LaCAN
Louisiana Citizens for Action Now

Subspecialty Clinics are Critical to Special Health Services for Children

Facts First

- **Ten CSHS clinics will close including Pediatric Orthopedic and Scoliosis in Baton Rouge; Neurosurgery and Urology in Lafayette; Neurosurgery and Urology in Lake Charles; and Neurology and Opthalmology in Hammond.**
- **Approximately 425 children with disabilities and children with special health care needs will be affected.**
- **CSHS Clinics provide access to specialized health care practitioners, care coordination, and transition services for children and youth who have or are at increased risk for a physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition and who also require health and related services beyond that of most children or youth.**

What Legislators Can Do:

Restore $794,000 in State General Funds to the Children's Special Health Services (CSHS) Program. This funding is needed to keep the clinics open and restore the program to its FY13 level, maintaining the current CSHS infrastructure.

Why Do This?

The CSHS Program provides the only assurance that children with special health care needs will have access to specialty providers, such as pediatric neurology and pediatric ophthalmology, in every area of the state.

The Office of Public Health indicates children served in the ten clinics slated for closure will transfer to private providers. However, there is not sufficient information to indicate that private providers have the staff to provide care coordination and wraparound services to children with special health care needs. This is a concern given Louisiana's shortage of health care providers, particularly providers of sub-specialty health care services in certain areas of the state.

Maintaining physicians on contract and staff that support the infrastructure that serves as a safety net for children with special health care needs, regardless of availability or interest of private health care providers, is the only assurance these children and their parents have to avoid unnecessary, severe,