



ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System

Message to the Community

July 23, 2009

St. Francis Medical Center Changing For Our Next Century of Caring!

Progress requires change, and we all know that no one likes change, but change is inevitable in order to achieve advancement. St. Francis has been caring for our community for nearly a century! As I have said many times before, we made a commitment, as did St. Francis of Assisi, to pave the way for our future as a healthcare provider with opportunity, long-term viability and high quality services delivered with compassionate care. Our goal has always been and continues to be to deliver the most effective and efficient high quality healthcare services in a manner that will ensure an economically viable St. Francis Medical Center now and into the next century.

When our overall consolidation plan was announced in March, it was estimated that it would take us approximately 15 months to complete. However, based on further evaluation of services and input from multiple groups, the decision was made to expedite the consolidation for completion by October 1, 2009. Our commitment from the beginning of this process was to make it through this journey without employee layoffs. With changes in the location of services, some of our employees have transitioned to the Downtown campus and will continue to do so until the consolidation is complete. Everyone has worked very hard to ensure the least amount of disruption for our employees transitioning to either the new location in their current job role or to a new position at St. Francis.

Over the last few months during the beginning phases of the consolidation, I have watched many of our employees “pay it forward” with patience, acceptance, support, understanding and purpose. We all have a strong desire and will to always do the right thing to ensure that St. Francis continues the Mission which began with the Sisters in 1913.

Following is our current projected timeline for consolidation activities we anticipate to have accomplished by October 2009:

- Discontinue surgery at the North Campus as of August 1, 2009.
- Relocate inpatient acute care units from North to Downtown by August 4, 2009.
- Emergency Services will continue at both campuses.

- Complete the Downtown PICU construction and move Pediatrics and PICU to the Downtown Campus by October 1, 2009.
- Install a new cardiac cath lab at the Downtown campus early October 2009.
The North campus cath lab will continue to function until the new Downtown cath lab is installed and operational.

Upon the conclusion of the consolidation, the Downtown campus will serve as the single site for inpatient acute care services including medical/surgical services, pediatrics, obstetrics, long-term acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, intensive care services, and skilled nursing. Additionally the Downtown campus will provide emergency services as well as various ancillary services and support services. Our North campus will focus on psychiatric, ambulatory services, including imaging and laboratory services, and emergency services, as well as continuing to serve as the home for the Kitty DeGree Breast Health Center.

As we look to the future, it is our intent to continue to work with our physicians and employees to further determine additional services and programs to expand our continuum of healthcare services at our North campus. In June we engaged the assistance of an outside consultant to help us evaluate the emergency services at both campuses. We will be working closely with our medical staff and employees to analyze their findings and recommendations to make the right decision as to what scope of emergency services we might offer in the future.

These decisions position St. Francis to adjust and deal with the changing healthcare environment as well as the economic realities that hospitals are facing locally and nationally. We believe that this will enable us to ensure our mission of delivering a higher level of healthcare services to the citizens of Northeast Louisiana now and into St. Francis Medical Center's next century of caring!

When we embarked on this journey at St. Francis in January, our employees continued to remember their mission and purpose— taking care of patients. I believe that there are never easy answers to questions, only multiple possibilities and that it is up to all of us as a community to find the most appropriate answers. As a hospital, we embraced our task at hand and you have continued to support us. Thank you for allowing us to care for you for nearly a century. We believe that the choices we have made will ensure success on our journey toward excellence in caring for you for another century!

Louis H. Bremer, Jr.

Louis H. Bremer, Jr. FACHE
President & CEO