



# LOUISIANA COVID-19 HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE



## Charge

To provide recommendations relative to health inequities which are affecting communities that are most impacted by the coronavirus. The task force will examine opportunities which provide greater access to high quality medical care and improve health outcomes.

## Goals/Outcomes

- Provide reliable and data driven information on COVID-19 safety and prevention
- Provide the medical community with best practices and protocols for treating communities with underlying medical conditions and health disparities
- Ensure testing availability and ease of access for all communities

## Timeline

Louisiana's COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force will begin its work immediately and continue as needed. Its actions and research will ultimately result in improved health equity in Louisiana, serve as a foundation and resource for addressing healthcare disparities in vulnerable populations, and contribute to the progression and improvement of Louisiana's healthcare rankings. To measure progress, a statewide Dashboard on Health Equity will be created.



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# Task Force Structure and Members

## Co-Chairs

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### **Sandra Brown, DNS**

Southern University and A&M Baton Rouge  
Dean and Professor, College of Nursing and Allied Health

### **Thomas LaVeist, Ph.D.**

Tulane University  
Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Health Equity, Dean of  
Public Health and Tropical Medicine

## Task Force Administration

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### **Ray L. Belton, Ph.D.**

Southern University System  
President-Chancellor

### **Kim Hunter-Reed, Ph.D.**

Louisiana Board of Regents  
Commissioner

### **Kimberly Lewis Robinson, JD**

Louisiana Department of Revenue  
Secretary

### **Katara Williams, Ph.D.**

Southern University System  
Chief of Staff

### **Adren Wilson, Ph.D.**

Office of the Governor  
Deputy Chief of Staff

## Legislative Members

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### **Sen. Regina Barrow**

Louisiana State Senate  
District 15

### **Rep. Dustin Miller**

Louisiana House of Representatives  
District 40



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# Task Force Structure and Members

## Task Force Members

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Chief Executive Officer

**Corey Hebert, M.D.**  
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**Theron J. Jackson, M.Div.**  
Morning Star Baptist Church/Together Louisiana  
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**Judy Reese Morse**  
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**Gary M. Wiltz, M.D.**  
Teche Action Clinics  
Chief Executive Officer



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# Subcommittee Members

## COVID-19 Testing for Vulnerable and At-Risk Communities

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Associate Dean and Professor - School of Nursing

### Co-Chair

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**Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow**

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# Subcommittee Members

## COVID-19 Communication and Messaging

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### Co-Chair

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Vice Provost for Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer



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# Subcommittee Members

## COVID-19 Data and Analysis

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### Co-Chair

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# Subcommittee Members

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### Co-Chair

#### **Judy Reese Morse**

Urban League of Louisiana  
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# Subcommittee Members

## COVID-19 in Special Populations — LA Prisons

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Chief Executive Officer

### Co-Chair

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NAACP

State President

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Founder/CEO

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National Organization of Black Law Enforcement  
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National 2nd VP



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# Subcommittee Members

## COVID-19 in Special Populations — Nursing Home Residents

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# Subcommittee Members

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#### **Alma C. Stewart, RN**

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# Subcommittee Members

## COVID-19 Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

### Co-Chair

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MetroMorphosis

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### Co-Chair

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**Erica Rogers, RN**

Braveheart Foundation  
Founder/CEO

**Frederick L. Thomas, MSCJ**

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement  
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National 2nd VP



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# Subcommittee Members

## COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Healthcare Subcommittee

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# Priorities



COVID-19 Testing for Vulnerable and At-Risk Communities



COVID-19 Communication and Messaging



COVID-19 Data and Analysis



COVID-19 Health Equity Dashboard



COVID-19 in Special Populations – LA Prisons



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# Priorities



COVID-19 in Special Populations- Nursing Home residents



COVID-19 Policy and Regulatory Affairs



COVID-19 Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement



COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Healthcare



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# Deliverables



## COVID-19 Testing for Vulnerable and At-Risk Communities

Review State-wide Testing Plan for COVID-19 and antibody testing and quarantine. Review statewide protocols for testing, geomapping of testing, barriers to testing, location of testing sites, COVID-19 mobile testing efforts, and local government's role in testing, contact tracing efforts. A comprehensive recommendation to facilitate COVID-19 testing for vulnerable and at-risk communities (symptomatic and asymptomatic) will be produced.

**SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS**



## COVID-19 Communication and Messaging

Develop a Health Equity Task Force website with a social media platform inclusive of COVID-19 safety and prevention, cultural relevant messaging, de-stigmatization, misperceptions, etc. utilizing *The Skin You're In* platform as a template. Incorporate measures to reach rural communities and the elderly with limited or no access to broadband. Include street campaign strategies and incorporate measures such as geofencing to reach our youth.

**SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS**



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# Deliverables



## COVID-19 Data and Analysis

A comprehensive statewide report on COVID-19 data based on age, gender, and race with geospatial analysis of mortality will be developed.

Obtain COVID 19 data to include deaths by age/race/zip codes; hospitalizations by age and race; cases and deaths in nursing homes and prisons by age and race; # of people tested by age and race; obesity data; cross tabulation of data with co-morbidities; Various nationalities, including Latino community numbers, will be included.

**SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS**



## Health Equity Dashboard

Develop a Louisiana Health Equity Dashboard. Explore Health Equity Dashboards in other states to use as a guide.

**IMMEDIATE GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 60 DAYS**



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# Deliverables



## COVID-19 in Special Populations – LA Prisons

Explore the impact of COVID-19 on special populations, specifically Louisiana's prison population (examining the # of positive cases, deaths, age, gender, race, geographic location). A comprehensive plan to address safety and prevention of COVID-19 in Louisiana's prison population will be developed.

**SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS**



## COVID-19 in Special Populations — Nursing Home Residents

Explore the impact of COVID-19 on special populations, specifically Louisiana's nursing home population (examining the # of positive cases, deaths, age, gender, race, geographic location). A comprehensive plan to address safety and prevention of COVID-19 in nursing home residents will be developed.

**SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS**



# Deliverables



## COVID-19 Policy and Regulatory Affairs

This committee will recommend policies and regulations to state legislature to minimize inequitable distribution of healthcare services as it relates to discrimination, access to care, quality of care and other fundamental drivers of health disparities.

**INTERMEDIATE GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 60 DAYS**



## COVID-19 Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

Develop a comprehensive guide for best practices, strategies, and resources to address COVID-19 utilizing community and faith-based organizations as it relates to isolation, grieving, and COVID-19 survivorship inclusive of older adults. This subcommittee will also identify platforms to increase community engagement and outreach for COVID-19.

**SHORT TERM GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 30 DAYS**



# Deliverables



## COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Healthcare

Review *Crisis of Care Standards for Louisiana* and make recommendations for modification or updates. Review provider bias influence on health outcomes. Explore medical mistrust among African Americans. Provide a comprehensive inventory of best practices, evidenced-based solutions that address racial disparities in healthcare for Louisiana.

**INTERMEDIATE GOAL: ATTAINABLE WITHIN 60 DAYS**



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# Contact Us

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