



Minutes

**Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board
Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**

Held at:

**Louisiana Emergency Response Network
14141 Airline Hwy., Bldg. 1, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70817**

Welcome/Introductions

The November 17, 2022 meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and notice was properly posted.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Board Attorney, Celia Cangelosi, with the following results:

Members Present:

Deiadra J. Garrett, MD, Chair
Jeffrey E. Carter, M.D.
Schaun Chevis, MSW
William Freeman, MD
Dan Carl Goodbee, MD
Scott Guidry
Chris Guilbeaux
John D. Jones, MD
Eva Lamendola, OD
Brandon J. Mauldin, MD
Granvill S. Morse, II, MD
Monica S. Nijoka, MHA, BSN, RN
Carl "Jack" Varnado, Jr., RPL, ENP
Duke Walker, PT
Robert K. White, MD

Karen O. Wyble, RN, MSN, MHA, MBA
Richard Zweifler, MD

There were 17 board members present when the meeting began constituting a quorum.

Board member Joseph Kanter, MD, arrived after the roll was called.

Members Absent:

Honorable Regina Ashford Barrow, State Senator
Venkata S. Gadi, MD
Paul Gladden, MD
Honorable Jonathan Goudeau, State Representative
John Hunt, MD
Tomas Jacome, MD
Buddy Mincey, Jr., State Representative
Michele Sutton
Honorable Mack A. "Bodi" White, State Senator

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

Contractors Present:

Michael J. Sutherland, MD, Medical Director
Sheryl Martin-Schild, MD, Stroke Medical Director
Kanna Posina, MD, STEMI Medical Director
Celia Cangelosi, Legal Counsel
Jason Allemand, Call Center Supervisor
Rudy Gomez, SSA Consultants

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2022

A motion was made by Dr. Jones and seconded by Dr. Freeman to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2022 Board meeting as written. See Attachment A. The motion was approved after

a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Reminder of Ethics Training

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, reminded Board members of the mandatory ethics training that must be completed and submitted to the Ethics Board by December 31, 2022. A list was circulated showing completion status.

Ratification of Commission Members and Resignations

A motion was made by Mr. Varnado and seconded by Dr. Freeman to accept the following resignations from and to approve the following appointments to the following regional commissions:

Resignations

- Dan Clark Goodbee, MD, NRP – from Region 2 Commission;
- Paulette G. Riveria, MD – from Region 2 Commission;
- Prescott Marshall – from Region 4 Commission;
- Sonya Wiley-Gremillion – from Region 6 Commission; and
- Major John Riles – from Region 9 Commission.

Appointments

- Kellie McGaha - to Region 2 Commission (nominee of OHSEP);
- Rene Millet – to Region 2 Commission (Nominee of Local Ambulance Service);
- Sergeant Thomas Morse, Jr.- to Region 2 Commission (nominee of law enforcement);
- Danna Caillouet – to Region 3 Commission (nominee of Hospitals > 100 Beds);
- Darren Guidry – to Region 4 Commission (nominee of OHSEP);
- Vence Taimanao Beches - to Region 5 Commission (nominee of OHSEP);
- Demarius D. McRae, RCIS, MHA, MBA, FACHE – to Region 7 Commission (nominee of Cardiology Association); and
- Captain Hiram Mason – to Region 9 Commission (nominee of Law Enforcement).

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

Executive Director Report Operations Update

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, provided the scheduled dates for Board meetings in 2023. See [Attachment B](#). No formal action was taken by the Board.

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, updated the Board on the current status of the

Strategic Plan. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Ms. Hargrove advised that the Trauma Destination protocol recently adopted to be effective January 1, 2023 was being promulgated in the State Register. No formal action by taken by the Board.

LERN Move Update

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director updated the Board on the office move and timeline for construction to be completed. The move is now anticipated to occur on or about May of 2023. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Legislation

SR 147

Paige Hargrove, LERN Executive Director, updated the Board on SR 147, regarding a study of remote meetings by public entities, currently being studied by a task force. A discussion was held. Board members indicated that they would like the flexibility to meet remotely, as recommended by the Executive Committee. A motion was made by Dr. White and seconded by Ms. Wyble that “The LERN Board supports the general idea of granting state entities some flexibility to conduct official board and board committee meetings utilizing remote audio and video technology.” In addition, the board requested for the Executive Director to submit a letter to the Task Force communicating the board’s position. The motion passed after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

SCR 39 and HR 62

Executive Director Hargrove updated the Board on SCR 39 and HR 62, legislation to develop strategies for hospital patient movement and transfer during declared states of emergency. See Attachment C. The final report is almost complete, and will suggest two main modifications of existing procedures:

1. The **main addition** proposed to the current system is the inclusion of Louisiana’s hospital system transfer centers as a formal component of the patient movement model.
2. The **main refinement** to the current system is the establishment of a patient movement activation mechanism that includes four status levels designed to address varying degrees of patient movement demand during disasters.

Executive Director Hargrove will share the final report with board members; completion is currently scheduled for December 1, 2022. No formal action was taken by the board.

Trauma Update

ASC State System Consultation and NBATS Procedure

Michael Sutherland, MD, LERN Trauma Medical Director, gave the Board an review of current developments regarding development of the trauma system in Louisiana. A discussion was held regarding an American College of Surgeons (ACS) State System Consultation Survey . See

Attachment D. The last site verification by ACS of LERN was in 2009. The cost of a new visit is approximately \$115,000. Discussion held. A motion was made by Ms. Nijoka and seconded by Dr. Carter to approve a ACS consultation visit with an increased cost of \$115,000. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Dr. Sutherland reviewed the NBATS Tool, which allows a new hospital to participate in the trauma system without being verified, allowing a two year grace period to enter at a lower threshold while working to get verified (one year for consultation survey plus one year for verification survey). Dr. Sutherland does not recommend the LERN board provide letters of support as indicated in #3 of the NBATS tool. See Attachment E. A motion was made by Dr. Carter and seconded by Dr. Freeman for LERN and the regional commissions to abstain from providing information regarding the first and second sentences of Item 3 of the NBATS tool. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

STEMI Update

Dr. Posina, LERN STEMI Medical Director, updated the Board on STEMI related activities in Louisiana. See Attachment F. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Stroke Update

Dr. Martin-Schild, LERN Stroke Medical Director, updated the Board on Stroke in Louisiana. See Attachment G attached. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Budget

Executive Director Hargrove provided the Board an overview of the fiscal year 2022 budget. See Attachment H. Ms. Hargrove advised of anticipated savings to LERN of approximately \$90,000 a year because of LERN's office and call center move to the new location. Ms. Hargrove advised that the contract with SSA Consultants is not required to be handled through an RFP if for less than \$75,000 per year. Ms. Hargrove requested permission to contract with SSA for a maximum of \$74,999 a year for a three-year contract. This is a decrease as the current contract with SSA, which is for \$78,000/year. A motion was made by Mr. Varnado and seconded by Mr. Guilbeaux to approve the Executive Director to execute a three-year contract with SSA Consultants for up to \$74,999 a year. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

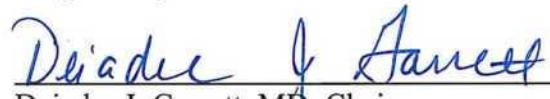
Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The LERN Board recognized Chris Guilbeaux for his 8 years of service to the LERN Board and congratulated him on his retirement. A motion was made by Mr. Guilbeaux and seconded by Mr. Guidry to adjourn. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deidra J. Garrett, MD, Chair