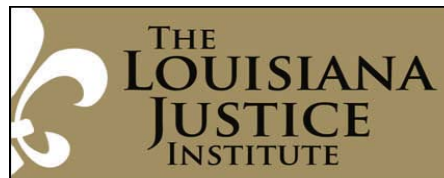


HEALTH POLICY IN EVERY POLICY

Linking Housing and Health
Disparities in New Orleans

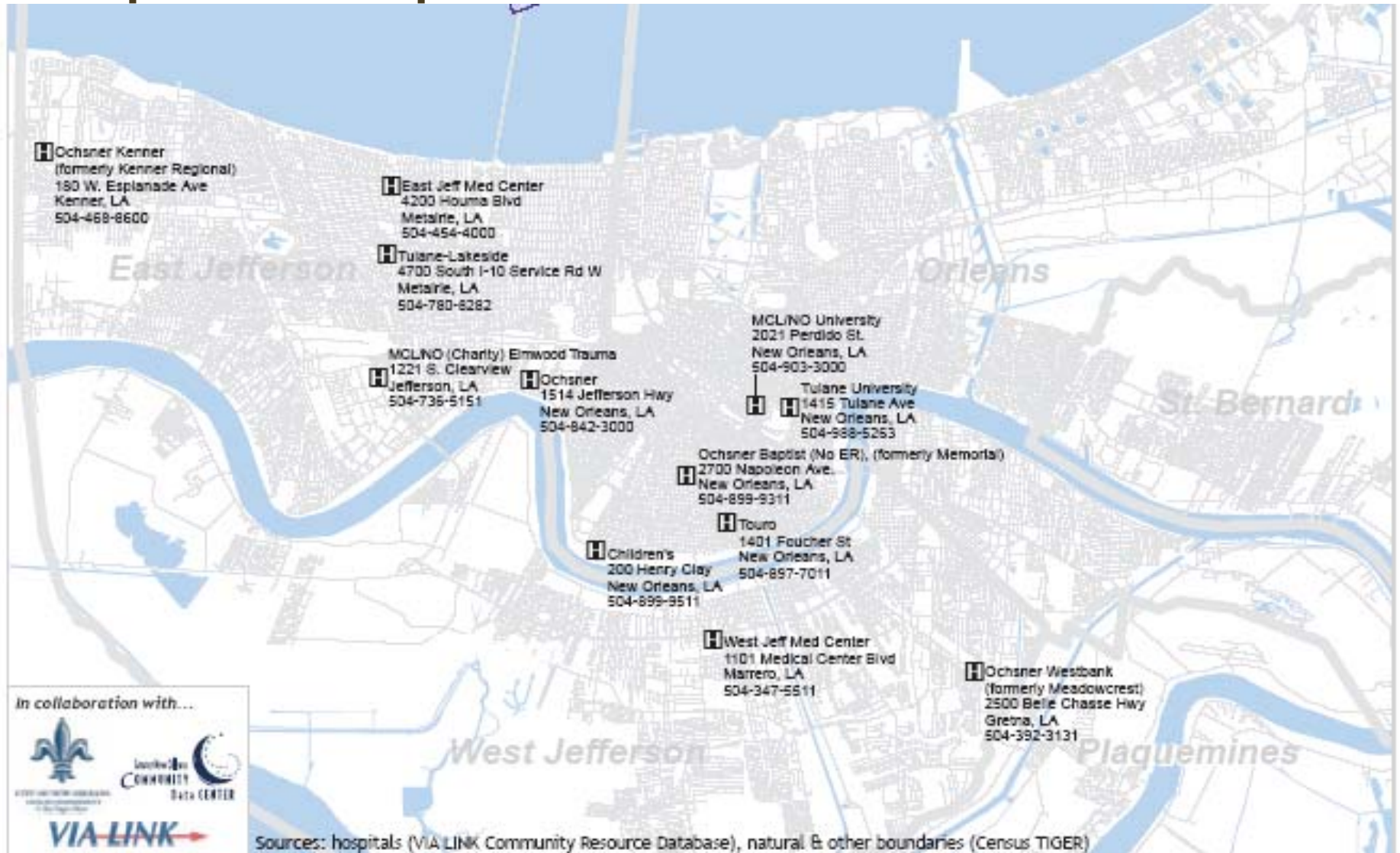
Tracie L. Washington, Esq.
Managing Director



A Broken Healthcare System

- Population estimates pre-Katrina: **455,000**
 - At this time, New Orleans had **2580** hospital beds. The national average of hospital beds per 1000 people is **2.7**. New Orleans, pre-Katrina, was at **2.5** with a ratio of roughly **176:1**
- Population estimate released in March 2009 is **300,000**.
 - We now have **758** hospital beds available. Our number of beds per 1000 is **0.758**. The ratio of residents to beds is **396:1**
- Mental health treatment options have become severely limited.
 - Pre-Katrina: **240** psychiatric beds
 - Post-Katrina: **105**, with a proposal from the governor to close **30** more. **60** of those beds are at Orleans Parish Prison

Open Hospitals in the Metro Area



Vacant and Blighted Housing



- March 2008: 71,657
- September 2008: 69,727
- April 2009: 66,845

Poverty and Unemployment

- **41%** of New Orleans adults report family income below 200% of poverty
- Of this population
 - **78%** are African-American
 - **67%** are Women
 - **62%** have attained a high school degree or less
- While we have a high poverty rate, we have a comparatively low unemployment rate. In February 2009 the unemployment rate for the metro area was **5.3%**, well below the national rate of **8.9%**

Fair Market Rental Rates—Greater New Orleans Area

Fair Market Rents by Unit Bedrooms (2000-2009) for New Orleans, LA MSA*

Fiscal Year	Efficiency	1-Bedroom	2-Bedroom	3-Bedroom	4-Bedroom
FY 2000	\$365	\$418	\$521	\$709	\$858
FY 2001	\$369	\$423	\$527	\$717	\$868
FY 2002	\$446	\$512	\$637	\$867	\$1,050
FY 2003	\$461	\$529	\$659	\$896	\$1,085
FY 2004	\$463	\$531	\$661	\$899	\$1,089
FY 2005	\$522	\$578	\$676	\$868	\$897
FY 2006	\$725	\$803	\$940	\$1,206	\$1,247
FY 2007	\$755	\$836	\$978	\$1,256	\$1,298
FY 2008	\$764	\$846	\$990	\$1,271	\$1,314
FY 2009	\$794	\$881	\$1,030	\$1,323	\$1,367

Source: [Greater New Orleans Community Data Center](#)



Affordable Housing

- **Two in five** damaged affordable rental units statewide are expected to be repaired or replaced with recovery assistance
- In 2007, in the midst of a spike in rental prices, the city moved forward with a plan to demolish more than **4500** public housing units
 - **Since then, the Lafitte, St. Bernard, B.W. Cooper, and C.J. Peete housing developments have nearly been completely razed.**
- According to estimates from the end of 2008, **31,000** displaced families across the nation were utilizing Disaster Housing Assistance Program vouchers whose deadline is approaching on August 31, 2009
 - **14,422** of those families are living in the metro area
- A report by PolicyLink, of Oakland, CA estimates that New Orleans has roughly **12,000** homeless residents, including at least **1,600** children that have already been identified by Orleans Parish Schools.
- The Gulf Opportunity Zone Affordable Housing Tax Credit exists to give tax breaks to developers who plan for affordable housing developments. There are **85** open projects in the metro area. So far, **12** have been completed. **33** do not have complete financing.
 - **Of the nearly 10,000 proposed units, only 1033 are open so far**

How Can We Reverse These Trends?

- Increase the number of affordable housing units
 - The lack of housing is a vital concern for all New Orleanians
 - The housing rates are keeping some residents from returning, and forcing others to spend well above their means.
 - Immediate plan to assist families who will be transitioning out of DHAP assistance
- Living wage for service employees
 - With an increase in income, our most at-risk population can afford to spend money on maintaining their health
- Extend Healthcare services
 - Preventative options
 - Increase health literacy
 - Healthy lifestyle promotion
 - Re-open Charity Hospital
 - The vital facility not only served the uninsured by providing primary and emergency care, it also relieved the financial burden posed by uninsured patients upon private emergency rooms. We are currently operating without a safety net.
 - Preventative and primary care provided by the hospital not only improves the quality of life for patients, but also relieve financial burdens created by emergency care