

For Immediate Release

Bogalusa Medical Center Receives \$11 Million for Expansion of Family Medicine Clinic and New OB/GYN Unit

Family Medicine Residency Program Receives Accreditation Due to Expansion and New Unit

Baton Rouge (October 10, 2007) – Bogalusa Medical Center (BMC) is receiving \$11 million from the State Bond Commission for expansion and renovation of its Family Medicine Clinic and for construction of a new OB/GYN unit. The plans for the expansion and new OB/GYN unit meet the requirements of the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). As a result, the ACGME gave full accreditation to the LSU Rural Family Medicine Residency Program.

BMC will hold a press conference to discuss the expansion, the new OB/GYN unit, residency program, and accreditation Friday, October 12, 2007, at 1:30 PM, at BMC, 433 Plaza St., Bogalusa, La. Speakers will include Senator Ben Nevers; Kurt Scott, BMC hospital administrator; and Dr. Dennis LaRavia, director of the LSU Rural Family Medicine Residency Program.

“Quality health care begins before birth,” said Dr. Michael Butler, acting chief executive officer for the LSU Health Care Services Division. “The expansion of the family medicine clinic and construction of the OB/GYN unit will permit BMC to enlarge its delivery of comprehensive care for the north shore, where the population is experiencing tremendous growth.”

Construction of the new OB/GYN unit will begin in early November and is scheduled for completion by August 2008. The new unit will feature spacious, modern labor-delivery-and-recovery (LDR) rooms, exam rooms, conference rooms, and waiting areas. The LDR rooms are designed so that a mother can labor, deliver, and recover in the same room and have nearly continuous contact with her family. The unit will also have a complete C-section room with anesthesia.

The Family Practice clinic addition, slated to begin construction early next year, will increase by 125% the size of the clinic from 7,500 square feet to 18,000 square feet.

“Bogalusa Medical Center and quality health care are synonymous in this region,” said Kurt Scott. “The new facility will strengthen our delivery of service to the community and greatly influence our mission of medical education.”

In its May 2007 site visit, the ACGME Residency Review Committee (RRC) indicated that BMC rural family medicine residents needed delivery and obstetric continuity-of-care experience and that the program needed more clinical space and a birthing center. The expansion and new OB/GYN unit will allow the program to meet these criteria. The RRC will again visit BMC in September 2008 to inspect the new facility.

The impact of the LSU Family Medicine Residency Program extends far beyond BMC and even beyond health care.

“Seventy percent of residents settle within 50 miles of where they train,” said Dr. LaRavia. “The *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported the impact in the first year of a physician settling in a community to be \$1.25 million and a rollover effect of seven times that for each subsequent year.” Therefore, it is estimated that the north shore community can expect a \$100 million impact from residents alone over the next 10 years in addition to an impressive influence on quality and access of care and an improved financial bottom line for consulting physicians in the area and local hospitals.

The Rural Family Medicine Residency Program accepts four residents a year for its three-year program.

The program is indebted to the Gaylord Chemical Company and its parent corporation, Temple Inland, which donated the building in which the program resides, and to Senator Ben Nevers and Representative Harold Ritchie, who recognized the importance of the project to the community and ensured that it would occur.

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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