



### **AGENCY ANNOUNCES DAILY INSPIRATIONAL CALL**

*Northeast Delta Human Services Authority's Faith Partnership Initiative to host a daily call for NELA citizens seeking hope and understanding during COVID-19 pandemic*

April 24, 2020

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONROE, LA – Northeast Delta Human Services Authority announced today that it would be launching a daily inspirational call as part of its Faith Partnership Initiative.

The agency's Faith Partnership Initiative exists as a means of engaging with faith-based communities to help enrich traditional behavioral health services in a unique way that government alone cannot. As the number of COVID-19 cases in northeast Louisiana continues to rise, Northeast Delta HSA has called on regional faith leaders to help share a message of faith and hope as the agency employs science, evidence-based treatment, and preventive practices.

Dr. Carolyn Hunt and Bishop Danny Hunt of Walk in the Word Kingdom Church of Monroe, Pastor John Dobbs of Forsythe Church of Christ in Monroe, and Pastor Jerry Baldwin of New Living Word Ministries in Ruston will be facilitating the daily calls and offering messages of hope, understanding, encouragement, and overcoming adversity.

"During times of uncertainty, many people lean on their faith to help get them through difficulties," said Dr. Monteic A. Sizer, executive director of Northeast Delta. "We understand the times in which we are living. We also understand the plight of our region's people. We created this platform to connect, encourage, and inspire hope during this difficult time."

This daily call is just one of the many platforms that Northeast Delta uses to help meet the needs of the region's people. The agency provides services for those with behavioral health issues, addiction, and developmental disabilities through its integrated healthcare model, as well as prevention and wellness services for youth, seniors, and the community at large. These individuals are among the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This pandemic is only increasing the level of anxiety and trauma for those who are already dealing with mental illness, developmental disability, addiction, and primary health challenges," said Sizer. "And as the region's safety net service provider and trusted source of information for many across northeast Louisiana, it is essential for us to do everything we can to help people remain hopeful and focused on our collective regional recovery efforts."

All citizens of northeast Louisiana and other interested individuals are invited to join Northeast Delta's Faith Partnership Initiative for *We Will Rise: Creating Hope* each Monday-Friday at 12:00 p.m. The call

can be accessed by dialing the toll-free number, (877) 402-9757, and using code 890 437. The first call will be held on Monday, April 27.

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### **About Northeast Delta Human Services Authority**

Northeast Delta HSA manages the operation of community-based programs to improve the quality of life for individuals with major mental illness, developmental disabilities, and addictive disorders. Northeast Delta accomplishes this by utilizing a nationally-recognized and integrative approach that identifies and addresses behavioral and primary health care needs.

Our agency operates through collaboration with regional partners in business, prevention, education, and care in 12 parishes (Caldwell, East Carroll, West Carroll, Ouachita, Lincoln, Madison, Franklin, Morehouse, Jackson, Tensas, Richland, and Union). Northeast Delta is devoted to delivering programs and services that encourage citizens of northeast Louisiana to reach their full human potential. Three tenets guide these efforts: excellent customer service, greater access to services, and competent, quality care.

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