

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIV Outpatient Clinic Observes 20th Anniversary

New Orleans (June 6, 2007) – The LSU Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans HIV Outpatient Clinic (HOP) is observing its twentieth anniversary and providing critical health care in Post-Katrina New Orleans.

“In 1987 the clinic was a national model for bringing together a comprehensive system of care for people living with HIV,” Dr. Michael Kaiser, associate chief medical officer for the LSU Health Care Services Division and one of the clinic’s founders, said. “The importance of the clinic is highlighted by the fact that it was one of the first two clinics MCL opened after Katrina.”

When HOP opened its doors in 1987, more than 100 people diagnosed with HIV received care. In 2005, more than 3,300 people received care at HOP.

“In 2007 the HOP clinic is still the place where the vast majority of people in the New Orleans area get their care,” Dr. Kaiser said.

More than 6,000 HIV/AIDS patients reside in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. John, and St. James parishes.

The HOP clinic is restoring its “one-stop shop” option for HIV care. In addition to primary care, HOP offers access to dental, psychiatry, gastroenterology, pulmonology, dermatology, cardiology, nephrology, pain management, and OB/GYN.

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. Over 80% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana receive some or all of their medical care through the LSU hospital system. 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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