



SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Dear all,

I am excited and honored to be your ACHE of Louisiana President. Thank you to Tatsy Jeter, FACHE for her leadership over the past two years, including significant accomplishments of expanding chapter education across the state and growing our membership. And a special thanks for her ongoing commitment to ACHE and our chapter with her continued involvement and leadership on the Board.

We have started 2025 out strong. Our first education program of the year welcomed 73 members. The panel discussion focused on "Implementing Strategic Plans for Successful Operations." Thank you to moderator Devon Hyde and panelists Traci Thibodeaux, Lance Armentor, and Monte Wilson for their expertise and insights! Chapter and Regent awards were also given at this event. Congratulations to Vern Rennier (Early Careerist), Claire Hick, FACHE (Middle Careerist), Jason Cobb, FACHE (Senior Careerist), Dr. Flip Roberts (Physician Champion), and Kerry Milton (Nurse Champion). Phyllis Peoples received the Rick Henault Mentor & Spirit of Servitude Award and Peter Dancy, FACHE was named the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Champion.

I attended Congress last week along with several board members and over 7,000 other healthcare leaders. Eight chapter members each received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend: Coletta Barrett, FACHE, Tammy Belleau, Frank Burns, Dan Davis, Lee Holmes, FACHE, Sarah Mitchell, FACHE, Scott Phillips and Cherry Beth Salter. The highlight for our chapter is that Michele Sutton, FACHE was installed as our ACHE National Chairperson. Louisiana was well represented!

I invite anyone considering pursuing their Fellow designation this year to participate in the ACHE of Louisiana Fellow Advancement Course led by Rich Priore, FACHE, Tulane Associate Professor. Read more below and look for an email and more information on [LinkedIn](#) soon.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at upcoming education and networking events!

Warmly,

Dionne Viator, CPA, FACHE
ACHE of Louisiana President

2025 Fellow Advancement Program

This is the year to advance to Fellow! The next **Fellow Advancement Course Cohort** will kick off the first week of June. Registration is coming soon. Participation in the course requires that you meet all the [advancement requirements](#), take the Board of Governors exam, and apply to become a Fellow by Dec. 31, 2025. Please contact Rich Priore, FACHE, at rpriore@tulane.edu or 612-965-3134 if you have any questions. So far, 8 members have advanced to Fellow who completed the inaugural 10-week "lunch and learn" course in 2024.

Education

Save the date for an ACHE of Louisiana education event to be held in the Shreveport area on Friday, May 2. More information will be sent via email and posted to [LinkedIn](#) soon.

Recognition of New Fellows

Congratulations to **Aaron Dumont, Timothy Marks, and Emily Stevens, LCSW** who have earned the FACHE credential so far in 2025.

Share Your Professional Announcements with ACHE

Improve your visibility in the healthcare field and build your professional brand by sharing career updates with ACHE. Have you started a new job or been promoted recently? Are you planning to retire? Let ACHE know so you can be featured in the “On the Move” section of *Healthcare Executive* magazine. All you have to do is email both your former and new job titles, organizations, locations, and a high-resolution headshot to he-editor@ache.org.

Commentary on Community Impact



How Hospital's Commitment to Community Impact Improves the Health of the Community and Provides a Return on Investment

Dr. Coletta C. Barrett, RN, FACHE

Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) are not just a regulatory requirement for not-for-profit hospitals—they are a cornerstone of community-centered healthcare delivery.

Conducted every three years as mandated by the IRS, CHNAs provide hospitals with an opportunity to identify and prioritize health challenges within their communities (*Community Health*

Needs Assessment for Charitable Hospital Organizations - Section 501(r)(3), n.d.). For hospital and industry leaders, the importance of fully engaging in this process cannot be overstated. A well-executed CHNA, paired with a comprehensive implementation plan, demonstrates an institution's commitment to improving health outcomes while reinforcing its role as a vital community anchor (American Hospital Association, 2023).

Addressing the social determinants of health (SDOH) identified through CHNAs is both a moral imperative and a strategic investment (Andermann, 2018). Evidence shows that unmet social needs—such as food insecurity, lack of transportation, and housing instability—contribute to poor health outcomes and higher healthcare costs (Fraze et al., 2019). For example, a Health Affairs study found that addressing SDOH through community-based initiatives can reduce avoidable hospitalizations and emergency department visits by up to 30% (Baker et al., 2021). Hospitals that invest in addressing these needs improve patient outcomes and reduce the financial burden associated with preventable illnesses. Engaging in such efforts aligns with the long-term financial health of the institution and the well-being of the population it serves.

An effective, cost-efficient approach to addressing SDOH is implementing screening and referral programs using electronic health records (EHRs) (Truong et al., 2020). Integrating SDOH screening into clinical workflows enables hospitals to identify at-risk patients early, connect them to community-based resources, and track referrals to ensure follow-through (Corbie-Smith et al., 2019). Research has shown that such programs yield a strong return on investment (ROI) by

reducing unnecessary healthcare utilization, improving patient adherence to treatment plans, and enhancing population health outcomes (Ohanian, 2018). By leveraging EHR systems to address social needs, hospitals can achieve financial savings and improved care coordination, underscoring the value of investing in preventive, upstream solutions (Rogers et al., 2022).

Hospital leaders should also recognize the financial and reputational advantages of addressing community needs identified in CHNAs. Institutions that actively address SDOH often see improved patient loyalty, enhanced community trust, and lower operational costs over time. Programs aimed at reducing health disparities have been shown to increase community satisfaction (Glenn et al., 2024), which, in turn, strengthens the hospital's position as an employer of choice and a trusted partner in health. Leadership's knowledge of their institution's efforts to address social needs is critical. Data would suggest that we need to invest in screening and referral management systems to impact the social needs of our patients fully (Davidson & McGinn, 2019). These outcomes create a positive cycle where healthier communities contribute to a more sustainable healthcare system.

As healthcare leaders, we must embrace our role as stewards of community health. CHNAs offer a roadmap for addressing the root causes of poor health, enabling hospitals to go beyond treating illness to fostering long-term wellness (Artiga & Hinton, 2018). By dedicating institutional resources to implementing CHNA-driven strategies, hospitals can create measurable, sustainable community health improvements while ensuring their financial viability. Addressing today's social needs is an investment in tomorrow's healthier—and more equitable—future.

Fellow Spotlight – Rob Calhoun, FACHE

Rob Calhoun is LCMC Health Senior Vice President of Health Services and West Jefferson Medical Center CEO.

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

The FACHE (Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives) designation signifies a commitment to excellence, ongoing professional development, and leadership in healthcare administration. It sets professionals apart by demonstrating expertise, ethical decision-making, and a dedication to lifelong learning. Additionally, it provides access to a strong network of healthcare leaders, which can be invaluable for career growth and mentorship.



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

One thing that continues to surprise me is how critical adaptability is in healthcare leadership. No matter how well you plan, unexpected challenges—whether regulatory changes, workforce dynamics, or financial pressures—are inevitable. The ability to pivot, stay calm under pressure, and lead teams through uncertainty is just as important as technical knowledge.

What are your recommendations for early careerists?

- Seek out mentorship: Learning from experienced professionals can accelerate your growth.
- Stay curious and proactive: Ask questions, volunteer for projects, and never stop learning.
- Build strong relationships: Healthcare is a team-driven industry, and success often comes from collaboration.

- Develop resilience: Challenges will come, but perseverance and a solution-oriented mindset will set you apart.

I know at LCMC Health, you're all about “little something extras.” What is your “little something extra?” I've been training for my first Crescent City Classic, which has been a big challenge since I'm not a runner. But it's for a great cause, and it's a nice way to stay active and maintain balance outside of work.

Chapter Website:

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

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