

John Bel Edwards
Governor



Harold L. Ritchie
Chairman

State of Louisiana
Executive Board on Aging

**MINUTES OF THE LA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA) MEETING
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS
525 Florida St., 4th Floor-Room 427, 10:00 AM Baton Rouge, LA
March 09, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) was called to order at 10:06 AM by Harold Ritchie, LEBA Chairman; with Cheri Crain serving as Secretary, on a conference call via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Leslie Keen

Invocation: Mr. Huey Beverly

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Harold L. Ritchie
Mr. Noah Aguiard
Mr. Huey Beverly
Mr. Rico Thomas
Ms. Ann Keene
Ms. Leslie Louviere-Keen
Ms. Worlita Williams
Ms. Mona F. Gobert-Cravins
Ms. Blanche Wilks

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Willie Lewis
Mr. Beauregard "Bud" Torres
Mr. Terry Courville
Ms. Grace Garon
Mr. Donald Mallet

GUESTS: Council on Aging Directors; Area Agencies on Aging Directors, other members of the public, Dr. Adren Wilson

GOEA STAFF:

Shirley Merrick, Director, Cheri Crain, Secretary, Michelle Guillory, Interim Deputy Assistant Secretary 2

HAROLD RITCHIE, LEBA CHAIRMAN

LEBA Chairman Harold Ritchie declared a quorum was present with (9) members in attendance.

Dr. Adren Wilson and Shirley Merrick

Dr. Wilson presented Mr. Harold Ritchie a certificate for his years of services on the Board. Shirley Merrick presented Mr. Harold Ritchie a certificate for his outstanding work with the Board.

Dr. Wilson announced the Governor's appointment of Ms. Leslie Keen as Chairperson. The meeting was turned over to Ms. Keen.

LESLIE KEEN, LEBA CHAIRMAN

The Board considered and approved the amended meeting minutes from March 11, 2020. The Board considered and approved the meeting minutes from February 5, 2021.

SHIRLEY MERRICK CARES ACT FUNDING: See attached Executive Director's Report.

LACOADA: Mr. Mike Rome spoke regarding the LACOADA Legislative Breakfast an conference which is scheduled to be held April 26-28, 2021 with Senior Day at the Capital set for April 28th, pending COVID restrictions being lifted. LACOADA will send official notification as the schedule an agenda are confirmed.

LANA: Ms. Keen spoke regarding LANA activities for the upcoming Fall Conference. Information will be shared at a later date pending COVID restrictions being lifted.

NEXT MEETING

The next Quarterly Board Meeting of the Executive Board on Aging will be held on June 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM, via Zoom. The Board considered and approved Quarterly Board Meetings on September 14, 2021 and December 14, 2021.

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn: Ann Keene Seconded: Huey Beverly. Meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.

Prepared by Cheri Crain, Manager Compliance & Planning, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs

Cares Act Funding – December 2020

The Consolidated Appropriation Act 2021 allocated \$2,239,417 in supplemental funds to support the Title

IIIC-2 Home Delivered Meals Program. Those funds will be allocated effective July 1, 2021 to the

AAAs. This ACT also included \$755,454 in funding to support Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) support functions. Activities for the ADRC COVID funding are outlined to provide enrollment assistance for programs that will assist the constituent with economic stability. Enrollment Assistance examples are SNAP benefit enrollment assistance, Utility Assistance, Rental Assistance and Local Programs that would assist with economic stability.

Adult Protective Services received funding in the Act of \$1,211,268. We will be able to put in motion one of the 2023 desired accomplishments projected for GOEA. GOEA will use \$600K of the funding to upgrade its 2002 software module used for EPS. GOEA will also be in a position of collaborate with APS with using \$400K of the funds for training and outreach efforts.

The Ombudsman received \$53,319 in the Act. These funds will be used to develop a marketing campaign focused on identifying and reducing the risk of residents in long-term care facilities being victims of abuse and neglect.

The above funds will be made part of the FY22 budget. We have received the allocation for Title IIIC-2 but a spending plan had to be submitted for the APS and Ombudsman. These were submitted 3/1/21. The funds will be added to the FY22 budget when all amounts are confirmed.

The stimulus bill currently before the US Senate has funding earmarked for Title III, APS and Ombudsman.

Other Grant Activity: GOEA will be applying for a training grant to facilitate training of law enforcement, clerks and court officials with regards to Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence. This grant will be a pilot project. Funds are discretionary and awards will be made late Spring 2021.

Louisiana received a new Medicare (MIPPA) grant which began in August 2020 for 12 months in the total award of \$417,869. The grant activities include Outreach, Enrollment Assistance, Medicare Part D Counseling and Follow-up.

FY 2022 Budget

The Governor's recommended Executive Budget is pretty much a standstill budget with the following exceptions:

The \$11,375,000 allocation from the first stimulus bill

A \$300,000 unspent allocation that was added to GOEA budget by the Legislature but was not allocated to a particular agency .

As the budget moves through the Legislative process, changes may occur. The Regular Session begins April 12, 2021 and concludes June 10, 2021.

GOEA's budget is scheduled to be heard:

Executive Director's Report

March 9, 2021

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|------|--|-----------------|------|
| | Senate Finance Committee | March 23,2021 | 9:30 |
| a.m. | House Committee on Appropriations | April 7, 2020 ? | |
| | (The day's session is dedicated to the Executive Budget) | | |

Proposed Move

GOEA is scheduled to move to the 4th Floor of the Galvez building. This move will probably happen late September or early October 2021. The lease we have currently expires July 26, 2021 and we have exhausted all possible extensions. GOEA will be on a month-to-month lease beginning July 27, 2021. The Louisiana Office of State Building has met all our requirements – signage outside and inside the building, the # of offices needed, 5 reserved parking spaces (2 on west side of building and 3 in the garage) and covering the cost of moving. Even though we really like the current space, I do not believe renewal is an option with space available in a state building.

Disaster Response/Recovery

During this unprecedented time of a health pandemic, GOEA has actively been involved in the service end of the pandemic along with preparation for other natural disasters such hurricanes and flooding. Since the last LEBA meeting, Louisiana has experienced the health pandemic along with 5 names storms to hit the coast of Louisiana, 2 storms forecast to hit the coast of Louisiana but turned and a winter storm which has not been named. The most impact has been the SW region from the storms Laura and Delta. There are currently approximately 600 people still being housed in non-congregate shelters (hotels) in Lafayette and New Orleans due to storm damage of their homes in Cameron and Calcasieu Parish. Residents and businesses, including the Councils on Aging are working with local officials and insurance agencies to rebuild and recover. The Councils on Aging are functioning, but are limited due to capacity and property

damage. As needs are identified and requested, GOEA will assist.

GOEA Staff

A “shout out” to the GOEA staff for continuing to make deadlines and providing needed assistance to those in the network and successfully coordinating disaster assistance during the pandemic and storms. Elderly Protective Services, provided directly through GOEA, has continued to provide services to seniors in need of elderly protection throughout the pandemic and storms (the Lake Charles EPS office was destroyed). They never stopped conducting face-to-face investigations. The Long Term Care Ombudsmen program has been working to advocate and assist without access to the Long Term Care Facilities. They have been working diligently via teleconference with residents and resident families. GOEA has been transitioning to the statewide network during this period also – learning new software, changing email address and changing hardware in some instances. If you have an email address for any of the staff ending in goea.la.gov, please delete. Mike Templeton, IT, has transitioned all to the Statewide Network (SWE) effective 3/5/2021. GOEA Staff continue to work in the office and remotely during the pandemic to ensure the safety of the staff and meet the social distancing guidance.

**Executive Director’s Report
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Shirley Merrick, Executive Director