would be a good fit for him, he said.

Hammett, who lives about 100 miles north of the capital, plans to make Baton Rouge his home. He already has an apartment in Spanish Town. But he said he does not plan to close the engineering and surveying business in Ferriday.

He will oversee post-hurricane government construction projects in a 14-parish storm zone across south Louisiana. Those projects will be funded from a special \$6.2 billion Community Development Block Grant from the federal government.

Hammett is not supposed to have any responsibility over regular Community Development Block Grant projects that his firm has handled for local governments over the years.

That distinction, ethics officials decided, means Hammett's firm could also be a subcontractor on jobs involving regular Community Development Block Grant funding.

Hammett said the special legislative sessions that followed the storms kept him in Baton Rouge and forced him to hand over the day-to-day operations of his business to his office manager and other key employees.

He said he stops by the business on Fridays to sign checks. He said he plans to continue that arrangement. Hammett said he does not want to walk away from the business that he spent 23 years building.

The job with the division is supposed to be temporary, he said. Once the recovery work is completed, the job is supposed to disappear.

Other concerns weighed on Hammett's mind before he accepted the job. "I've worried with it for months," he said. "It's a huge departure (from what I'm doing now). I've not had a boss in 23 years." <http://www.theadvocate.com/news/3062521.html?showAll=y>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

## **Seniors affected by Hurricane Katrina get Medicare drug-plan enrollment help The Advocate; 06.16.06**

By GERARD SHIELDS

WASHINGTON — Louisiana seniors who were victims of Hurricane Katrina will not be penalized for enrolling late in the Medicare prescription drug Part D plan.

U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, announced the breakthrough Thursday, which occurred after negotiations with The White House and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The agreement will affect all seniors living in ZIP codes that were declared federal disaster areas.

The federal government had set May 15 as the deadline for seniors to apply for the new program. Seniors who did not meet the deadline were to be penalized 1 percent of the national average premium per month. That means seniors not enrolling by November would have to pay 7 percent.

Though Jindal hailed the announcement, he expressed disappointment that the reprieve will not be applied to Hurricane Rita victims. Jindal said he will encourage the Bush administration to include Rita victims.

"Unfortunately, Hurricane Rita continues to be the storm that Washington forgot," Jindal said in a statement.

Katrina hit the state on Aug. 29 and Rita hit on Sept. 24.

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, also lauded the announcement. The two had sent a letter last month to Medicare Administrator Dr. Mark McClellan asking that the penalty be waived for seniors who are hurricane victims.

"The agency's position last month simply didn't make sense," Landrieu said in a statement. "I am pleased that the agency has finally come to its senses and recognized the inconsistency our delegation brought to its attention last month."

Low-income residents also have been excused from the penalty. Single seniors who earn less than \$15,000 and senior couples who make less than \$20,000 qualify.

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/3062461.html>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)



Surveys show only 25 percent of Louisiana residents smoke and "no one should have to breathe second-hand smoke. Right now, the people who work there have no choice. They have to breathe second-hand smoke."

Daniel got House approval for eliminating a section in Marionneaux's bill that would have allowed restaurants with bars attached the opportunity to enclose them by Jan. 1, 2008, and continue to allow smoking in the bars.

Daniel said that wouldn't work because smokers would light up going into and out of the bars and the employees would still be subjected to second-hand smoke.

People who work in bars will be subjected to it, but they will know that's a job hazard when they take the job.

The amendment "puts everybody on level ground," Daniel said. Large restaurants would have money to enclose bars and put in separate air-conditioning systems but "mom and pop" small restaurants couldn't afford it.

Smoking where it is banned carries a state fine of \$25 to \$50 but local governments can impose higher fines. Employers who allow it are subject to fines, too.

The bill now goes back to the Senate for consideration of House amendments. If they are rejected, the bill goes to a conference committee to hammer out a compromise.

If the Senate agrees with the House, the bill goes to the governor for signing into law and goes into effect Jan. 1.

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060616/NEWS01/606160325/1002/NEWS>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)



## Daily Briefing Health Care Advisory Board

June 16, 2006

Nurses' groups sue HHS for failure to enforce staffing standards

The American Nurses Association, New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), and Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) yesterday filed suit against HHS, alleging that the agency has inadequately enforced federal nurse staffing regulations. The groups contend that JCAHO uses standards that are not on par with Medicare rules. Asserting that HHS has "unlawfully delegated its authority to JCAHO," the lawsuit seeks a court order requiring that HHS ensure JCAHO standards are at least equivalent to federal regulations and designate provisional approval to hospitals that participate in Medicare and are JCAHO-certified.

Saint Barnabas (N.J.): Settles Medicare fraud charges for \$265 million

In an agreement that could serve as a national model for settlements with other health systems facing similar charges, federal prosecutors this week announced that West Orange, N.J.-based Saint Barnabas Health Care System will pay \$265 million over six years to settle charges that it overbilled Medicare by roughly \$500 million dollars.

UC med Schools (Calif.): To expand enrollment, target underserved groups

In efforts to help address a predicted nationwide physician shortage, the five University of California medical schools will establish programs aimed at training more physicians to treat patients in underserved populations, and the system is considering opening a sixth medical school.

Boston Scientific says judge upheld verdict on patents against J&J

Boston Scientific yesterday announced that a U.S. District Court judge in Delaware has upheld last summer's ruling that Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Cordis infringed on Boston Scientific's patented design for drug-coated coronary stents.

GSK drug wins expanded approval for treatment of cervical cancer

The FDA yesterday issued expanded approval for GlaxoSmithKline's ovarian and lung cancer drug Hycamtin as a combination treatment for late-stage cervical cancer.

Bayer AG to acquire Schering AG, drop lawsuit against Merck

Merck KGaA this week agreed to sell its 21.8% holding in Schering AG to Bayer AG in exchange for Bayer withdrawing a U.S. lawsuit against Merck, ending "a tussle involving three German pharmaceutical players" and opening the door for Bayer to acquire Schering.

Around the nation: Bite-sized hospital and health industry news

Et cetera: Major League Baseball launches effort to boost prostate cancer awareness

Major League Baseball will hold all seventh-inning stretch activities an inning early on Father's Day in an effort to remind fans that roughly one in every six American men will develop prostate cancer during their lifetime and encourage them to undergo screening for the disease.

<http://www.advisory.com/members/default.asp?program=1&collectionid=4>

or see attachment "59916\_14\_1\_06-16-2006\_0.pdf"

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)