

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR



602 N. 5th St., Ste. 435
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
(225) 342-7100
GOEA.LA.GOV

Executive Board on Aging
LESLIE LOUVIERE-KEEN CHAIRWOMAN

MINUTES OF THE LA EXECUTIVE BOARD ON AGING (LEBA) MEETING
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS
602 North 5th Street, 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Tuesday February 6, 2024 11:00 AM
Galvez Building in the Pensacola Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The Quarterly Meeting of the Louisiana Executive Board on Aging (LEBA) started at 11:00 AM by Ms. Leslie Keen, LEBA Chairwoman with Ms. Cheri Crain serving as Secretary, in person.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Blanche Wilks
Invocation: Mr. Willie Lewis

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Leslie Louviere Keen
Ms. Ann Keene
Mr. Charles "Buddy" Pugh
Mr. Huey Beverly
Mr. Willie Lewis
Mr. Ricco Thomas
Mr. Donald Mallet
Ms. Heather Prejean
Ms. Blanche Wilks

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Worlita Jackson
Mr. Johnny Berthelot
Mr. Terry Courville
Mayor Gerard Landry

GUESTS: Area Agency, Council on Aging Directors and staff

GOEA STAFF:

Mrs. Amanda Smith, Interim Director, Ms. Cheri Crain, Secretary, and Mrs. Kayla Doyle, Program Manager 1A.

ROLL CALL

Chair, Ms. Leslie Louviere Keen asked Ms. Cheri Crain to call the roll. Members present nine.

Executive Director

Ms. Emily Andrews, Special Counsel to the Chief of Staff at the Governor's Office gave an introduction to the current Interim Director of GOEA, Mrs. Amanda Smith. Ms. Andrews discussed Mrs. Smith's work history with GOEA and before she started at the agency.

Board members, Council on Aging Directors and others gave public comment, questions and deliberated on giving a recommendation to the Governor's Office for Mrs. Amanda Smith to be appointed Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs.

RECOMMENDATION: Motion for recommendation: Mr. Charles "Buddy" Pugh moved and it was seconded by Mr. Huey Beverly.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 6, 2023 were presented for approval. **MOTION:** Ms. Ann Keene moved and it was seconded by Mr. Donald Mallet that the December 6, 2023 minutes be approved. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Mrs. Amanda Smith stated that Ms. Kayla Doyle emailed a copy to the Board members prior to the meeting. Mrs. Smith reviewed the report with the Board. Some highlights from the report:

FY25 Budget:

GOEA Staff attended a budget meeting on January 10, 2024 with the new Commissioner of Administration Taylor Barras, Deputy Commissioner Patrick Goldsmith, and members of the Division of Administration budget office staff. We emphasized GOEA's need for the extra positions we have requested, particularly in the Elderly Protective Services, as recommended by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor last year. At the meeting these positions were not currently in GOEA's budget; however, this morning Ms. Emily Andrews notified me that the positions would be included in the budget request for GOEA.

Federal Reporting:

We submitted our federal report timely on January 31, 2024 to the Administration for Community Living. As you may remember, we are still getting used to the changes with the Older Americans Act Performance System ("OAAPS"). This change ties into the new WellSky software we are now using. This year, due to the changes, reporting was a challenge for Compliance & Planning. We are hoping that next year, using the WellSky software and having more experience with the new federal system, will take less time for staff.

Services:

Due to the change in reporting standards and software, along with the variances caused by Covid and its aftermath, it is difficult to compare this year's data with the previous year. Now that the changes have been implemented and the reports submitted, the data should be much more informative and easier to analyze from this time forward. As a sample, some of the service units are listed below, comparing the Second Quarter of FY23 with the Second Quarter of FY24:

Personal care in FY23 amounted to 11,275 units, while in FY24 15,533 were reported. The Congregate Meals figure in FY23 was 545,675 units, while it was 685,087 for FY24, indicating that the ability for seniors to gather for meals increased. Home Delivered Meals were reported at 2,011,362 for FY23 and 1,927,212 for FY24.

Elderly Protective Services:

The new system that we use to track EPS cases, EPSM, was designed in part to address some of the concerns of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. For instance, before an EPS case can be closed in the new system, certain fields and data must be completed and both the investigator and the supervisor are alerted that attention is needed to a case that is not yet complete. As of the issuance of the Legislative Auditor report in 2023, our investigators' average caseload was 85, versus an average high in at least 36 other states of 50.

Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman

The latest newsletter issued for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program is attached. A new Ombudsman Manual is scheduled to be available online next month, which will provide national best practices, along with locally relevant information.

LACOADA: Presented by Mr. Al Robichaux: Discussed Senior Day at the Capital, April 16, 2024. Al Robichaux discussed:

- How seniors will get to see the operations of the legislature and talk to representatives.
- Annual Conference will be held on April 17th and April 18th, 2024.

LANA: Presented by Mr. Al Robichaux: This year's annual conference will be an educational opportunity. The conference will be held on September 17th – 18th at the L'Auberge Casino in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Public Comment: Ms. Darlene Schexnayder announced the passing of a retired Executive Director of Ascension Parish Council on Aging, Ms. Grace Garon. Ms. Grace Garon passed away on January 26, 2024. Ms. Grace Garon was a LEBA Board member and served over 28 years with the Council on Aging.

SCHEDULE 2024 QUARTERLY MEETINGS: The tentative dates scheduled for 2024:

The next LEBA meeting will be held on April 18, 2024

- September 17, 2024
- November 12, 2024

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Blanche Wilks moved and it was seconded by Mr. Huey Beverly. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Prepared by Cheri Crain, Manager Compliance & Planning, Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs.