



**John Bel Edwards**  
Governor

# State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
DRUG POLICY

**Kristy Miller**  
Director

**Dr. Shayla Polk**  
Prevention Systems Manager

## DRUG POLICY BOARD October 20, 2022; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### MINUTES

#### **Call to Order**

Kristy Miller, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Policy and Chair of the Drug Policy Board, called the meeting to order at 10:06AM

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Kristy moved on to introductions. Voting and Of-Counsel members seated around the table were asked to introduce themselves. Then, stakeholders and members of the public were introduced. After introductions, she announced that there were 14 members present so quorum was achieved. A list of all members and stakeholders who attended the meeting is included at the end of this document.

#### **Old Business**

- *Review and approve minutes from previous meeting*

Kristy asked everyone to refer to the minutes that were emailed prior to the meeting. While doing that, she reminded everyone that a copy of the minutes were in their packets. After a moment of silence to review, Kristy asked if there were any edits or amendments to be made. Hearing none, Warren Montgomery representing the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, made a motion to approve. Rebecca Chiasson, with the LA State Police Crime Lab, seconded the motion. Vote by voice was made. All who were present agreed with the motion. None disagreed. None abstained.

#### **New Business**

##### *New Business*

##### A. Presentations: *Drug-Impaired Driving: A Growing Problem With A Complex Landscape*

Lisa Freeman, the Executive Director of LA Highway Safety Commission gave an update on the current state of traffic crashes in Louisiana. Lisa shared that 972 fatal injuries from crashes occurred in 2021. She gave data on how Louisiana experienced a 17.4% increase in vehicle fatalities from 2020 with single vehicle crashes increasing to 11.5% and Interstate fatalities increasing to 49%. She also shared information on forensic testing of Louisiana toxicological samples and how they indicate that 83% individuals tested positive for at least one drug in addition to alcohol. She also shared that pedestrian deaths in Louisiana reached an all-time high of 181 during 2021. For more information on the data shared, the entire slide-deck is available upon request.

*B. Presentation: Emerging and Proven Strategies for LEOs to Detect Drug Use in Drivers.*

Judge Jules Edwards (Ret.) the Judicial Outreach Liaison with the American Bar Association-Louisiana Chapter gave a presentation on how LEOs are trained on the proven detection strategies which includes a multi-phased approach for when a vehicle is in motion, when reasonable suspicion is detected (any law violation), and how to handle personal contact with a driver. Other topics he discussed included: pre-arrest screening, preparing for trial, DWI detection and standardized field sobriety testing. The entire slide-deck is available upon request.

*C. Presentation: Louisiana's Drug Recognition Expert program for Law Enforcement Officers*

Sr. Trooper Jared David, DECP-SFST State Coordinator and LA State Police shared information on the standardized and systematic 12 step drug evaluation process and the Louisiana DRE Program. The entire slide-deck is available upon request.

*D. Presentation: Polydrug Use & Associated Illicit Substances: A Story Through Toxicology*

Rebecca Chiasson, Chemistry Manager with the LA State Police Crime Lab gave a brief update on toxicology general case flow, recent toxicology unit implementations, a timeline of quantitation, and data on blood samples that had 2 or more impairing substances in 2021, the average number of drugs/metabolites in positive samples from 2015-2021, blood only specimen data, blood samples with THC-carboxy, and 2022 THC data. The entire slide-deck is available upon request.

*E. Presentation: Hot Topics in Drug-Impaired Driving From the Legal Landscape*

Rachel Smith a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, with the LA District Attorneys Association gave a brief overview of state regulated cannabis programs, prosecutor training, understanding drug (other than alcohol impairment), and most reliable impairment indicators. The entire slide-deck is available upon request.

*F. Garnering Support for a Bill to Institutionalize the DWI Task Force*

Kristy Miller shared that the culmination of the presentations was to bring up the fact that the DWI taskforce is created by an executive order and is dependent upon each Governor to re-establish the task force. She informed everyone present that THE DPB is looking at codifying the DWI taskforce by putting it into legislation. She shared that she hopes the DPB would be on board and supportive of institutionalizing the DWI taskforce because the taskforce is needed now more than ever. She further stated that the DPB would be looking for endorsement and support. Kirsty reminded everyone present that a copy of the bill was in their packet to review.

**Other Business**

*G. Office of Drug Policy updates*

Kristy stated that the Office of Drug Policy had no additional updates.

*H. Member agency updates*

There were no member agency updates provided prior to the meeting. Upon calling for any comments for member agency updates in the meeting room, no comments were offered.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments provided prior to the meeting. Upon calling for any comments from members of the public in the meeting room, no comments were offered.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Kristy informed everyone the Drug Policy Board meets quarterly according to legislative requirements. Further, the By-laws for the Drug Policy Board state that the organization will meet during the months of January, April, July, and October. Kristy informed everyone present that she would send out calendar notices in regard to meeting dates.

### **Adjournment**

Kristy announced that there was no additional business to address. With that, Representative Bob Owen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Blake LeBlanc representing the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections seconded the motion. By a live voice vote, all members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

## MEETING ATTENDEES

### VOTING MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
Alcohol industry representative	Charles "Buddy" Schilling	No
Attorney General's Office	Chris Alderman	Yes
Board of Pharmacy	Joe Fontenot	Yes
District Court Judge	Scott Schlegel	Yes
Federal agency with AOD ed/ treat/prev responsibilities	Vacant	--
Governor's Office of Drug Policy	Kristy Miller	Yes
House member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Representative Bob Owen	Yes
Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	Vacant/Comm does not exist	--
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement	Linda Gautier	Yes
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services	Daniel Doyle	Yes
Louisiana Department of Education	Michael Comeaux	No
Louisiana Department of Health	Quenetta Womack	Yes
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Blake LeBlanc	Yes
Louisiana District Attorneys Association	Warren Montgomery	Yes
Louisiana Highway Safety Commission	Lisa Freeman	Yes
Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control	Ernest Legier	Yes
Louisiana Public Defenders Board	Barbara Baier (Proxy for Remy Starns)	Yes
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association	Shannon Dirmann	No
Louisiana State Police	Rebecca Chiasson	Yes
National Guard	Major Marshall Snowden	No
Physician	Dr. Joseph Kanter	Yes
Private organization involved in SA prevention	Edward Carlson	No
Senate member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Ed Price (proxy for Senator Gerald Boudreaux)	Yes

### OF-COUNSEL MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Dr. Vincent Culotta	No
LA Department of Veteran's Affairs	Barry Robinson	No
Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education	Dr. Jim Hussey	No
Drug Enforcement Administration, NOLA Office	Brad Byerley	No
Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area	Don Petty	No

### STAFF

Shayla Polk, Governor's Office

### GUESTS

Shelley Edgerton, DOC

Lonnie Granier, Odyssey House Louisiana

Aimee Moles, LSU

Rachel Smith, LDAA

Dortha Cummins, LHSC

Jules Edwards, JOC

Cathy Childers, LHSC

Lawrence Alexander, DEA

Amy Thomas, LANG

Jared David, LSP