**MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA)**

**QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

**Governor’s Office Of Elderly Affairs**

**525 Florida St., 4th Floor-Room 427, 10:00 AM Baton Rouge, LA**

**December 11, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) was called to order at 10:06 AM by Harold Ritchie, LEBA Chairman; with Jessica Ross serving as Secretary, at the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs, 525 Florida 4th Floor Room 427 Baton Rouge LA 70801.

Invocation: Ann Keane

Pledge of Allegiance: Willie Lewis

**ROLL CALL**

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| MEMBERS PRESENT |  | MEMBERS ABSENT |
| Harold Ritchie |  | Noah Aguillard |
| Terry Courville |  | Huey Beverly |
| Ann Keene |  | Grace Garon |
| Leslie Keen |  | Mona Gobert-Cravins |
| Willie Lewis |  | Worlita Williams |
| Donald Mallet |  | June Williams |
| Ricco Thomas |  |  |
| Blanche Wilks |  |  |

**GUESTS:** Council on Aging Directors; Area Agencies on Aging Directors; Mike Rome, Louisiana Council on Aging Directors’ Association President

**GOEA STAFF:**

Karen Ryder, GOEA Executive Director; Jessica Ross, Secretary, Michelle Guillory, Compliance and Planning Manager, Amanda Smith, GOEA Legal Counsel

**HAROLD RITCHIE, LEBA CHAIRMAN**

LEBA Chairman Harold Ritchie declared a quorum was present with eight (8) members in attendance. Mr. Ritchie asked for a motion to approve the October 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion: Donald Mallet, 2nd Willie Lewis, motion carried. Mr. Ritchie announced that the Ethics Training would be moved to the end of the meeting to allow attendees and members that completed the Ethics Training to leave at the conclusion of all regularly scheduled board business.

**KAREN RYDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Karen Ryder provided the Board with the preliminary budget request for GOEA for Fiscal Year 2020, and made specific mention of the following items of interest, in connection with the request:

* Increase EPS to rectify shorthanded staffing level and supplies: GOEA has requested an increase to the funding for Elderly Protective Services (EPS) in the amount of $942,770 for the purpose of adequately staffing that office statewide, as that office has been desperately trying to handle the steady increase of cases with only 6 staff members. This amount would add an additional 9 staff members, and would also provide much-needed equipment and supplies necessary for the office to provide services at an adequate level.
* Increase of the PCOA Formula ($614,954) – from removal of cap – this increase goes mainly to the benefit of 6 agencies: East Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, Lafayette, and Caddo.
* Increase to the Senior Center Formula ($955,479) based on most recent census estimates, as is mandated by the legislation. The Senior Center Formula has been using the 2010 Census Amounts, instead of updating those amounts based on the annual census estimates. This increase would primarily benefit those same large agencies: East Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, Lafayette, and Caddo.

Ms. Ryder then gave a brief history of how the legislature has funded the PCOA and Senior Center Programs, which has resulted in many of the smaller, rural parishes facing a daunting task of opening the doors with minimal financial support, which is currently just over $35,000. GOEA has requested increases to this minimum amount, based on estimated census amounts that should have been properly taken into account each year.

The Board then turned to the proposed Board Resolution discussed by the Board at the last meeting, which had been tabled until this meeting. As a result of discussions between GOEA and Governor Edwards, we believe the best course of action would be to wait until such time as the Governor is successfully reelected, due to the difficulty of proposing a measure that would arguably be seen as an increase in state government. Instead, we shall wait until such time as the Governor has been reelected and can revisit these discussions in a meaningful way.

Per the request of the Board in its October 11, 2018 Quarterly Meeting, Mr. Courville approached Mr. Joey Strickland, Secretary of the department of Veterans Affairs, to determine what support, if any, the Secretary would lend if a plan to join with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs and form a single, unified department were initiated. As discussed in October, this advantage to this approach would be that, by joining with an existing department, amending the Constitution by public vote would no longer be necessary as the number of departments would remain static. Mr. Courville reported that, after presenting this possibility to the Secretary, Mr. Strickland was open to beginning preliminary discussions between GOEA and Veteran’s Affairs, and while Mr. Courville reported a generally favorable impression, he indicated that this merely opened the door for the parties to meet and begin more pointed discussions in the future. Mr. Courville agreed to assist in setting such a meeting, should that time arise in the future. However, based on the discussions Governor Edwards, this approach, and the quest for an elderly affairs department, are premature and ill-timed at present, due to the impending re-election process. Thus, all parties agreed that, although this issue will be tabled, but reserved the option to revisit this issue when the Governor is successfully reelected.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Mr. Mike Rome introduced himself as the newly elected president for Louisiana Council on Aging Director’s Association (LACOADA). Mr. reported that LACOADA has engaged in discussions first with Mr. Adrian Wilson, and later with the Governor, for the purpose of prioritizing those issues that are paramount, including budget increases desperately needed in councils across the state. LACOADA will continue its discussions with the Governor, and will provide more detail as to any potential legislation as we draw closer to the next Legislative Session in April. Finally, Mr. Robichaux informed the Board that LACOADA is working towards obtaining 501(c) (3) status, which they hope to have completed by January 1, 2019.
* Ms. Leslie Keen, reported that the Louisiana Aging Network Association, Inc., will meet next in January, and reported that they are also in the final stages of completing the process for obtaining 501(c) (3) status, which had been dormant since 1986, and hopes to complete that process in the near future.

**NEXT MEETING**

LEBA’s next meeting scheduled for March 21, 2019 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**

Harold Ritchie: Motion to Adjourn to Ethics Training, 2nd Ann Keene

Meeting Adjourned: 10:55 AM

**MANDATORY ANNUAL ETHICS TRAINING**

Presented to the Board Members by Amanda Smith, GOEA Legal Counsel

**HANDOUT**

FY2020 Budget Request: Summary of Requested Expenditures

Prepared by Jessica Ross, Contracts and Grants Reviewer, Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs