



1           WHEREAS, faced with these numbers and the reality that this epidemic strikes  
2 hardest in poor, rural areas similar to Washington Parish, the Washington Parish Coalition  
3 on Human Services and Our Lady of the Angels Hospital, supported by the people of the  
4 parish, established a program with a grant from Louisiana Partnership for Success offered  
5 by the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority and the Louisiana Department of Health,  
6 office of behavioral health; and

7           WHEREAS, that grant allowed for the establishment of the opioid sparing effort  
8 focused on the hospital setting at Our Lady of the Angels, with surgeons, certified registered  
9 nurse anesthetists, and registered nurses collaborating and involving the entire professional  
10 staff in using, as a first step in post-surgical pain relief, transversus abdominis plane (TAP)  
11 and associated blocks which are used in many abdominal procedures and typically provide  
12 between sixteen and twenty hours of somatic pain relief; and

13           WHEREAS, the TAP blocks are ultrasound-guided, and instruction on this insertion  
14 method is made available at the hospital for both nurse anesthetist students and the staff of  
15 certified registered nurse anesthetists, increasing the number of staff who are proficient in  
16 this procedure; and

17           WHEREAS, post-surgery, the anesthesia department follows up with all patients,  
18 either in person or by telephone, to ensure that patients have sufficient pain relief, and most  
19 do not require prescription oral medication of any kind for pain relief following the initial  
20 block; and

21           WHEREAS, this multidisciplinary approach to an aspect of the practice of medicine  
22 that can often lead to a dependency on opioid prescription medication has proven to be an  
23 effective beginning to controlling opioid abuse, particularly when it begins with a  
24 post-surgical patient; and

25           WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa and its staff have taken  
26 a proactive approach to the fight against opioid addiction by looking at the beginning of such  
27 dependency, which for many is with post-surgical pain, and is making a difference in the  
28 lives of all their surgical patients by treating their pain without opioid drugs that could prove  
29 more dangerous to their lives than, perhaps, the risk of the surgery itself; and

1           WHEREAS, Our Lady of the Angels Hospital and the Washington Parish Coalition  
2 on Human Services received a certificate recognizing completion of the first year of the  
3 grant financially enabling this new approach to pain relief; and

4           WHEREAS, situated in a rural area with serious economic hardships, Our Lady of  
5 the Angels Hospital recognized the threat that opioids pose to the people in its service area  
6 and has taken a bold and courageous step toward reversing the trend of ever-increasing  
7 hospitalizations and deaths stemming from the abuse of opioid analgesics.

8           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
9 commend Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, Louisiana, on the establishment of  
10 its Opioid Sparring Initiative, aimed at reducing the number of opioid prescriptions.

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Our  
12 Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Commends Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa on the establishment of its anti-opiate addiction program.