



REACH NOLA

*Creating innovative partnerships that improve health
in the New Orleans community*

Welcome

This year's highlights – What have we been up to?



REACH NOLA Board Directors, Dr. Ben Springgate and Dr. Diem Nguyen with US Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin at a community meeting co-hosted by REACH NOLA, to discuss the emotional toll of the oil disaster in the Gulf.

Inside our first-ever quarterly newsletter, you will get a glimpse of what we have been up to this year, meet our team, and learn about some of our

programs and one of our partners. You will also see some of our media attention and our latest scoop. Enjoy and keep in touch!

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Benjamin Springgate
RAND Corporation & Tulane
University School of Medicine

Diana Meyers
St. Anna's Medical Mission,
St. Anna's Episcopal Church

Charles Allen
City of New Orleans

Rev. Larry Campbell
Israelite Baptist Church

Dr. Diem Nguyen
Mary Queen of Vietnam CDC

Luanne Francis
New Orleans Faith Health
Alliance

Meshawn Tarver
Common Ground Health Clinic

We've Been in the News

Over the past year we have been privileged to receive not only local, but also national and international recognition for the work that we are doing with our partners. This has taken the form of traditional media through newspapers and radio shows, as well as in the research world, through articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals. For

example:

- [BBC News Health Check](#) interviewed Dr. Springgate about our mental health response in New Orleans post-Katrina.

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Building Health, Mental Health & Resilience

In July we wrapped up our Health and Resilience Project with two community conferences. The first brought experts and policy makers together with the community to talk about mental health and the oil spill. The second gave local Community Health Workers the opportunity to share their experiences and programs with others. Our partner, Tulane University, also announced the launch of their Community Health Worker Training Institute, which grew and expanded in new directions out of the Mental Health Infrastructure and Training project.

Many local primary care providers, mental health professionals, care managers, and lay outreach workers participated



We trained over 400 people from over 70 organizations and delivered over 110,000 direct services

and received training on evidence-based ways of talking about and providing care for mental health patients. The trainings provided an opportunity to network with others, build referral and care resources, and learn how to integrate mental health into primary care settings.

We also established two Health and Resilience Centers at St. Anna's Episcopal Church and Tulane University Community Health Center, which now offer community-led and evidence-based services for stress, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder through screening, referral for services, stress management support and access.

Health and Language Access



Last May, in collaboration with our partners, we brought together over 130 health care providers, administrators, interpreters, advocates and limited English proficient community members to learn and talk about language access in health care with the Office for Civil Rights and each other.

Are you interested in receiving language access training or technical assistance? Contact us!

katrinabadger@reachnola.org

REACH NOLA has trained over 100 medical interpreters that now work at over 15 organizations now providing language access services.

We have been working to decrease health disparities among limited English proficient people in our community by addressing language barriers to health information and health care.

Among our accomplishments, we have provided three medical interpreter trainings and trained over 500 healthcare providers about how to work effectively with an interpreter and patients who do not speak much English.

We are proud to have come together with dozens of other constituents and organizations to request that Louisiana opt to reimburse for language services through Medicaid. This is necessary because federal law requires, but does not fund language assistance.

Next interpreter training coming up in January. Sign up NOW!



REACH NOLA and partners facilitated discussion about the role of nonprofits in preparedness and recovery at a RAND/Louisiana Association of Non-profit Organizations conference

Partner Spotlight: RAND

Because our partners are integral to who we are, what we do, and how we do it, we will be spotlighting one of our partners in each edition of our REACH NOLA Newsletter.

Get to Know RAND:

[RAND Health](#) is a research division within the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis. RAND Health advances understanding of health and health behaviors and examines how the organization and financing of care affect costs, quality, and access.

[RAND created the Gulf States Policy Institute](#) in 2005 to support hurricane recovery and long-term economic development in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Today, RAND Gulf States provides objective analysis to federal, state, and local leaders in support of evidence-based policymaking and the well-being of individuals throughout the Gulf States region. With offices in New Orleans, and Jackson, MS, RAND Gulf States is dedicated to answering the region's toughest questions related to a wide range of issues that include coastal protection and restoration, health care, and workforce development.

RAND and REACH NOLA's Work:

What is RAND's role in addressing these issues of health and mental health in the post-hurricane and post-oil spill context?

Doing what RAND does best – providing objective, high-quality research to improve policy. The needs are so great and so complex ... Many well-intentioned reformers have put human and financial resources into programs that ultimately don't have as much impact as they should. Research can help organizations prioritize their limited resources and direct funding to where it will do the most good.

- Interview with Dr. Benjamin Springgate, in: [RAND Gulf States Policy Institute, September Newsletter](#)

RAND and Common Ground Health Clinic are partnering on a new research project to explore if male community health workers are more effective than female community health workers when working with Latino male day laborer clients.

Hellos and Goodbyes

This summer we said goodbye to Dr. Antor Ndep, one of our founding board directors, when she left this summer to return home to Nigeria.

We are thrilled to have welcomed Dr. Diem Nguyen, Meshawn Tarver and Luanne Francis to our Board of Directors, and a team of 12 local and national experts as our Advisory Board.

Brittany Butler, our Executive Director and long-term member of our team, and, left late this summer. She moved on to pursue a master degree in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She continues to support us as an Advisory Board member.

Mariel Boyarsky, an AVODAH fellow, who was on the ground building relationships in the community over the past year, has moved on to Israel to work with Physicians for Human Rights.

We are happy to announce that Katrina Badger, former Health and Language Access Program Manager is our new Director of Operations.

We are also thankful for the additional support of our new team of volunteers and interns: Flor Espinoza, Arianna Baseman and Serena Chaudry.

In the News

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- Federal government health leaders in a [New England Journal of Medicine](#) article (the most prestigious medical journal in the country) named REACH NOLA as a valuable asset in communities' and the nation's response to mental health impacts of the BP oil disaster.
- [Time Magazine](#) spotlighted our board president, Dr. Springgate, on the psychological toll of the BP oil spill.

We had the privilege to host the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Regina Benjamin, on her visit to hear from the New Orleans and Gulf Coast communities about the response to the oil spill disaster, and its impact on public health with a mental health focus. This event led to interviews with [ABC 26](#), [WDSU](#) and others.

[The Times Picayunne](#) highlighted our language access work with the conference that we hosted with partners, addressing serving non-English speaking residents in health care.

To access the stories mentioned here, and more, you can access it all by clicking on "in the news" on our newly updated website:

www.reachnola.org

RESOURCE GUIDES



Partnered with [Common Ground Health Clinic](#), we continue to ensure the creation and distribution of thousands of free updated [resource guides](#) for the New Orleans area. Contact: CGHCguide@gmail.com for a free copy.

OIL SPILL RESPONSE



With [MQVN CDC](#) we have trained 18 Vietnamese interpreters from the oil-impacted community to be hired by BP to help Vietnamese folks affected by the oil spill access services.

Help us keep up the good work

We need your support as we continue to address the most pressing public and community health needs in the Greater New Orleans community through innovative partnerships. You can support us by [donating](#) today.

We would also like to hear how REACH NOLA has made a difference in your life, your work or your community.

Contact: Katrina Badger at katrinabadger@reachnola.org



Maribel Boyarsky and Katrina Badger receive REACH NOLA banner from artist, Gerardo Arteaga

How can you support us?

Check out our newly updated website: www.reachnola.org

Becoming a fan of REACH NOLA on [Facebook](#) (to find us on Facebook, just type REACH NOLA into the search bar), and recommend us to your friends. You can also join the REACH NOLA Cause.

Make a donation: secure credit card donations at www.reachnola.org or through our Facebook cause page.

Make donations by check or money order, make payable to "REACH NOLA" and mail to:

P. O. Box 57206
New Orleans, LA 70157

Please note: we are no longer located at 1300 ½ Esplanade Ave.

Our Mission:

To improve health equity, community health and access to quality health care in New Orleans through partnered programs, services & research.

Our Vision:

REACH NOLA seeks to build on community-identified priorities, using collaborative and democratic processes, objective analysis, current scientific evidence, and diverse stakeholder interests and strengths, to develop rapid, effective, partnered solutions for the community health challenges facing New Orleans. REACH NOLA leads innovative, sustainable pilot and demonstration programs that improve community health. REACH NOLA's unique emphasis on partnership increases the shared capacity of partnering non-profits and community members to build on one another's strengths in pursuit of health programming.