



Children's Health Fund

National Network

22 programs and 2 affiliates in 16 states and the District of Columbia



New Orleans Children's Health Project



The New Orleans Children's Health Project (NOCHP) was established in response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. This response resulted in three permanent Children's Health Projects in the Gulf Coast area, one of which was established in New Orleans. The NOCHP delivers high quality, comprehensive primary care and mental health services, regardless of ability to pay. The NOCHP is part of Children's Health Fund's Transportation Initiative, which enhances access to transportation to medical appointments for patients living in areas with deficiencies in public transportation.

The NOCHP addresses troubling disparities in health status by using state-of-the-art mobile medical clinics (MMC). These MMCs are self-contained, fully equipped mobile doctor's offices and are ideally suited to this effort. The MMCs enable health care teams to reach children in remote rural communities, public housing complexes, schools, and other sites where access to health care is limited. Mental health services are provided through NOCHP's Community Support and Resiliency Program (CSRP) through a specially-equipped mobile unit called the Community Support and Resiliency Unit. The CSRP assists children and families with their immediate mental health needs, provides psycho-education that is vital to their recovery, and helps with reintegration into their communities, together while fostering resilience and encouraging coping skills. Additionally, through its university affiliation, education in community pediatrics is provided for a large number of Tulane medical students, MPH students and pediatric residents.



PROGRAM FACTS

Home Institution/Affiliation:

Tulane University School of Medicine

Year Established:

April 2006

STAFF

Medical Director:

John Carlson, MD, PhD

Nurse:

Kenya Johnson, RN

Program Coordinator:

Laura Kreller

Social Worker:

Donna Usner, ACE, LCSW-BACS

Case Manager:

Carlos Naranjo

Field Specialist:

Bonnette Cole

Serving Communities in Need

In the course of providing care to victims of the hurricane, it became apparent that the effects of the storm were greatly worsened by pre-existing deficiencies in the health care system. Child death rates in Louisiana were well above the national average even before Katrina. In fact, state child health indicators rank Louisiana 49th in the nation. Lack of transportation, lack of insurance, financial instability – and the shortage of health professionals – represent pervasive barriers to care.

Available Services

- Comprehensive medical care, including physical examinations and immunizations;
- Management of acute and chronic illnesses;
- Family planning, including pelvic exams for females;
- Patient education and community outreach;
- Allergy testing/management, Lung function testing, and Asthma management;
- Mental health assessments;
- Family, individual and group counseling;
- Case management and mental health education; and
- Referrals to subspecialty care.

Program Sites

The NOCHP provides both medical and mental health services in several high need areas of Greater New Orleans including the 9th Ward, St. Bernard, Mid-City, Uptown, Downtown, and Jefferson Parish. In October 2010, New Orleans Children's Health Project launched a mobile clinic offering services to local families in Plaquemines Parish, an economically diverse and medically underserved region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



**Dr. John Carlson,
Pediatrician,
Asthma/Immunology Specialist**



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