



State of Louisiana
Bureau of Minority Health Access and Promotions

Dear Reader:

It is our pleasure to present the State Fiscal Year 2017/18 Bureau of Minority Health Access (BMHA) Annual Report, which provides insight into Louisiana's programs and its multiple activities in minority health and numerous accomplishments throughout the year.

BMHA continues to meet the needs in uninsured and underinsured populations by responding to Louisiana's diverse racial and ethnic communities to provide access to quality of care, and eliminate health disparities that will ultimately improve health outcomes. The Bureau, with its focus on eliminating health disparities among racial and ethnic populations, launched investigations as to causes for health disparities by exploring social determinants of health that are the economic and social conditions – and their distribution among the population – that influence individual and group differences in health status.

Some of the notable initiatives are Own Your Own Health, which is an obesity initiative for communities of color, Community Preparedness Response Network (CPRN) that assist low-income communities with establishing emergency preparedness plans within the overall state plan and the Minority Health Month campaign which is a month-long, high-visibility health promotion and disease prevention campaign. Conducted with and by community-based agencies and organizations, this celebration reaches into urban, suburban and rural areas of the state. We have witnessed improvements in access to care in underserved, racial /ethnic populations, and we look forward to seeing continued improvements from these initiatives and the impact it will have on our population's health outcomes in the coming years.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rudy Macklin".

Rudy Macklin, Director
Bureau of Minority Health Access