

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

C. RAY NAGIN
MAYOR

KEVIN U. STEPHENS, SR., MD, JD
DIRECTOR

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Gail Christopher, DN
Vice President
The Joint Center for Political and Economical Studies
Health Policy Institute
1090 Vermont Avenue, 1100
Washington, DC 2005

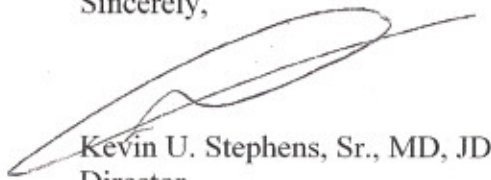
Dear Dr. Christopher:

Let me first thank you for honoring the City of New Orleans and the Health Department in coming to our city for the December *Place Matters* meeting. I was sincerely humbled by your attendance at the "State of Health – New Orleans Department 2006" annual report presentation during your visit. Your focus and willingness to devote resources to this City's recovery is deeply appreciated.

At that meeting you requested a "Wish List" critical to the rebuilding of the health care system especially as it is affected by social determinants and health care disparities. I have attached that "Wish List" for your review, further discussion and distribution to the *Place Matters* participants.

In addition, I was informed that the group wanted information about unrestricted contributions to the Health Department to meet uninsured and underinsured needs of the citizens of Orleans Parish. For those individuals wanting to contribute – they may send contributions to the *City of New Orleans Donation Fund (7344)* earmarked for Health Department Account.

Sincerely,



Kevin U. Stephens, Sr., MD, JD
Director

cc: Sandra L. Robinson, MD, MPH
Mosanda Mvula, MD
Cynthia Cade

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1307 PERDIDO STREET | SUITE 8E18 | NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | 70112
PHONE 504.658.2506 | FAX 504.658.2520



New Orleans Health Department

WISH LIST



1. A **good mortality analysis** of pre and post Katrina population data as it relates to health disparities. Recent trends show a significant increase in the overall death rates in the post-Katrina population; even more significant may be an increase in premature deaths (persons under 45) regardless of their post Katrina migration. While the city is rethinking its overall health care delivery system, there are several death-related unanswered questions. What impact did pre-Katrina health disparities and system failures on post-Katrina increase in mortality and morbidity? In other words, were these losses due to uncontrolled diagnosed chronic illnesses, lack of available health care, lack of medication, stress, suicides, or undiagnosed chronic illness or all the above? To answer these critical questions we need to collect data with specific research questions and appropriate methodology before redesigning our health care in general and in preparation for the next catastrophic event. Therefore the New Orleans Health Department is requesting funding to hire a full time epidemiologist with grant writing skill to put together a proposal in conjunction with a multidisciplinary team.
2. Death and morbidity related to violence has become one of the top health threats in this urban setting. Even in this area, little is known about the root causes of the increase in violence in our city with a well design research. Consequently, no public health interventions for children in New Orleans have been design aimed at decreasing youth violence, crime and incarceration. Area of interest would be for example learning more about the behavior of children of incarcerated parents. We would like to develop a unique program while we are rebuilding New Orleans that will target children of prisoners and break the chain of failure and hopelessness in the city.

The program will focus on the following areas:

- a) Develop a profile of the average New Orleans **parent prisoner**. Having the information about the prisoner could give valuable clues to his/her failure in society.
- b) Enroll the prisoner's children in a Comprehensive Kids Health Assessment Program to identify health issues that would prevent violence.

- c) The Program would evolve from collaboration between Corrections, Education, Health, and Public/Private Partnerships.
- d) The Collaborative would engage professionals in the fields of child development, juvenile justice, and health to develop Methods of Interventions and Outcomes Goals

Therefore, we are looking for resources and manpower to carry out this project. Any help or suggestions for funding would be greatly appreciated.

3. **Rebuilding a health department** structure. At its stand today, the structure of the New Orleans Health Department is inadequate in term of responding to a future natural disaster like Katrina. We would like to rebuild a City Health Department with the essential components that will effectively service an urban population with a high degree of disparities and economic obstacles. Partnering with NACCHO, Place Matters, and The Health Policy Institute in this endeavor will very important. .
4. Application for a Federally Qualify Health Care (FQHC) including two general clinics and two school-based clinics that are in existence. FQHC status would strengthen our efforts to receive more funding that will enable us to provide services to a demoralized population struggling to come back and in need of extensive medical and mental health services. We need an **experienced writer** to develop this document.
5. A **HIPAA Compliance Officer** is needed as we use increasing technology in an urban/ pubic/political health setting. Privacy issues and proper use of statistical information are important concerns as they relate to high risk populations.

In conclusion, we are in need:

1. Of an experienced grant writers to help put together a proposal on violence and post-Katrina morbidity & mortality.
2. Of Concerted ideas from organization such as NACCHO, Place Matters, and The Health Policy Institute to effectively rebuild a Health Department that will meet the needs of a broken city and struggling community.
3. Of a qualified individual to help develop an FQHC application and serve at the same time as a HIPPA Compliance Officer.