



LOUISIANA

CHAPTER OF HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES

SUMMER 2024 LCHE NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Dear All,

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer and taking some time to relax. Your chapter has been off to an excellent start for the first half of the year. Our education programs in January and May had great reviews and were very well attended. Communications through our website, LinkedIn, and email have expanded our reach and more individuals are seeking information about how to connect with our chapter. We have 23 members that have applied for Fellow status that are currently participating in our Virtual Fellow Advancement Program that is being facilitated by Dr. Rich Priore.

Please stay tuned for additional educational programs that are scheduled in August and October, and of course, we look forward to seeing many of you at LHA's Summer Conference in July. The meetings offer an outstanding way to learn, obtain In-Person Education and network with others in our chapter.

As summer progresses, I hope to see you at one of our programs!

Warm wishes,

Tatsy Jeter
LCHE President

2024 Education

The chapter is currently working on an education program to be held at the Courtyard Lafayette Airport Hotel on Kaliste Saloom Road on **Thursday, August 29**. The event will begin at 9:30 am and will conclude at 2pm. The second opportunity will be **Tuesday, October 29** in Covington, LA. Mark your calendar now and check our [LinkedIn page](#) and chapter [website](#) for updates.

Update on the 2024 Fellow Advancement Program

Dr. Richard Priore provided an update on the Fellow Advancement Program which has been meeting each Thursday since June 6. There are 23 that have applied/will apply to take the Board of Governors exam, with great potential to advance to Fellow by the end of the calendar year.

Recognition of New Fellows

Congratulations to Robert M. Calhoun who advanced to Fellow in April.

Other News & Recognition

Congratulations to LCHE board members Coletta Barrett and Ben Boudreaux for being included in the [Greater Baton Rouge Business Report's](#) The Capital Region Top 500, recognizing “the most powerful and influential business and community leaders in the capital region.”

Commentary on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



From Peter Dancy, Jr., MBA MHA, FACHE

Medical Center Director/CEO, Alexandria VA Health Care System and Chair of the LCHE Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Is diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) needed in healthcare? My answer is emphatically, yes. As a health care leader, I believe that healthcare organizations have an increased responsibility to improve DEI efforts not just for our employees, but also to better serve our patients, their families, and the communities in which we serve. Dr. Bonzo K. Reddick agrees.

Dr. Bonzo K. Reddick, Professor of Community Medicine at Mercer University's School of Medicine and named the 2021 Georgia Family Physician of the Year, did a [TEDxSavannah talk](#) entitled “Why we Need DEI in Healthcare.” In his talk, Dr. Reddick provides several examples of why we need DEI in healthcare. Some examples cited are that healthcare organization are improved because of diversity in hiring practices. He provides an excellent example of how the E in DEI, equity, results in better diagnosis and treatment of those individuals who may be at risk for kidney disease. As to the I in DEI, inclusion, he makes the point that greater inclusion can improve the lives of everyone, especially people with neurodevelopmental disorders. He further stated that inclusion includes doing events like community health and dental screenings and immunization fairs designed to increase access to care for individuals that have limited mobility, transportation difficulties getting to a doctor's office. Dr. Reddick goes on to state that Inclusion also means having access to safe places to exercise and that “DEI, used appropriately, can be a uniting force that brings us all together.” He goes on further to state that “DEI is... the perfect way to promote unity in our country” and “a way to undo the mistakes of the past.”

The term “health care is local” is one that resonates with many of us in this profession. And I would surmise that each health care organization's journey towards creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment is different. The American Hospital Associations Institute for Diversity and Health Equity (IFDHE) provides a great [tool](#) that allows us to explore, through six levers of transformation, where we are in our transformation efforts. From identifying culturally appropriate patient care to collaborating with communities for solutions, this tool may inspire you to be a TEDx New Orleans or Baton Rouge speaker, enthusiastically sharing, just as Dr. Reddick did, how DEI is needed in health care.

Fellow Spotlight – Jason E. Cobb, MHA, MBA, FACHE

Jason has over thirty-one years of experience in healthcare with twenty-six of those years in the state of Louisiana. In 2023 Jason returned to WKH as Sr. Vice President of Strategic Operations. Jason was employed by Rapides Regional Medical Center and Rapides Healthcare System as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Jason held positions as CEO of Lakeview Regional Medical Center in Covington, Louisiana; Chief Operating Officer at West Houston Medical Center in Houston, Texas; Vice President of Operations at Tulane University Hospital and Clinic in New Orleans; Vice President & Administrator at Willis Knighton Health and Willis Knighton Pierremont in Shreveport, Louisiana; and Administrative Internships at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas and Christian Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.



Throughout his career, Jason has actively participated in many organizations to support business, healthcare, and the community. Previously, he was Chair of the Louisiana Hospital Association, Chair of Louisiana Central, and a member of the LSUA Foundation Board, Louisiana Christian University Board of Visitors, Alexandria Business Foundation and Louisiana Workforce Investment Council. He has been Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the American Heart Association, and Chair of the Louisiana Hospital Association Foundation.

Jason holds a Master of Health Administration from Washington University School of Medicine and a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M University. He attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas. He has also completed four programs on "Strategy" at Harvard University. In addition, Jason is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and has been a member since 1994.

What do you feel is the value of the FACHE designation?

The FACHE credential is the pinnacle credential for the healthcare industry. This credential shows commitment to continued learning, demonstrates competency, and ensures a high level of understanding of the healthcare industry. Being a Fellow allows for networking opportunities, and continued dedication to your individual growth regardless of the phase of your career.

What is one thing that has or continues to surprise you in your career?

Even though I have been in the healthcare industry for 31 years healthcare, it still challenges me every day. COVID did make it more difficult for a few years but even with that: today's new healthcare complexities, the labor issues, the reimbursement issues, the quality regulatory requirements. All those challenges seem to get even more difficult, but I think it also has brought out a deeper level of passion in those that work in the healthcare industry. With the staffing challenges, healthcare workers are having to step up more and are making even more of a difference in patients' lives while providing the best possible care to our communities. We are in the 'ultimate' people business and providing care to our patients is truly a blessing.

What are your recommendations for early careerists?

I believe it's all about the experience. During the first few years of your career, I suggest focusing on the experience, and connecting with good mentors. Surround yourself with good leaders and work in organizations that provide a good learning and personal development environment. Remember to always network and make yourself available to take on some challenging jobs or projects. Don't look for the easy way- look for the challenge, with the challenge comes growth. I also suggest keeping an open mind to different areas of healthcare. Don't just go for a niche type of position. Try to continue to take on different roles and learn all aspects of healthcare. You can find a niche later in your career while following your passion. When given the opportunity to lead people, take it. Managing people is one of the most challenging but rewarding aspects of a leadership role.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

My wife and I have a blended family of five kids and four grandkids, ages 2-30. We have a lot going on at all different ages. I do like to play a little bit of golf for fun as well but lately it's about having a good time enjoying the kids and grandkids.

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<https://louisiana.ache.org/>

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