

# Louisiana Medical News

SOUTH LOUISIANA EDITION

## On Rounds

### Physician Spotlight

#### Dr. Jason Baesler

*Living in the Line of Fire*

In his spare time, Dr. Jason Baesler enjoys scuba diving, martial arts and target practice. Through his SWAT connections, he gets to live every boy's fantasy – shooting guns ... **page 3**



#### Funding Cuts Mean Hospital Jobs Will be Lost

It's just a matter of time before Louisiana's 42 community hospitals have to start laying off workers and cutting services, according to a state hospital association executive ... **page 4**

#### "Meaningful Use" Finally Defined

*HHS Final Rule: Non-Compliant Providers Face Reduced Medicare Payments in 2015*

During the dog days of summer, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the much-anticipated final "meaningful use" ... **page 5**

## State Moves Forward with IT Network

By TED GRIGGS

Louisiana took another in a series of steps that will eventually lead to a statewide network where healthcare providers can share patients' records electronically.

The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, a state-created nonprofit overseeing the effort, has asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to approve the draft of the health information exchange.

"Everything we're doing ultimately is about the patient and improving outcomes," said Cindy Munn, executive director of the forum.

The main goal of the health information exchange is to be able to have and provide relevant, clinical data to providers when they are treating patients, Munn said.

State and federal officials, employers, healthcare providers and consumers want to improve healthcare quality and



Cindy Munn

efficiency, Munn said. Health information technology and exchange are critical elements in achieving that goal.

The draft plan is 138 pages long and includes proposals to take advantage of existing electronic health records systems, such as the Louisiana Rural Health Information Exchange in North Louisiana, as well as strategies to overcome gaps in delivering lab results electronically, e-prescribing, and sharing clinical records.

Louisiana and the Quality Forum have been in the forefront of a number of efforts to improve healthcare quality and the state is expected to benefit from the experience. Those projects included a website allowing providers to check the

medication histories of Hurricane Katrina evacuees; a demonstration program showing providers in New Orleans and Baton Rouge could share medical records; the Louisiana Rural Health

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## Gift of Hope: Giving Infertile Couples a Winning Chance

BY LISA HANCHEY



Robin and Dion Carter

Robin and Dion Carter seemed to have it all. The attractive Ville Platte couple met during college, dated for six years, and have been married for five. But, something was missing from their lives, causing them to feel an agonizing void – a child. "We knew we wanted to start a family, because family is very important to us," Robin said.

Shortly after the honeymoon, the pair started trying to conceive. After several failed attempts, Robin saw a doctor, who diagnosed her with severe endometriosis. In 2005, she had an extensive laparoscopic surgery. Afterwards, the couple tried to have a baby again – and again and again and again. "After that point, it started to consume my life," she said. "I always knew that I wanted to be a mom. It was very hard for me."

Five years and five doctors later, Robin was still unable to become pregnant. Growing despondent, she started slipping into depression. Then, her sister, who also had endometriosis, told her about a fertility specialist in Lafayette, Dr. John Stormont with Fertility & Women's Health Center of Louisiana. Robin made an appointment with

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