



Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board
Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

Held at:

**Louisiana Emergency Response Network
7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 207
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

Welcome/Introductions

The August 17, 2023 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:06 p.m. by Deidra Garrett, MD, Board Chair. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and notice was properly posted.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, with the following results:

Members Present:

Deidra J. Garrett, MD, Chair
Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.
William Freeman, MD
Neal Fudge
Dan Godbee, MD
John Hunt, MD
John D. Jones, MD
Joseph Kanter, MD
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN
Michele Sutton, FACHE
Porter Taylor, IV
Karen O. Wyble, DNP, MSN, MHA, MBA, RN
David Marcus, NRP ph

There were 13 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

Granville S. Morse, II, MD Arrived at 1:23 pm

Members Absent:

Honorable Regina Ashford Barrow, State Senator
Venkata S. Gadi, MD
Paul Gladden, MD
Honorable Jonathan Goudeau, State Representative
Tomas Jacome, MD
Eva Lamendola, OD
~~David Marcus, NRP~~
Buddy Mincey, Jr., State Representative
Carl "Jack" Varnado, Jr., RPL, ENP
Honorable Mack A. "Bodi" White, State Senator
Robert K. White, MD
Richard Zweifler, MD

Staff Present:

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director
Chris Hector, Administrative Director
Yvette Legendre, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator
Ted Colligan, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator
Reed Douglas, RN, Tri-Regional Coordinator
Deborah Spann, LERN State Education Coordinator
Cassandra Woods, LERN Finance Manager

Contractors Present:

Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD, Stroke Medical Director
Michael J. Sutherland, MD, Trauma Medical Director
Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel
Jason Allemand, Call Center Supervisor
Anita Bryne, SSA Consultants

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Michelle Sutton seconded by Dr. Will Freeman to accept the agenda as written. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2023

A motion was made by Dr. Joseph Kanter and seconded by Michele Sutton to approve the

minutes of the May 18, 2023 Board meeting as written. See Attachment A. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Ratification of Commission Members and Resignations

A motion was made by Michele Sutton and seconded by Porter Taylor to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

Resignations

- Tyrell Morris – from Region 1 Commission;
- Norman Pineda - from Region 1 Commission;
- Zola N’Dandu, MD – from Region 3 Commission;
- Tacee Walker, DO – from Region 4 Commission; and
- Jimmy Seibert, RN – from Region 9 Commission.

Appointments

- Stephanie B. Henson, MD - to Region 2 Commission (nominee of Louisiana Department of Health);
- Amy Michiels – to Region 5 Commission (nominee of GOHSEP);
- Angela V. Branton - to Region 6 Commission (nominee of National Emergency Number Association);
- Casey Wallace – to Region 6 Commission (nominee of law enforcement);
- Tony Hawkins Hunter, MD – to Region 8 Commission (nominee of Office of Public Health);
- Keisha Sparks – to Region 8 Commission (nominee of Louisiana Association of Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians); and
- Jacques Guillot, MD – to Region 9 Commission (nominee of Louisiana State Medical Society).

The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Stroke Subcommittee member

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, advised that Duke Walker’s resignation as a Board member has resulted in a vacancy on the Stroke Sub-Committee. Dr. Mauldin volunteered to join the committee. There were no other volunteers or nominations. A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Freeman to elect Dr. Mauldin as a member of the Stroke Subcommittee. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

2024 Board Meeting Dates

Executive Director Hargrove presented the Board with two options for Board meeting dates

in 2024. See Attachment B. A motion was made by Dr. Freeman and seconded by Dr. Godbee to select the dates in Option 1: January 18, 2024; April 18, 2024; August 15, 2024 and November 14, 2024. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

***Executive Director Report
Board Appointments***

Ms. Hargrove reported on the terms of some current Board members. See Attachment C. No formal action was taken by the board.

Strategic Priority Update

Executive Director Hargrove reported on the status of the LERN Strategic Priorities. See Attachment D. No formal action was taken by the Board. Ms. Hargrove also informed the Board of two grants awarded to LERN – 30K from Louisiana Highway Safety Commission for LERN to host an AIS injury scaling course for the trauma registrars at all of the trauma centers and 25K from the Living Well Foundation for trauma and stroke education in Northeast Louisiana.

***2023 Legislative Session
SB 12***

Executive Director Hargrove reported on SB 12, the Jump Start Heart Act which was passed by the Legislature and became Act 234. The legislation required a \$1.5 million appropriation to purchase AED devices. The appropriation was made to the Department of Education. LERN already teaches Stop the Bleed courses and includes AED and CPR education in the STB classes as part of the STEMI strategic plan. The Department of Health is tasked with establishing the requirements for enforcing Act 234. In the interim, LERN will continue to teach and we are working to establish a list of providers willing to help implement this education. No formal action was taken by the board.

SB 201 (Open Meetings)

Executive Director Hargrove reported on Act 393 of the Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature (introduced as Senate Bill 301), which amends the open meetings law and provides for virtual participation in meetings in some instances. This law does not authorize LERN and the LERN regional commissions to meet virtually but LERN and the regional commissions are required to provide a means for disabled members of the public and their caregivers to attend LERN meetings via teleconference or video conference for any person who prior to the meeting requests that accommodation. Should a regional commission not have the capacity to provide video conference or teleconference, alternative methods may be established. LERN Board members, if disabled, are allowed to participate and vote remotely in LERN meetings. Rules are required and will be drafted to comply with Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. No formal action was taken by the board.

SB 207 (School Safety Act)

LERN Executive Director Hargrove reported on SB 207 (Act 334 of the Regular Session of the 2023 Louisiana Legislature), known as the School Safety Act. Board member Neal Fudge reported on the plans for this program. GOHSEP is hiring eleven additional staff. No formal action was taken by the board.

Stroke Update

ASRH demotion

Executive Director Hargrove presented the Executive Committee recommendation regarding the temporary demotion of a stroke receiving hospital in specified instances. See Attachment E. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Dr. Godbee and seconded by Dr. Freeman to accept the rules as amended as recommended by the Executive Committee. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The issue regarding adopting a similar rule for STEMI will be addressed at the next board meeting.

Pre-hospital Destination Protocol

Dr. Martin-Schild, LERN Stroke Medical Director, reported, see Attachment F, on the adoption of an amended Prehospital Stroke Destination Protocol. A motion was made by Dr. Kanter and seconded by Dr. Freeman to approve the amended Stroke Destination Protocol presented by Dr. Martin-Schild, with an effective date of January 1, 2024. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Trauma Update

Dr. Sutherland, Trauma Medical Director, updated the Board on Trauma activity in the state. See Attachment G. The Louisiana Trauma Systems Consultation by the American College of Surgeons is scheduled for March 25th – 28th. Dr. Sutherland advised the board to hold March 25th on your calendars for potential meetings with the consultation team. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Burn System

Executive Director Hargrove announced that the Burn Group would meet on August 30, 2023. An issue to be discussed concerned the handling of pediatric burn patients. No formal action was taken by the board.

Budget

FY 23 close/FY 24

Board Treasurer, William Freeman, M.D., provided the fiscal year 2023 budget as of August

9, 2023. See Attachment H. No formal action was taken by the board.

Executive Director Salary (Executive Session)

The record reflects that 24 hours notice was given to Paige Hargrove that the Board proposed to discuss the Executive Director salary in executive session. Ms. Hargrove was advised that she could require the discussion to be held in open session; she declined opting for open session. A motion was made by Dr. Freeman and seconded by Dr. Hunt to enter into executive session to discuss the Executive Director's salary. A roll call vote was held and the motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The Board went into Executive Session.

A motion was made in open session by Dr. Godbee and seconded by Dr. Hunt to come out of executive session. There was a roll call vote and the motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Dr. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Taylor to increase the pay of Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director by 4%, effective September 1, 2023. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Dr. Freeman and seconded by Dr. Morse that the Board conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director, before the second board meeting of each year, for the consideration of a merit increase. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

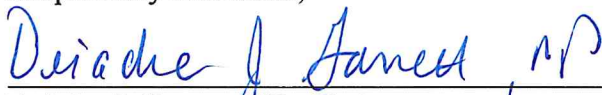
Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Hunt to adjourn. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deidra J. Garrett, MD, Chair
Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board