

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, 11:00 AM Baton Rouge, LA
March 03, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) was called to order at 11:42 AM by Harold Ritchie, LEBA Chairman; with Jessica Ross serving as Secretary, at the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Pledge of Allegiance: Terry Courville

Invocation: Huey Beverly

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Harold L. Ritchie
Mr. Noah Aguillard
Mr. Huey Beverly
Mr. Terry Courville
Ms. Ann Keene
Ms. Leslie Keen
Mr. Willie Lewis
Mr. Ricco Thomas
Ms. Mona F. Gobert-Cravins
Blanche Wilks

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Grace Garon
Mr. Beauregard "Bud" Torres
Mr. Donald Mallet
Ms. Worlita Williams

GUESTS: Council on Aging Directors; Area Agencies on Aging Directors, other members of the public

GOEA STAFF:

Danielle Stafford, Deputy Assistant Secretary 2, Jessica Ross, Secretary, Michelle Guillory, Compliance and Planning/EPS Program Manager 3

HAROLD RITCHIE, LEBA CHAIRMAN

LEBA Chairman Harold Ritchie declared a quorum was present with (9) members in attendance. The Board then considered and approved December 2019 Meeting Minutes, with the addition of Mr. Donald Mallet to the member roll.

DANIELLE STAFFORD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Danielle Stafford presented the Executive Director's Report in absence of an Executive Director. Mrs. Stafford reported that GOEA is presenting the FY2021 Budget to the Legislature later this day, and has been notified that they will receive at least a portion of , the additional funding requested in order to adequately staff the Elderly Protective Services Program, which is currently both understaffed, and burdened with a high volume of cases. Since moving back to GOEA, our EPS Team has seen an increase of over 30% in the case volume since its return to GOEA, and we want to avoid any situation that would see a case turned down and refused for investigation because we simply do not have the staff and funding to handle all the cases reported. Currently, each EPS case worker is averaging 80 cases per investigator. This average should be 25 cases, at the most. We requested an additional 10 EPS Investigator positions, and have been granted 5 EPS Positions along with the travel, equipment, and other funding necessary for that program to run efficiently.

With these new positions, we have had one change in our funding allocations from the prior year in that the second Supplemental Senior Center funding will be eliminated from our FY2021 budget. This is not a formula budget amount, and will result in a decrease to each Council on Aging for around \$7,000 for the coming fiscal year. We otherwise expect that it will be a standstill budget..

NEW BUSINESS: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

- Mr. Ritchie announced that the Governor's Office completed its interviews for the Executive Director position and is pleased to announce its recommendation of Ms. Shirley Merrick, currently serving as the Executive Director of the Capital Area Agency on Aging
- Mr. Ritchie stated that he and the other Board members conducted a thorough due diligence process and are happy to support the recommendation of the Governor's Office.
- Voting held for the recommendation for the new Executive Director Recommendation to be supported by the LEBA Board Members for Ms. Shirley Merrick:

MEMBERS VOTING IN SUPPORT

Mr. Harold L. Ritchie
Mr. Noah Aguiard
Mr. Huey Beverly
Mr. Terry Courville
Ms. Ann Keene
Ms. Leslie Keen
Mr. Willie Lewis
Ms. Ricco Thomas
Ms. Mona F. Gobert-Cravins

Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING

The next Quarterly Board Meeting of the Executive Board on Aging will be held on June 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room (Room 427) at the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs offices, located at 525 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821.

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn: Harold Ritchie Seconded: Ann Keene. Meeting was adjourned at 12:36 am.

Prepared by Jessica Ross, Program Manager 1A, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs