



The Outstanding Rural Health Organization of the Year Award recognizes any community-based group or organization that has improved access to health services and information for rural people through innovative, comprehensive approaches. Factors considered include outreach, preventive health and education, quality and efficiency of care, and strong community support and involvement. The LRHA is honored to name LaSalle General Hospital as the 2022 Outstanding Rural Health Organization of the Year award recipient.

LaSalle General Hospital has always strived to provide the services needed in their community. Like most communities across Louisiana, and across the country, substance use treatment became a much-needed service in LaSalle Parish. Seeing the growing needs of their community, LaSalle General Hospital decided to take a proactive step to implement the New Vision™ program within the facility.

New Vision™ is a medically-supervised, hospital-based service for adults experiencing impending or active withdrawal from alcohol, prescription medications, and/or other substances. Physicians determine which patients are in need of and qualify for the service, which includes inpatient medical stabilization and withdrawal management.

Patients are admitted to the hospital for a short, inpatient stay and are treated by the hospital's doctors and nurses for medical stabilization. The New Vision™ staff work with patients, along with the Medical Director and the nursing staff, creating a discharge plan and connecting the patient with continuing care in the community.

The withdrawal management services include a short-term, inpatient hospital stay (typically 3-5 days) in a confidential hospital environment under the supervision of a Medical Director and nursing staff, and post-stabilization referral to a continued care recovery program. Aftercare referral can consist of inpatient rehabilitation, long-term detox, or outpatient rehabilitation, dependent upon the individual needs of each patient.

There is no doubt that this program has saved many lives and helped to lift people from the darkest and most difficult times in their lives. LaSalle General Hospital Administrator, Lana Francis, stated that "If we can help one person, our mission has been a success". A former New Vision™ patient wrote to the hospital to express their gratitude for the care that they received. Their words prove that the hospital has achieved its mission. "I was in your facility almost a month ago now. I just want you to know that y'all saved my life... You took me in your hands from the moment I came in. I was in the lowest time in my life and y'all were there... I so thank you for being there... I am doing great... I feel alive and enjoying a sober life."

In grateful appreciation and distinguished recognition of their hard work, devotion to their patients, and commitment to comprehensive rural health care, the Louisiana Rural Health Association is honored to recognize LaSalle General Hospital as the 2022 Outstanding Rural Health Organization of the Year Award Recipient.