

Jefferson EDGE 2020 **HOSPITALS** Status Report 1: March, 2009

Prepared by JEDCO and GCR & Associates, Inc.

JEDCO
Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission



Hospitals

In response to concerns about quality of life in Jefferson Parish and its impact upon the community's economic competitiveness, JEDCO initiated the Jefferson Edge 2020 Quality of Life initiative. This initiative has produced seven "strategic implementation plans" to date which include a series of action items to address particular quality of life issues. Implementing the action items requires the total cooperation and keen interest of all involved, including JEDCO, the Jefferson Parish government, numerous other entities, and frequently State and Federal agencies. In 2008, JEDCO retained GCR & Associates, Inc. to prepare semiannual reports outlining the status of each of these action items and overall progress toward implementation.

The following table summarizes the progress made toward each of the action items.

H = Hospitals

Action ID #	Action Item	Progress as of March 2009		
		Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
H1	Advocate for direct financial assistance from the federal government to assist hospitals in the New Orleans region			
H2	Work closely with the federal Department of Health and Human Services to implement updated Medicare reimbursement schedule			
H3	Collaborate with State's Department of Health and Hospitals to establish a formal program to increase enrollment in Medicaid			
H4	Work with the State's Department of Health and Hospitals to establish a "certificate of need" program for specialty hospitals			
H5	Work with the LSU Hospital system to chart a mutually beneficial direction for the planned new hospital in downtown New Orleans			
H6	Seek closer collaborations among the service district hospitals, Parish government, and the state to reduce operating costs and increase revenue			
H7	Aggressively advocate for the funding and implementation of the COLLAH report pertaining to uninsured coverage			
H8	Adopt and implement a "healthy communities" component of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Comprehensive Plan			

Hospitals

Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Progress as of March 2009		
					Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
H1	Advocate for direct financial assistance from the federal government to assist hospitals in the New Orleans region	Secure Funding in 2008-2009	In January 2009, Congress approved the allocation of \$129.7 million in supplemental Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services to Louisiana hospitals that have suffered financially since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.	Continued advocacy for these funds to be allocated to New Orleans area hospitals			
H2	Work closely with the federal Department of Health and Human Services to implement updated Medicare reimbursement schedule	Implement new schedule in 2008-2009	Despite advocacy for updated Medicare reimbursement rates that would be more in line with post-Katrina increases in operating costs, no interim rate changes were enacted. The new proposed Medicare rates will be published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2009 to be followed by the final rates in October, 2009. The new rates will take effect on January 1, 2010.	Implement new schedule in 2010-2011			
H3	Collaborate with State's Department of Health and Hospitals to establish a formal program to increase enrollment in Medicaid	Complete program design in 2009-2010; implement program in 2010-2011	Given the State's budgetary limitations at this time and in the Medicaid program in particular, this initiative has not moved forward.	Complete program design in 2010-2011; implement program in 2011-2012			
H4	Work with the State's Department of Health and Hospitals to establish a "certificate of need" program for specialty hospitals	Complete program design in 2010; pass legislation in 2010-2011	Major hospital executives are planning to open this dialogue and coordinate with the Louisiana Hospital Association to push this initiative.	Complete program design in 2010; pass legislation in 2010-2011			
H5	Work with the LSU Hospital system to chart a mutually beneficial direction for the planned new hospital in downtown New Orleans	Conduct forums in 2009	At this time, there appears to be no formal mechanism in place to champion for this initiative and to our knowledge, there has been little if any progress made.	Conduct forums in 2009			
H6	Seek closer collaborations among the service district hospitals, Parish government, and the state to reduce operating costs and increase revenue	Secure board approval for closer collaboration in 2009; council action on costs and revenues in 2009-2010; legislative action on disproportionate share funds in 2010	There have been ongoing discussions between East and West Jefferson Hospitals regarding the possibility of combining administrative functions in order to realize greater economies of scale and maximize efficiencies.	Secure board approval for closer collaboration in 2009; council action on costs and revenues in 2009-2010; legislative action on disproportionate share funds in 2010			

Hospitals

Progress as of March 2009							
Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
H7	Aggressively advocate for the funding and implementation of the COLLAH report pertaining to uninsured coverage	Obtain legislative approval in 2010-2011	COLLAH has continued to advocate for more efficient health care coverage for persons who are lower income and uninsured. However, because there is vast uncertainty about the imminent federal direction in health care with the recent change in Administration, this project is essentially in a holding pattern.	If necessary, obtain legislative approval in 2010-2011			
H8	Adopt and implement a "healthy communities" component of the Envision Jefferson 2020 Comprehensive Plan	Secure funding in 2009-2010; complete plan in 2010-2011	In March, representatives from JEDCO, the Jefferson Parish Planning Department, and the Jefferson Parish Office of Community Development met to discuss potential funding sources. Possible funding sources identified include: the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth initiatives program, Community Service Block Grants (CSBG), and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC).	Secure funding in 2009-2010; complete plan in 2010-2011			