
NEWELL NORMAND SHERIFF



January 23, 2017

Governor John Bel Edwards
Post Office Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards,

I am writing to express concern about the plan presented by Representative Lance Harris to eliminate the budget shortfall. Specifically, I am concerned about the decrease in funding to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). Funding cuts impacting LDH will, in turn, impact funding to Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority (JPHSA). JPHSA provides services and supports to some of the most vulnerable populations in our community, including individuals affected by mental illness, addictive disorders, and developmental disabilities, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured.

Since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2017, JPHSA's initial State General Fund allocation of \$14,052,782 was reduced by \$321,207. The LDH proposal to address Representative Harris' plan would lead to an additional \$1,373,158 funding reduction. Please consider the serious impact such a reduction could have on those who rely on these services and supports.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Newell D. Normand".

Newell D. Normand
Sheriff