

COLLAH

Coalition of Leaders for Louisiana Healthcare

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The Coalition of Leaders for Louisiana Healthcare (COLLAH) unveiled its “Access to Coverage, Access to Care” proposal today. The proposal is designed to increase access to healthcare for residents of the New Orleans area, including the uninsured.

“Access to Coverage, Access to Care” is a voluntary program that would offer 80,000 uninsured adults living under 200 percent of the federal poverty level access to personalized care through a combination of an expansion of health coverage for the low-income uninsured, called “RightCare,” with ongoing funding for safety-net care.

“Access to Coverage, Access to Care’ is based on comprehensive primary care and ensures access to healthcare for the lower-income uninsured,” said COLLAH Board Member and Co-Chair Gery Barry. “Accordingly, access to specialists and hospitals will be coordinated by a community-based primary physician.”

Barry adds that while the proposal offers all patients a choice of healthcare providers, a rebuilt academic medical center will continue to play a central role in providing services to the lower income population, and will be better positioned to attract more patients from the community at large.

“This is a new, practical way to increase access to quality healthcare for the uninsured,” said COLLAH Chairman Dr. Mark Peters. “We have a real opportunity here to quickly change the system and provide all patients with choices for their healthcare needs.”

COLLAH is a statewide group of healthcare and business leaders dedicated to designing and implementing a modernized healthcare delivery system. Many members of the group were involved in the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative. COLLAH took the work of the Collaborative and determined a financially sound way to implement the ideas. A combination of state subsidies and federal matching dollars make COLLAH’s proposal affordable.

The Collaborative’s work was supported by the governor, the Legislature, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana State University and Tulane, particularly the medical home model.

Dr. Peters and Mr. Barry serve as co-chairs of COLLAH. COLLAH members include the AARP, Ascension Health, Baptist Community Ministries, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, Children’s Hospital New Orleans, East Jefferson General Hospital, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the Louisiana Business Group on Health, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana Medical Association, the Louisiana State Medical Society, Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc., the Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans, the Metropolitan Physicians Council, the New Orleans Medical Society, Ochsner Health System, Touro Infirmary, HCA Delta Division, Tulane University, the Tulane Health Center at Covenant House and West Jefferson Medical Center. For more information on “Access to Coverage, Access to Care,” go to www.collah.org.