

THE TRANSLATION IS “SMALL COINS,” ALSO CALLED “CHANGE.” IT’S A PLAY ON WORDS ON HOW WE CAN MAKE SMALL CHANGES TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

New things are under way in 2026! The Office of Practice and Community Engagement and The Louisiana Cancer Prevention Team held its first Community Colloquium. The Community Colloquium series features leaders from across our community who are working to improve public health, foster innovation, and build meaningful cross-sector collaborations. This series is designed to bring together local health-related organizations, community partners, academic researchers, public health practitioners, healthcare providers, students, and community members to share information, exchange ideas, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

In the kickoff to the series, we heard from Shelina Davis, MPH, MSW and Thomas W. Carton, PhD, MS, both from Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI). This talk explored the ways in which we can collaborate to reduce cancer outcomes in Louisiana utilizing LPHI’s existing network of community outreach, data collection, and research.

Our next **Community Colloquium** will be on March 16, 2026. Speakers are Malissa Dietsch-Givhan and Lynn Dupont with the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (NORPC). They will discuss the use of data in particular our Social Vulnerability Index and developing Transportation Insecurity Index for the region. You don’t want to miss it!

UPCOMING SERVICE EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

LSUHealth SPH Beth Schmidt Staff Member of the Year Award nominations now open through March 27, 2026. [Submit here](#)

LSUHealth SPH Elizabeth T.H. Fontham Award for Outstanding Community Service Award nominations now open through April 1, 2026. [Submit here](#)

February 20th - Lantern Light Fish Fry 2026 Lantern Light will hold its annual fish fry on 12pm-6pm at 1803 Gravier Street. Tickets may be purchased from Lantern Light directly. Please support this important ministry as they work to meet the needs of unhoused citizens in our area.

How To Recycle During Mardi Gras

What do you do with all the beads, cups, stuffed animals and other items you've gathered during carnival season? You can donate them to The Arc of Greater New Orleans. Click the link below to see details on collection sites. [Donate Beads - ArcGNO](#) You can also call their Mardi Gras Recycle Center for further assistance at (504)-369-4033. Lend a hand as well! You can volunteer here [Volunteer | Arcgno](#) for bead recycling.

LSUHealth SPH Service Honor Cord All students who complete 50 hours or more during the academic calendar are eligible. [Submit hours here](#) by May 1, 2026