

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
602 North 5th Street, 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Wednesday June 15, 2022 11:00 AM
Galvez Building in the Pensacola Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) was called to order at 11:03 AM by Ms. Leslie Keen, LEBA Chairman; with Ms. Cheri Crain serving as Secretary, in person.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Heather Prejean

Invocation: Mr. Ricco Thomas

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Terry Courville
Ms. Blanche Wilks
Ms. Worlita Williams
Mr. Gerard Landry
Ms. Leslie Louviere-Keen
Mr. Donald Mallet
Mr. Ricco Thomas
Ms. Ann Keene
Mr. Willie Lewis
Ms. Heather Prejean

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Charles "Buddy" Pugh
Mr. Huey Beverly
Mayor Johnny Berthelot
Ms. Emily Tilley

GUESTS: Council on Aging Directors

GOEA STAFF:

Ms. Shirley Merrick, Director, Ms. Cheri Crain, Secretary, Mrs. Amanda Smith, GOEA General Counsel, Mrs. Michelle Guillory, Compliance and Planning/EPS Program Manager 3, Mrs. Kayla Doyle, Program Manager 1A

LESLIE LOUVIERE-KEEN, LEBA CHAIRMAN

LEBA Chairman Ms. Leslie Louviere-Keen declared a quorum was present with (10) members in attendance.

LESLIE KEEN, LEBA CHAIRMAN

The Board considered, amended and approved the agenda/meeting minutes from March 9, 2022.

MOTION: Ms. Blanche Wilks moved and it was seconded Mr. Gerald Landry that the March 9, 2022 agenda/meeting minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

SHIRLEY MERRICK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Executive Director's Report. Ms. Merrick stated that a copy was emailed to the Board members. Ms. Merrick reviewed the report.

Appointment – Attorney Katina Semien Smothers, Director of Community Partners; GOEA falls under this department in the Governor's Office.

Legislative Session 2022: HB 592 Act 170 provides additional funds for senior centers from \$25K to \$50K and full funding for the formula based on the 2019 Census. This represents a \$2.5 million increase in Senior Center funding.

Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15, 2022) – the Governor recorded a PSA that can be used for TV and other social media outlets. Follow the link to view the PSA:
<https://la.box.com/s/3six4q2swoemb1196x01vtcecd0i505o>

Senior Services: The most notable change continues to be the return to congregate activities. Spreadsheets were provided to members that compares the increases and decreases in services by units provided during July 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 to July 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022.

LACOADA: Presented by Mr. Mike Rome: successful legislature session; reiterated the increase of funds for the Senior Centers. LACOADA has been encouraging COAS to utilize the ARPA funds and additional state funds timely. The LACOADA advocated for the additional state funding and strongly encourage the COAS to spend wisely. To not spend may cause issues for us in the future.

The LACOADA Fall Conference is scheduled for August 23rd & 24th in Lafayette; topics are still being discussed; if you have any suggestions please let the board know.

Mr. Rome suggested rebranding the Senior Centers to attract bay boomer population and the upcoming Generation X population. The need to make the Senior Centers more appealing to the new generations is vital to the future of the Centers.

Suggested conducting a needs assessments and/or surveys to the seniors for what they would like to see at the Centers. The Area Plans process requires feedback and public hearing that allow seniors to voice their opinions.

LANA: Presented by Ms. Angelle Authement: the Board is in the process in preparing for the next LANA conference for late September; any suggestions on topics is welcome.

SCHEDULE 2022 QUARTERLY MEETINGS: The date for the next meeting was discussed.
MOTION: Ms. Blance Wilks moved and it was seconded by Ms. Heather Prejean to hold the next meeting Wednesday, September 21, 2022 in the Galvez Building in the Pensacola Motion carried.

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Ann Keene moved and it was seconded by Mr. Ricco Thomas. Meeting adjourned at 11:51 am.

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

**Louisiana Executive Board on Aging
Executive Director's Report
June 15, 2022**

Appointment – Attorney Katina Semien Smothers, Director of Community Programs

Governor Edwards appointed Attorney Katina Semien-Smothers to replace Dr. Chaunda Mitchell as Director of Community Program. GOEA falls under this department in the Governor's Office.

Attorney Semien Smothers stated:

"A little over a month ago I accepted a promotion within the Governor's Office as the new Director of Community Programs. In this role I have the opportunity to supervise 12 departments who are committed to building a better Louisiana for our families and our children. It has been a busy few weeks but I am beyond honored to work with dynamic and passionate folks who show up every single day to serve! I've also learned and have been mentored by the best including past directors Dr. Bruce Parker II and Dr. Chaunda Mitchell (who is the new Deputy Chief). It has been a blessing to continue to work for Governor John Bel Edwards! "

Legislative Session 2022

The 2022 Legislative Session convened March 14, 2022 and ended Monday, June 6, 2022.

HB-1 Appropriations bill was sent to the Governor 5/20/22 for approval. It includes, thanks to advocacy efforts of the aging network - in particular Al Robichaux, Darlene Schexnayder, Becky Bergeron and others, an increase in base funding for Senior Centers from \$25K to \$50K and full funding of the formula based on the 2019 Census. This represents a \$2.5 million increase in Senior Center funding. The amendment states:

*"Provided, however, notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 46:1608, that of the funds appropriated herein from the State General Fund (Direct) to the Senior Centers Program, the amount of \$7,391,034 shall be allocated for distribution to each parish council on aging for senior centers equal to a sum of **fifty thousand dollars, plus five dollars and eighteen cents per person above a base population of three thousand persons age sixty years or older** who are residents of the parish, as shown by the latest official census estimate, but in no case less than fifty thousand dollars in Fiscal Year 2022-2023."*

With the exception for market adjustments for classified employees and funding for the 27th pay period, all other funding in the GOEA budget are comparable to FY22 levels.

Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15, 2022)

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older people by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. WEAAD is a call-to-action for society's individuals, organizations, and communities to educate each other on how to identify, address and prevent abuse so we can all do our part to support everyone as we age. The Governor also recorded a PSA that can be used for TV and other social media outlets. The link to the PSA -

**Louisiana Executive Board on Aging
Executive Director's Report
June 15, 2022**

<https://la.box.com/s/3six4q2sw0embll96x0lvtcecd0i505o>. The EPS staff have a table setup outside the meeting room today to do some EPS Awareness 101.

Elderly Protective Services (EPS) The EPS program that is traditionally funded through state general funds received an infusion of federal funds through Administration for Community Living (ACL)/Elder Justice Act programs. With this grant funding, EPS has been able to provide staff with a myriad of training opportunities. We have been able to provide law enforcement agencies across the state with training on EPS. We have secured Senior Care Kits to provide to seniors in need, discovered through investigations, throughout our state. We are in the process of securing additional positions to increase the effectiveness of and expedite response times to investigations. Staff have been provided appropriate PPE. We are in the process of updating the Elderly Protective Services Management (EPSM) System. We have increased the Louisiana Guardianship Budget thereby providing additional slots for EPS Clients, with a specific emphasis in Northeast Louisiana. We will continue these efforts going forward. These are case statistics for FY22 through May 31, 2022 compared to the same period ending May 31, 2021.

	FY21 thru 5/31/21	FY22 thru 5/31/22	Increase (Decrease)
Cases Received	3855	4531	676
High Priority	397	397	-
Medium Priority	2208	2749	541
Low Priority	1250	1385	135
Cases Closed	3025	3437	

High Priority cases include but are not limited to, head injuries, spinal injuries, severe cuts, broken limbs, severe burns, and/or internal injuries, sexual abuse where there is danger of repeated abuse, situations where medical treatment, medications or nutrition necessary to sustain the adult are not obtained or administered, as well as over-medication and unreasonable confinement.

Medium Priority cases may include, but not be limited to, situations in which there is failure to provide or obtain behavioral health and medical treatment which, if untreated, may cause serious harm to the adult. This includes self-abusive behavior and failure to treat physical ailments. It could include inadequate attention to physical needs, such as insufficient food, medicine, inadequate heat or excessive heat unauthorized use, and/or exploitation of the victim's income or property which places them at risk.

Low Priority reports may include verbal and emotional abuse which is used as a means of controlling the victim. Control tactics may include, but not limited to: harassment, cursing, degrading remarks, intimidation, ridicule, and threatening to withdraw care.

Disaster Update

Hurricane season started June 1, 2022. It is time for all to "Get a Game Plan." Information regarding hurricane preparedness can be found at Get a Game Plan - <https://www.getagameplan.org/>.

**Louisiana Executive Board on Aging
Executive Director's Report
June 15, 2022**

Senior Services

The attached spreadsheet compares increases/(decreases) in services in units of service for July 1, 2020– May 31, 2021 and July 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022. The units are reported to GOEA by the AAAs, COAs, and other service providers. Note that not all services are provided in each parish (Number of Providers column). The most notable change continues to be the return to congregate activities. Thanks always to our resident geru Timothy Jones for providing the data for the spreadsheet.

Get Vaccinated

Louisiana Medicaid is partnering with the Louisiana Medicaid managed care organizations to offer a \$200 gift card to the first 100,000 Medicaid members who receive either the first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The "Shot Per 100,000" COVID vaccine administration program includes Medicaid enrollees only, ages 5 and older, and offers a \$200 gift card to eligible Medicaid members for a limited time period. Members must be receiving their first or second dose of COVID vaccine or the single dose COVID vaccine on or after April 5, 2022. This program does not cover boosters. Gift cards will be given to members by their health plans. For more info go to <https://ldh.la.gov/page/4374>.

Shirley Merrick, Executive Director

Service Providers - Units of Service Comparison
7/2/20 - 5/31/21 vs 7/1/21 - 5/31/22

For Selected Services	7/1/20 to 5/31/21**				7/1/21 to 5/31/22**					
	Number of Providers	# of Persons Served at High Nutrition Risk	Service Units	VS.***	Service Units	# of Persons Served at High Nutrition Risk	Service Units	Number of Providers	Increase/- Decrease Service Units	% Increase/Decrease
Title III B Supportive Services/Title III C1 Congregate Meals/Title III C-2 Home Delivered Meals/Title III-D Health Promotion Services Provided Thru Contracts with AAAs and AAAs Subcontracts with COAs										
Personal Care	8		31,069		22,714			8	-8,355	-27%
Homemaker	51		104,347		104,616			54	269	0.26%
Chore	3		3,033	→	4,265			4	1,232	41%
Home Delivered Meals	67	17,335	6,107,358		3,974,178	15,582		69	-2,133,180	-35%
Congregate Meals	16	324	23,173	→	830,456	3,289		62	807,283	3484%
9. Nutrition Counseling	4	50	397		454	50		5	57	14%
Assisted Transportation	3		2,742		3,025			5	283	10%
Transportation	48		159,066	→	290,222	830,456		58	131,156	82%
Legal Assistance	30		3,683		4,301			31	618	17%
Nutrition Education	54		10,226		13,371			61	3,145	31%
Information and Assistance	68		42,983		51,925			73	8,942	21%
Outreach	57		7,250		9,598			61	2,348	32%
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention *	13		606	→	1,757			25	1,151	190%
Title III-E - Caregiver Support Program Services Provided Thru Contracts with AAAs and AAAs Subcontracts with COAs										
Counseling/Support Groups/Caregiver Training	4		60	→	141			4	81	135%
Respite Care	43		62,914		64,111			44	1,197	2%
Supplemental Services	38		18,307		22,212			40	3,905	21%
Access Assistance	50		3,659		3,859			50	200	5%
Information Services	12		434		566			15	132	30%

* Unduplicated Persons Served reported under Service Units

**Data extracted from the Title III and VII State Program Report, Administration on Aging (ACL)/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services prepared by Timothy Jones, Program Monitor, Compliance and Planning Unit

*** → Points to Period ending 5/31/22 increase/decreases greater than 40%

Other Services - Profile*

Services Provided through Contracts with Area Agencies on Aging/Councils on Aging/Senior Centers		7/1/21-5/31/21	**	7/1/21-5/31/22	Increase/Decrease Units of Service	% Increase/Decrease
Service Name (Up to 50 Characters)	Service Unit Name (Up to 15 characters)	Mission/ Purpose Category	Estimated Service Units	Estimated Service Units		
Crime Prevention	1 contact	C. Services which protect elder rights	1,851	2,690	839	45%
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	1 hour	B. Services which maintain health	328	605	277	84%
Home Repair	none	A. Services which address functional limitations	0	109	109	100%
Material Aid	1 contact	A. Services which address functional limitations	8,991	10,792	1,801	20%
Material Aid	1 contact	B. Services which maintain health	68,123	43,599	-24,524	-36%
Material Aid	1 contact	C. Services which protect elder rights	291	162	-129	-44%
Material Aid	1 contact	F. Services which support other goals/outcomes	11,211	11,443	232	2%
Medical Alert	1 contact	A. Services which address functional limitations	853	865	12	1%
Medical Alert	1 contact	B. Services which maintain health	411	421	10	2%
Medical Alert	1 contact	E. Services which assure access and coordination	1,298	1317	19	1%
Public Education	1 session	B. Services which maintain health	95	361	266	280%
Public Education	1 session	F. Services which support other goals/outcomes	214	159	-55	-26%
Public Education	Sessions	F. Services which support other goals/outcomes	62	654	592	955%
Recreation	1 per day	B. Services which maintain health	1,524	73,367	71,843	4714%
Recreation	1 per day	D. Services which promote socialization/participation	1	110,225	110,224	11022400%
Recreation	1 per day	F. Services which support other goals/outcomes	5,465	19,674	14,209	260%
Sitter Service	1 hour	B. Services which maintain health	171	103	-68	-40%
Sitter Service	1 hour	F. Services which support other goals/outcomes	2,539	2,460	-79	-3%
Telephoning	1 contact	A. Services which address functional limitations	201,862	80,374	-121,488	-60%
Telephoning	1 contact	B. Services which maintain health	1,501	14,660	13,159	877%
Telephoning	1 contact	D. Services which promote socialization/participation	19,291	19,566	275	1%
Telephoning	1 contact	E. Services which assure access and coordination	36,891	17,604	-19,287	-52%
Telephoning	1 contact	F. Services which support other goals/outcomes	18,040	17,798	-242	-1%
Utility Assistance	1 per client	B. Services which maintain health	53	138	85	160%
Utility Assistance	1 per client	E. Services which assure access and coordination	160	231	71	44%
Utility Assistance	1 per client	F. Services which support other goals/outcomes	505	1,023	518	103%
Visiting	1 contact	D. Services which promote socialization/participation	3,338	10,330	6,992	209%
Visiting	1 contact	F. Services which support other goals/outcomes	605	692	87	14%
Wellness IIIB	1 hour	B. Services which maintain health	4,565	19,437	14,872	326%
Wellness IIIB	1 per day	B. Services which maintain health	2,326	33,189	30,863	1327%

*Data extracted from the Title III and VII State Program Report, Administration on Aging (ACL)/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services prepared by Timothy Jones, Program Monitor, Compliance and Planning Unit

** → Points to Period ending 5/31/22 increase/decreases greater than 40%