

Welcome to Catahoula Life

LaCHIP "enrollment blitz" rolls through Catahoula

October 25, 2009



The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals conducted a Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) "enrollment blitz" Thursday,

October 22.

Two passenger vans and one mini-van arrived at the Jonesville Medicaid Office at 9:15 Thursday morning. Team members, including volunteers from Alexandria Region VI Medicaid Offices (which serves 9 parishes) along with three of our own local representatives, Emma Jackson, who manages the Medicaid program for Concordia and Catahoula Parishes, Lisa Anderson, Medicaid Analyst and Juanita Bingham, Administrative Coordinator, loaded the vans and set out on our mission -- rain or shine -- to comb the areas of Jonesville, Harrisonburg, Sicily Island, Wildsville, Monterey, Ferriday, Clayton, Vidalia.

During the outreach event, we were able to distribute applications and increase awareness about both no-cost and low-cost LaCHIP Affordable insurance plans. Our mobile units made stops at businesses, churches, daycare centers, grocery stores, banks and community centers throughout the area. The outcome of our blitz aims to enroll as many eligible local children with the medical coverage they need to lead healthier lives. DHH employees and community partners from across the state continue to work to assist families in insuring their children through LaCHIP.

"The parish schools are a valuable partner in our endeavor by making sure LaChip has a visible presence in the schools. They ensure information and applications are available at the schools" Jackson stated.

"Our blitz initiatives have proven to be an important tool for enrolling eligible children for this valuable program," said LaCHIP Director Ruth Kennedy. "With more than 62,000 children statewide still uninsured and an estimated 3,800 uninsured children in the Alexandria area and surrounding parishes, there is still more work to do. Even one child without access to quality health care is too many."

"Statistics have shown that children who have medical insurance are far more likely to see a doctor at the onset of an illness when it is most likely to respond positively to treatment", Jackson stated.

LaCHIP, which covers children until age 19, is among the best known and most successful Medicaid programs that help provide the medical coverage children need to lead healthier lives. LaCHIP provides for physician visits, pharmacy

costs, hospital stays and many other medical expenses in a network of providers.

The LaCHIP Affordable Plan, a program launched in 2008, covers children in households earning an annual income up to 250 percent of the federal poverty rate (or about \$55,000 for a family of four).

For more information on LaCHIP, contact the Catahoula/Concordia Medicaid Office at 1305 4th Street, Jonesville or call 318-339-4514. In addition, you may call 1-877-2LaCHIP (1-877-252-2447) or visit online at www.lachip.org.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals serves to protect and promote health statewide and to ensure access to medical, preventive and rehabilitative services for all state citizens. To learn more about DHH, visit <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov>.



Just a few of the many who made an "enrollement blitz" through Catahoula Parish last week were (from left) Debbie Fontenot, Medicaid Area Manager, Evangel Parish, Emma Jackson, Medicaid Area Manager Catahoula & Concordia Parishes, Lester Turner, LaCHIP Outreach Coordinator, Alexandria Region, Lisa Anderson, Medicaid Analyst II Catahoula & Concorida Parishes, Juanita Bingham, ADA IV Catahoula & Concordia Medicaid.