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LPCA Chosen as Mental Health First Aid Corps Host Site

AmeriCorps member serving at the Louisiana Primary Care Association will implement Mental Health First Aid certification classes in the local community

Baton Rouge, LA – The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) has been selected from a national pool of applicants as one of 21 host sites that participate in the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Corps. LPCA's AmeriCorps member is part of a 20 member corps who will tackle the critical challenge of supporting youth who are experiencing a mental health challenge or illness. Participating in the MHFA Corps enables LPCA to expand its impact on this pressing community health issue.

Health360 developed the MHFA Corps to address the important issue of improving mental health outcomes for our nation. Mental Health First Aid AmeriCorps members will be serving at 21 host site organizations in 16 states. Health360 collaborates with the National Council for Behavioral Health and the Corporation for National and Community Service in the development and implementation for the MHFA Corps. AmeriCorps members are trained as MHFA instructors and provide MHFA certification classes in their communities for a cross section of the population including teachers, community health workers, college students, veterans, nurses, public safety workers, etc.

"AmeriCorps is an indispensable resource to help meet critical mental health challenges facing our communities and nation," said Tricia Harrity, Executive Director of Health360. "We're thrilled to be working with such a diverse group of community organizations as our 2017-18 MHFA Corps AmeriCorps member host sites. AmeriCorps members serving at the following host sites will meet pressing local mental health needs as they develop civic and leadership skills that last a lifetime."

Ashi Singh will serve as LPCA's Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Ms. Singh is originally from North Carolina. She earned her Bachelors in psychology from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She will soon be out in the community educating individuals on how to identify and handle mental health issues when they are presented.

"We are so excited to have Ashi as part of our LPCA team," said Gerrelda Davis, Executive Director of LPCA. "Louisiana, like every other state, desperately needs additional resources to treat mental illness. I know that our entire Community Health Center network will benefit from her experience and expertise."

While they serve others, AmeriCorps members also expand opportunity for themselves – gaining skills and experience to jumpstart their careers. Ms. Singh will be with LPCA until December 2018. For more information about this program, or to get your health center involved, please contact [Shannon Robertson](#), LPCA's Director of Clinical Quality, at (225) 927-7662, ext. 201.

About the Louisiana Primary Care Association

The Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA) represents 35 federally funded, private, non-profit and public Community Health Centers across Louisiana that serve nearly 385,000 patients annually. LPCA promotes community-based health services through advocacy, education, and collaboration with community partners. Our goal is to ensure that every Louisianan has access to affordable, quality, primary care services. For more information, visit www.LPCA.net.

About Health360

The mission of Health360 is to build a healthier nation one community at a time through innovative, collaborative educational programs. www.health360.org

Corporation for National and Community Service

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit www.NationalService.gov.

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