

**Dr. Coletta C. Barrett, DNP, MHA, RN, FACHE, FAHA**  
Baton Rouge, LA

Possessing more than 48 years of hospital clinical, health plan medical management, and executive leadership, Coletta Barrett recently retired after 18 years as Vice President of Mission for Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center – a tertiary Catholic Academic Medical Center with 1005 licensed beds. Coletta, a cardiovascular nurse specialist, maintains her nursing license. She is a fellow of the American Heart Association’s Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Coletta received her DNP from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2024 and a Master of Health Administration from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in 1994. She served as the National Chairman of the Board of the American Heart Association from 2003-2004. Coletta was the 2004 Alumnus of the Year for Southeastern Louisiana University and was inducted into the Louisiana State Nurses Association Hall of Fame in 2015.

Coletta currently holds the position of Emeritus Chairman of the Board for the Mayor’s Healthy City Initiative in Baton Rouge. Tasked with enhancing the city’s health outcome measures, she led an 84-member coalition of community stakeholders. In recognition of their exceptional work, The Mayor’s Healthy City Initiative was bestowed with the 2015 NOVA Award from the American Hospital Association. This award was a testament to the Initiative’s unique achievement of a Joint Community Health Needs Assessment and a Joint Implementation Plan among multiple competing hospitals, a feat unmatched in the United States. The 2018 CHNA identified Zip Code Inequity and Social Determinants of Health as a priority health need. The Board of Directors for MHCi took on the responsibility of addressing SDOH through community-based Anchor Strategies. The Collective Impact Model used for Community Health Improvement extends to grant funders as well. A 3-year grant to address the grocery gap in disinvested zip codes was funded by a JOINT grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Foundation and the Humana Foundation. Coletta’s leadership style, which brings competitors together as collaborators for the community’s health, is a hallmark of the work of the Mayor’s Healthy City Initiative.

In 2015, when Legislative efforts to curb pay day lending predatory practices fell short, Coletta played a pivotal role in establishing a multi-sector private approach to pay day lending. In collaboration with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, MetroMorphosis, and Our Lady of the Lake, the Faith Fund was born in 2018. This micro-lending alternative was a beacon of hope for individuals who were previously financially exploited with interest rates exceeding 1000%. The Faith Fund provided services to break the cycle of poverty and liberate members from predatory payday loans. With financial education at its core, the program empowered participants to make better decisions and embark on new chapters in their lives. To date, this program has helped team members avoid over \$6.7 million dollars in fees and interest from payday lenders. Coletta serves as the community representative on the Faith Fund Board of Directors, further underscoring her commitment to social justice and financial empowerment.