The LHA Research and Education Foundation (LHAREF) Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) has provided $1.7 million to 30 hospitals and 25 EMS providers to improve their response capabilities to threats such as hurricanes, pandemics, mass-casualty incidents (MCIs), and active shooter scenarios. The program also provides training opportunities for hospital and pre-hospital provider personnel to support hospitals and EMS providers in these critical areas. The LHAREF HPP will continue to support the Department of Health’s Emergency Preparedness Grant Program, which focuses on strengthening state and local government ability to prepare for and respond to all threats and hazards. The LHAREF HPP is also working with more than 90 hospitals to further reduce harm and improve quality and safety for patients.
State Initiatives

Legislative Session: The Louisiana Legislature considered 1,312 bills during the 2015 Regular Session. Work continues on key legislation.

The 2015 legislative session was largely defined by Louisiana’s significant, ongoing state budget challenges. Specifically, the legislature began the session with the need to address a budget shortfall of approximately $2 billion, including federal and state revenue reductions for healthcare and hospitals. The LHA worked closely with the legislature to identify solutions to the budget issues that would not adversely impact patients or healthcare providers.

The LHA will continue working with legislators on remaining budget challenges by promoting long-term solutions, including House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 35 passed as part of a comprehensive provider-assessment funding program. With a new Administration and the real potential for bipartisanship, we must continue to make improvements to the state’s healthcare policy in 2016 and beyond. Through the work of our Hospital Sustainability Expansion Task Force, the Association will continue to make meaningful improvements to help hospitals improve their financial sustainability.

This year, the LHA also worked this year on engaging more members in various positions throughout our hospitals. With hospital leadership development as one of these initiatives, the LHA created the Physician Leadership Academy and hosted the second annual Leadership Development Institute. The Academy focuses on important clinical topics such as pain management, quality improvement, and their clinical training and take a new approach to managerial decision making and problem solving, which provides an excellent introduction to leadership. The LHA also supports a provider-assessment funding program. With a new Administration and the real potential for bipartisanship, we must continue to make improvements to the state’s healthcare policy in 2016 and beyond. Through the work of our Hospital Sustainability Expansion Task Force, the Association will continue to make meaningful improvements to help hospitals improve their financial sustainability.

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