

## **About LCHC**

### **Who we are**

We are a coalition of organizations and individuals working to create a strong, unified and sustained consumer voice for quality health care coverage for all people. We seek partners who are committed to a high-quality, consumer-centered health care system. Louisiana Justice Institute launched this effort with participation from the following: Colette Pichon Battle, Moving Forward Gulf Coast Inc.; Carrie Broussard, Tobacco Free Living; Alice Craft-Kerney, Lower 9th Ward Clinic; Dr. Joia Crear-Perry; Tanya Harris, ACORN; Russell Henderson; Pastor Edward Jones, Galilee Baptist Church; Mary Joseph, Children's Defense Fund; Nancy McPherson, AARP; Rosia Metoyer, Sick Cell Anemia Foundation; Pastor Charles Smith, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church; and Dr. Beverly Wright, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

### **Mission statement**

The Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition works for the creation of a consumer-centered health care system that provides comprehensive, affordable, accessible, culturally competent, high quality care and consumer education for everyone, especially the most vulnerable. We work to achieve this through multi-disciplinary, collaborative efforts in public policy, advocacy, education and service to consumers in Louisiana.

### **Our core values**

- **Equity:** We believe quality health care is a basic human right, and it must be accessible for everyone.
- **Collaboration and Community:** We value community building and collaboration among our partners and consumers as our source of strength and as our key to positive change.
- **Consumer Voice:** We will supply strategies and tools to empower the consumer voice in the work of improving the health care system for everyone.
- **Diversity:** We value acceptance of and respect for each individual and community and strive to achieve representation of the communities we serve in our staff, board and coalitions.
- **Education and Awareness:** We value educating consumers about their rights and options in the health care system so they can access the resources they need.

- **Transparency:** To build trust among all stakeholders, we believe everyone should have fair and equitable access to information and processes about all aspects of the health system, including our own work.

## **Policy agenda**

LCHC envisions a healthier Louisiana, and advocates for policy changes that will lead to measurable improvements in the state's healthcare system. In five years, we plan to see that health access, coverage and quality is improved in Louisiana. Our initial policy priorities include:

### 1. Defending and expanding Medicaid coverage

Louisiana has one of the strictest Medicaid-eligibility programs in the country, which means people who qualify for Medicaid services in other states are not eligible in Louisiana. Those who have Medicaid can go without access to a doctor due to low Medicaid provider reimbursement rates. Thus, LCHC supports an increase in the tobacco tax as a way to fund: expanded Medicaid coverage, increased payment rates to Medicaid providers, and preservation of "safety net care" for vulnerable populations, and will consider other funding mechanisms and rules changes that succeed in strengthening the state's Medicaid program.

### 2. Requiring greater transparency and consumer input relative to the Medicaid waiver process.

The Jindal Administration is proposing major and questionable changes to the Medicaid program. LCHC seeks to slow the pace of this process to secure greater stakeholder and consumer input. We also want to make sure proposed changes will improve the health of Louisianians, and that change to the health care system of Louisiana ensures high-quality health care is available to everyone.

### 3. Improving the healthcare delivery system

We believe this can be done by eliminating health care disparities, improving patient safety, improving access to consumer-friendly health care quality and patient safety data, and expanding access to primary care services.

## Board & Staff

### **Moriba A. Karamoko**

The founding Director of the Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition is Moriba A. Karamoko. Moriba is known as an effective trainer, organizational consultant, community organizer, and program manager with over twenty-five years of diverse experience in the areas of volunteer, staff, and leadership development; strategic planning; program development; and community organizing.

Prior to his current work with the Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition, Moriba served as Lafayette Regional Coordinator for the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living. In this capacity, he coordinated development and implementation of regional tobacco control activities that: helped secure passage of Lafayette Parish clean indoor air policy; facilitated implementation of tobacco-free schools policy; and engaged youth as peer educators on the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke; and provided grants management and technical assistance to grantees.

Moriba Karamoko earned his Masters and Bachelors degrees in political science from Clark-Atlanta University.

### **Jacques Morial**

Jacques Morial is a native of New Orleans with over a quarter century of inter-disciplinary professional experience in the areas of community organization, public policy analysis and development, capital finance, dispute resolution and strategic communications.

He earned an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Chicago and completed post graduate level coursework and research at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. As the 1983 John J. McCloy fellow in Urban Affairs he spent several months studying post war reconstruction in Germany. He later earned a Master of Public Administration Degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where his studies concentrated on negotiation, dispute resolution, international diplomacy and international trade.

Professionally Morial has worked as a legislative assistant for the U.S. Congress, as a staff writer and news reporter for a daily newspaper and as a public finance specialist for a Wall Street-based minority owned investment banking firm. He has served as an official international election observer in Latin America and Africa, organized international multi-lateral conferences and has represented President Bill Clinton and the United States overseas.

Since Hurricane Katrina Jacques Morial has been involved as a community organizer and public advocate working in the areas of housing, healthcare, environmental justice and workers' rights with neighborhood and civic groups, social justice organizations, churches and international foundations to advance the cause of equitable recovery. Since late 2007 he's worked with the Louisiana Justice Institute as a senior organizer focused on healthcare access and other social justice issues.

## **Joia Crear-Perry, MD**

Joia Crear-Perry, M.D. is Director of Clinical Services for the City of New Orleans Health Department, where she is responsible for Pediatric, Adult, Gynecology, WIC, and Homeless facilities within the New Orleans clinical service area. She continues to work to improve access and availability to New Orleans citizens post the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005. After receiving her bachelor's training at Princeton University and Xavier University, she completed her medical degree at Louisiana State University and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tulane University's School of Medicine. Dr Crear-Perry is a board certified obstetrician and gynecologists and is recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Joia's recognitions and honors include appointment as an NIH Student Fellow; the Isadore Dyer, M.D. Award for Teaching Excellence; the Tulane Xavier Center for Excellence in Women's Health Award and the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust Award in 2006. She chaired the Workforce Healthcare Recruitment Subcommittee of the DHHS Healthcare Redesign Collaborative during Secretary Michael Leavitt's term and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Coalition of Leaders in Louisiana Healthcare and the New Orleans Medical Association.

## **LOUISIANA PARTNERS**

AARP Louisiana  
Louisiana Justice Institute  
Children's Defense Fund Louisiana  
Health Law Advocates Louisiana  
Alexandria Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation  
Acadiana Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation  
New Orleans Medical Association  
PICO-LIFT  
Louisiana Budget Project  
Lower 9th Ward Health Clinic

## **NATIONAL PARTNERS**

Community Catalyst  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Families USA  
Herndon Alliance