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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LSU INTERIM HOSPITAL OPENS 20-BED ACUTE DETOX UNIT

**Baton Rouge (June 22, 2007)** – The LSU Interim Hospital is opening an acute medical inpatient detox unit with 20 beds.

“The opening of the detox unit is LSU’s first step in the process of restoring behavioral health services that existed before Hurricane Katrina,” said Dr. Michael Butler, acting CEO of the LSU Health Care Services Division. “In July, LSU Interim Hospital will open the Mental Health Emergency Room Extension, with ten bays, and later this summer it will open 33 mental health beds on the DePaul campus.”

The detox unit will provide acute medical and nursing care to the adult male or female patient eighteen years of age or older needing withdrawal from opiates, alcohol, and sedative hypnotics.

Patient admission must be through a parish substance abuse center. The unit can handle patients in acute and sub-acute phases of withdrawal.

“This unit exemplifies our dedication to the provision of all aspects of health care at the LSU Interim Hospital,” said Dr. Dwayne Thomas, hospital administrator for the LSU Interim Hospital.

Multidisciplinary care will include physicians, registered and licensed nurses, pharmacists, and social workers, and pastoral, respiratory, laboratory, and cardiology practitioners.

The case management staff will provide assistance with referrals and placement for ongoing care in a rehabilitation setting.

“We are committed to meeting all of the needs of our patients as we work with them to regain their optimal health,” said Dr. Cathi Fontenot, medical director for the LSU Interim Hospital.

The unit manager is Alesia Thompson, RN, MSN.

The LSU Health Care Services Division is the fifth largest public hospital system in the country and 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 School of Medicine, Tulane School 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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