



# Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board  
Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Held at:**

**Louisiana Emergency Response Network  
14141 Airline Hwy., Building 1, Suite B  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817**

## *Welcome/Introductions*

The April 28, 2022 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Paige Hargrove, LERN Board Executive Director. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and notice was properly posted.

Executive Director Paige Hargrove advised the Board has two new Board members: Vekata S. Gadi, MD, who was present and was introduced to the Board; new member Granvill S. Morse, III, MD, who was not present, but the Board was advised of his appointment.

## *Roll Call*

Roll call was taken by Board Attorney, Celia Cangelosi, with the following results:

### **Members Present:**

Deadra J. Garrett, MD, Chair  
Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.  
Schaun Chevis, MSW  
Venkata S. Gadi, MD  
Paul Gladden, MD  
Scott Guidry  
Joseph Kanter, MD  
Charles Nassauer, OD  
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN  
Carl "Jack" Varnado, Jr., RPL, ENP  
Duke Walker  
Robert K. White, MD  
Karen O. Wyble, RN, MSN, MHA, MBA  
Richard Zweifler, MD

There were 14 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

Board member Chris Guilbeaux arrived at 1:15 p.m.

**Members Absent:**

Honorable Regina Ashford Barrow, State Senator  
William Freeman, MD  
Honorable Jonathan Goudeau, State Representative  
John Hunt, MD  
John D. Jones, MD  
Tomas Jacome, MD  
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD  
Buddy Mincey, Jr., State Representative  
Granvill S. Morse, II, MD  
Honorable Mack A. "Bodi" White, State Senator  
Michele Sutton

**Staff Present:**

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director  
Cassandra Woods, LERN Finance Manager  
Justin Schlies, Data Manager  
Chris Hector, Administrative Director  
Yvette Legendre, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator  
Ted Colligan, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator  
Deborah Spann, MSN, RN-BC, CEN, FAEN, Tri-Regional Coordinator

**Contractors Present:**

Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD, Stroke Medical Director  
Christopher J. White, MD, STEMI Medical Director  
Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel  
Jason Allemand, Call Center Supervisor  
Anita Byrne, SSA Consultants

***Approval of Agenda***

A motion was made by Mr. Varnado and seconded by Ms. Wyble to accept the agenda as written. There was no public comment. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2022 and March 10, 2022***

A motion was made by Dr. Zweifler and seconded by Mr. Varnado to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 and March 10, 2022 Board meetings as written. See Attachment A and Attachment B. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***Ratification of Commission Members and Resignations***

A motion was made by Dr. Kanter and seconded by Dr. White to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

Resignations

- Emily Nichols, MD – from Region 1 Commission (resignation of Local Ambulance Service);
- Chad Breaux – from Region 1 Commission;
- Lt. J.D. Leach – from Region 2 Commission;
- Brian Roberts, MD – from Region 3 Commission;
- Paul B. Destrout, ISG – from Region 5 Commission;
- Melvin J. Marque, III, MD, from Region 5 Commission;
- Thomas Mulheard, IV, MD, FACC - from Region 5 Commission;
- Larry Atteridge, NRP - from Region 7 Commission; and
- Chance Hanson, RN, from Region 7 Commission.

Appointments

- Huey Marcell, III, NRP - to Region 1 Commission (nominee of Local Ambulance Services);
- Eric Brooks, MD - to Region 3 Commission (nominee of Office of Public Health);
- Lauryn Allgood, MSN, BSHA, RN, CEN, NREMT-P - to Region 4 Commission (nomination of Emergency Nurses Association);
- Tacee Walker, DO - to Region 4 Commission (nominee of Hospitals Greater Than 100 Beds);
- Brent Crawford – to Region 7 Commission (nominee of EMS Training Officer); and
- Dawn McKeown, RN – to Region 7 Commission (nominee of Registered Nurse Practicing in Emergency).

The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***Executive Director Report***

- ***Financial Disclosure Reminder***

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, reminded the Board members that their individual financial disclosure statements were due to be filed with the Ethics Board by May 15, 2022. No formal action was taken by the Board.

- ***Operations Update/Annual Report***

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, presented each Board member with a copy of the “Louisiana Emergency Response Network Annual Report FY 2020-2021” for presentation to

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the Legislature. See Attachment C. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, advised that the LERN Board office would be moving to the Public Safety Campus by August 1, 2022. The move, she advised, would result in a significantly lower rental rate and would improve both redundancy and security for LERN. No formal action was taken by the Board.

- ***Open Meetings Law***

LERN Executive Director Hargrove advised the Board that the Board is no longer able to meet virtually since the state of emergency has terminated and that all meetings must be held in person. Discussion took place regarding the legal requirements for in person attendance at meetings. Executive Director Hargrove was asked to bring the matter to the Executive Committee for a recommendation for a possible proposal for legislation to allow the Board to hold virtual meetings. No formal action was taken by the Board.

- ***Burn Push Packs***

Board member Jeffrey E. Carter, MD, demonstrated the Burn Push Packs developed in a collaboration between the State Burn Workgroup led by LERN and the Hospital Preparedness Program to be used at community hospitals until space can be made available at burn hospital. The Hospital Preparedness Program is assembling the Burn Push Packs and will provide training on the use of the kits. Acadian Ambulance is assisting in the distribution of the Burn Push Packs throughout the state. No formal action was taken by the Board.

- ***Strategic Priority***

Executive Director Hargrove advised that she met with Courtney N. Phillips, Ph.D., Secretary of Department of Health, in January to discuss the LERN strategic priority to secure additional funding for education. As a result, LERN has secured approval for two job appointments, which are approved for four-years. The two new positions at LERN are: (1) Statewide Education Coordinator and (2) Disaster Preparedness Manager. Funding for the positions will be provided by the Public Health Workforce Grant. No formal action was taken by the Board.

- ***LERN Trauma Medical Director***

Executive Director Hargrove advised that LERN Trauma Director Michael Sutherland, MD, had secured additional employment out of state, which will limit his time for in state presence as LERN Trauma Medical Director. Dr. Sutherland will continue his services as LERN Trauma Medical Director through Zoom and other virtual activities for support and consultation, and will be present in the state for these same services a few days each month. No formal action was taken by the Board.

### ***Legislation***

LERN Executive Director Hargrove advised the Board on the status of pending legislation that concerned or involved LERN, including SB 18, SB 411, HB 933, HCR 62 and HB 592. Executive Director Hargrove noted particularly that SB 18 had been turned into a study resolution; and that SB 411, which contained revisions to the LERN statute has passed the Senate and was pending in the House of Representatives. A possible amendment to HB 933 to provide with respect to LERN immunity was discussed, and Board attorney Celia Cangelosi was instructed to consult with Department of Health attorney, Stephen Russo, regarding a proposed amendment. No formal action was taken by the Board.

### ***Stroke Update***

Dr. Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD, LERN Stroke Medical Director, reported that the first primary stroke center had been Certified in Region 8 – at Ochsner LSU Health Monroe. Dr. Keith White also reported that Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport was certified a Comprehensive Stroke Center.

Dr. Martin-Schild further reported that the Stroke Workgroup Committee had reviewed stroke center hospitals that were failing to meet certain LERN stroke related guidelines. One situation has been resolved, and an onsite visit is scheduled for a second hospital. See Attachment D, as provided to the Board by Dr. Martin-Schild.

Dr. Martin-Schild presented and discussed Attachment E, her proposal for Door In Door Out (DIDO) Performance Improvement, and the LERN Executive Committee's recommendation for amendments to that proposal, also contained on Attachment E.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker and second by Dr. Gladden to accept the Door In Door Out (DIDO) Performance Improvement proposal, with the LERN Executive Committee recommendations for changes thereto, all as set forth on Attachment D, with the following additional changes: (1) provide that Proposal 1 on Attachment D only applies to patients who present within 24 hours of last seen normal and who screen positive for large vessel occlusion; and (2) that these changes for Door In Door Out (DIDO) Performance Improvement become effective with the 2022 Quarter 3 data collection. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

### ***STEMI Update***

#### ***Resignation/Transition Plan***

LERN Executive Director Hargrove reported that LERN STEMI Medical Director, Dr. Christopher White, was resigning. The position has been advertised and the Board has received five applicants. Interviews will be conducted via Zoom on May 11 and May 16. No formal action was taken by the Board.



**Trauma**

- ***Proposed Change to Destination Protocol***

Chris Hector, LERN Administrative Director, presented Attachment E, proposed changes to the LERN Trauma Destination Protocol, with the proposed changes represented thereon in red. Administrative Director Hector represented that these changes followed the changes made by the American College of Surgeons in the national guidelines for field triage of injured patients. The changes were discussed and Board members were asked to provide the Board office with feedback regarding the proposed changes. These proposed changes to the LERN Trauma Destination Protocol will be presented to the LERN Board for further review at the August 2022 Board meeting. No formal action was taken by the Board.

**Budget**

- ***Status Update***

Executive Director Hargrove presented Attachment G, "FY 22 Fiscal Overview as of 4/07/22." discussed LERN's Fiscal Overview as of 07/07/22." No formal action was taken by the Board.

- ***Executive Director Salary***

It was reported that LERN Executive Director Paige Hargrove was hired in November of 2011 as an unclassified employee at an annual salary of \$140,000; and that her salary has remained the same for almost eleven years. A motion was made by Ms. Wyble and seconded by Dr. Kanter to increase the Executive Director's salary by 5%, effective immediately; and to reconsider the executive director for a possible salary increase each year no later than June of the year. The motion was approved after an unanimous vote in the affirmative.

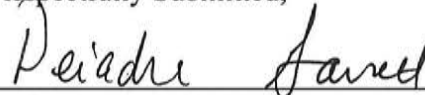
**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Diedra J. Garrett, MD, Chair