

# LHCC'ed

Volume 1 | Issue 1 | May 2019



LOUISIANA HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES COALITION

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## Greetings!

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Welcome to the very first issue of *LHCC'ed*: the official newsletter of the Louisiana Healthy Communities Coalition (LHCC). With a commitment to improving community health outcomes through policy, systems, and environmental changes that focus on tobacco and obesity, LHCC is one of the most unique and innovative groups of its kind.

This issue is the first of many that will cover regional updates, partner spotlights, community resources and much more! We appreciate your readership and hope to hear from you about useful tools and upcoming events in your community.

For more information about who we are, what we do, and how to get involved, please visit us online at [www.healthylouisiana.org](http://www.healthylouisiana.org) or on our Facebook page.

**LHCC Homepage**

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## In Recent News...

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### The 7th Annual LHCC Meeting



LHCC Chair Mikal "Mack" Giancola and Network Manager John O'Donnell speak to with Ruston news outlet KNOE about the 7th Annual LHCC Conference.

On March 18th and 19th, the Louisiana Healthy Communities Coalition (LHCC) hosted its 7th annual meeting in Ruston, Louisiana. Ruston was chosen as this year's host city because of its prime location, hospitable atmosphere and progressive health agenda. Prior to the summit, Ruston invested in several capital improvements, such as expanded sidewalks, new bike lanes and a new, comprehensive smoke-free policy that extends the protections of the 2006 Clean Air Act to local bars and casinos. In doing so, Ruston has become the 21st municipality in the state to pass such law.

Representatives from all nine regions of the state gathered at the town's historic fire station to discuss how to address the two biggest factors in all deaths: tobacco and obesity. While the battle against chronic disease continues to be the primary focus, the meeting also offered attendees a chance to share which tools and interventions were most beneficial to them and their communities.

Beyond content, this year's meeting also brought together several special guests, including the Regional Administrative Medical Director for the Louisiana Office of Public

Health and the mayors of Ruston, Haynesville and Jena. The event went so well, it even garnered attention from the local news outlet KNOE, who interviewed several attendees, including the LHCC Statewide Chair, Mack Giancola, and Network Manager, John O'Donnell.

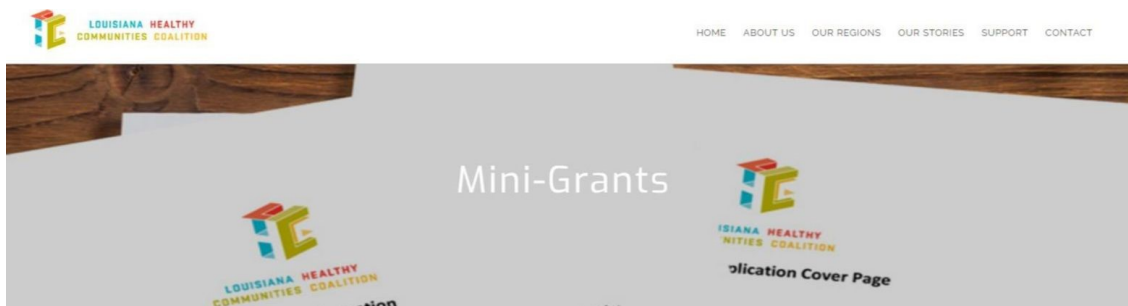
After the two-day summit, attendees left empowered and eager to implement their newfound knowledge in their respective regions. The annual meeting was a huge success as it helped lay the foundation for coalitions to expand their networks and redefine what healthy means in Louisiana.

And on a separate note, the LHCC and its partners wish Ruston a complete and speedy recovery from last month's devastating tornado. You are in our thoughts and minds during this recovery period.

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## Funding a Healthier Future

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No matter the organization and no matter its mission, funding is a vital resource in moving the needle in coalition work.

This year, the Louisiana Healthy Communities Coalition (LHCC) offered local organizations the opportunity to apply for funding to implement policy, systems, and environmental change (PSE) projects within their respective communities. Awards ranged between one thousand and three thousand dollars and were granted to those who presented the most innovative projects that addressed tobacco usage and obesity.

The opportunity was very well received throughout the state as the leadership team received dozens of amazing applications. The proposals covered a variety of topics that included everything from park beautification to farmer's market creation. After three rounds and countless hours of intense deliberation, LHCC distributed nearly \$30,000 to eleven applicants.

Each application was thoroughly vetted by the LHCC Statewide Leadership Team, who utilized a multi-tiered review process and rubric to grade the proposals on creativity, feasibility, diversity among stakeholders and an assortment of other indicators.

Below are this year's recipients and their project proposals:

- **The City of DeRidder:**  
"Learn to Move"
- **The Town of Olla:**  
"Town Square Market"
- **The Town of Urina:**  
"Potty Tannehill Park Amenities"
- **The Town of Jena:**  
"Walking Our Talk"
- **Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA):**  
"Expanding Access to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in Allen Parish"
- **The Town of Haynesville:**  
"Let's Clear the Air"
- **The Rapides Parish School Board:**  
"Vaping Signage and Education"
- **Region 9 of the LSU Agricultural Center:**  
"Promoting & Implementing PSE in Washington, Tangipahoa and St. Tammany"
- **Fit, Fun & Fabulous, Inc.:**  
"Healthy St. Mary Parish"
- **The Town of Tullos:**  
"The Tullos Walking Trail"
- **Region 8 of the LSU Agricultural Center:**  
"Monroe on the Move"

With the funds distributed and action plans received, LHCC will be monitoring the progress of each project over the next few months and will share updates with our partners and readers.

We congratulate each of our recipients for drafting such thoughtful and meaningful applications. While the decision-making process was tough, we know that each project will yield exciting and memorable products that will help lead our communities toward a healthier future.

**P.S.** For those who did not submit an application this cycle, we ask that you keep an eye out for the next mini-grant funding announcement later this year.

## Mini-Grant Opportunities

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# Louisiana Legislative Line-Up

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### **Comprehensive Smoke-Free Ordinances**

Over the last several months, more and more municipalities have adopted comprehensive smoke-free ordinances that build upon the 2006 Clean Air Act. For those unfamiliar with the law, it prohibits the use of tobacco products in most indoor and public spaces. However, bars and casinos were intentionally exempt from this legislation, leaving a large number of workers and visitors exposed to the harmful toxins associated with secondhand smoke. Of the 22 towns that have joined the movement, Haynesville, Ruston, and Cullen have been the last three to join.

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Louisiana has worked tirelessly over the last 12 months to develop a comprehensive report outlining the physical, environmental and economic impact secondhand smoke has on Louisiana. Members of the coalition, which include large advocacy groups, such as the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, have been working with legislators to bring awareness and action around this very serious health issue. It is with great pride that the committee announces that the report is now publicly available.

We ask that you direct all questions concerning the report to committee chairwoman and Louisiana Government Relations Director for the American Heart Association, Ashley Hebert, at [ashley.hebert@heart.org](mailto:ashley.hebert@heart.org).

### **Tobacco-21 & Penalties**

This year, the Louisiana Legislature will be analyzing several tobacco-related bills during the 2019 Legislative Session. House Bill 38 sponsored by Representative Frank Hoffmann of Monroe, LA proposes raising the minimum age of tobacco purchase and possession to 21. House Bill 45 sponsored by Representative Kirk Talbot of River Ridge, LA proposes

increasing fines ten-fold on consumers and vendors of tobacco products.

As these pieces of legislation progress through the House and Senate, LHCC will do its best to keep its partners and communities informed.

If you have any questions concerning these policies, or any other legislative matter pertaining to Session, please contact your respective LHCC Regional Chair or the LCP Policy Coordinator, Douglas LeBlanc, at [dlebl8@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:dlebl8@lsuhsc.edu).

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## 2019 NLTA Conference

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Pictured (left to right): Douglas LeBlanc, John O'Donnell, and Mack Giancola attend the 2019 Network Leadership Training Academy Conference in Denver, Colorado.

From cooking to cleaning, technology has been incorporated into nearly every aspect of daily living. More specifically, there seems to be an app for everything these days. So when it comes to leading coalitions, yup, there's an app for that too!

On April 15, three members of the statewide leadership team attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Network Leadership Training Academy Conference sponsored by Visible Network Labs and the University of Colorado at Denver's School of Public Affairs. This three-day, curriculum-intensive conference challenged attendees to use their knowledge and experiences to address some of the biggest challenges faced by coalitions and community networks. The conference brought together speakers from all across the country to share their insight on how to improve working relationships, monitor the diffusion of innovation, and refine leadership styles to fit an assortment of coalition types.

It was also an opportunity for attendees to learn how to use the Visible Network Labs' interactive PATNER Tool which utilizes data visualization software to show leaders their current network outlays and identify areas of strengths, weakness and opportunities.

Overall, the conference was very fun and really redefined the way the attendees saw their networks. In the next few weeks, the LHCC Chair will be reaching out to our partners to conduct interviews of our own. Ultimately, we hope how to improve network operations and better meet the needs of our members.

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## **Mack's Musings for Coalition Leaders**

The more things change, the more things stay the same, almost. In Louisiana, modifiable risk factors like tobacco usage and obesity are still the leading causes of death. In the past few years, Louisiana has become healthier, one community at a time. It's inspiring to see individuals making their communities healthy places. And that is what LHCC supports- a strategy focusing on communities that want to make healthy places. While LHCC statewide organizations share the vision of the LHCC, "Healthy Communities, Healthy Louisiana," through their mutually reinforcing activities, the statewide team seeks strategic opportunities to support our vision through mini-grants, media, and our annual statewide meeting. Thank you to everyone who continues to put forth the effort at the statewide level and in their own communities, to make Louisiana healthier.

- Mack Giancola, LHCC Chair

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## **Leadership & Contact Information**





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If you have any additional content or questions concerning any of the information presented here, please contact the newsletter editor, LCP Policy & Program Coordinator Douglas LeBlanc at [dlebl8@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:dlebl8@lsuhsc.edu) or (504) 568-5891.

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