



# Minutes

## Meeting of Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board

Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

held at:

Louisiana Emergency Response Network Office  
14141 Airline Hwy., Bldg. One, Suite B

### *Welcome/Introductions*

The March 21, 2013, meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board (LERN) was called to order by John Hunt, MD, Vice-Chair, at approximately 2:08 p.m. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and notice was properly posted.

Dr. John Hunt introduced Mr. Tracy B. Wold as the newly appointed Board Member representing the LA Rural Ambulance Alliance.

### *Roll Call*

Roll Call was taken by Board Attorney, Celia Cangelosi. The following members were present:

#### **Members Present:**

Coletta Cooper Barrett  
Patrick Breaux, MD  
Joel Eldridge, DO  
William Freeman, MD  
Jimmy Guidry, MD  
John Hunt, MD  
Fred Martinez  
Kevin Sittig, MD

Carl "Jack" Varnado, Jr.  
Honorable Mack A. "Bodi" White, Jr., Senator  
Kristin Whitty  
Tracy Wold

**Members Absent:**

Norman McSwain, Jr., MD  
Honorable Regina Ashford Barrow, Representative  
Honorable Sherri Smith Cheek-Buffington, Senator  
Billy Conerly  
Kevin Davis  
Craig Green, MD  
Michael Hulefeld  
Chris Wroten, OD  
Michele Zembo, MD

Twelve members were present at roll call, constituting a quorum.

John Dailey arrived at 2:15 PM  
Danita LeBlanc arrived at 2:30 PM  
Kenneth J. Gaines, MD arrived at 2:44 PM  
Honorable Karen Gaudet St. Germain, Representative, arrived at 2:09 PM  
Peter Sullivan arrived at 2:10 PM

**Staff Present:**

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director  
Carolyn Barr, Financial Manager  
Chris Hector, Administrative Director  
Yvette Legendre, Tri-Regional Coordinator  
Deborah Spann, Tri-Regional Coordinator  
Vanessa McKee, Administrative Assistant

**Contractors Present:**

Dr. Murtuza Ali, STEMI Medical Director  
Jason Allemand, LCC Supervisor  
Dr. Robert Coscia, LERN Medical Director  
Rudy Gomez, Management Consultant  
Celia Cangelosi, Board Attorney

*Approval of Agenda*

A motion was made by Dr. Kevin Sittig and seconded by Dr. William Freeman to approve the agenda as written. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the

affirmative.

*Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2013 Board Meetings*

A draft of Minutes of the January 24, 2013, Board meeting of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board, copy attached, was presented for approval. A motion was made by Dr. Patrick Breaux and seconded by Dr. Jimmy Guidry to approve the minutes of the past board meeting as written. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

*Executive Director Report*

Paige Hargrove, Executive Director, reported to the Board on activities since the last Board Meeting. Also presented was the Annual Report, a copy of which is on LERN's website. No formal action was taken by the Board.

*Ratification of Commission Members*

Paige Hargrove announced the following three departures from Commissions:

- Resignation of Dr. Connie Gistand – Region 3 – Medical Director for the Office of Public Health
- Resignation of LaDonna Ford - Region 8 – Louisiana State Medical Society
- Rescission of Appointment of Dr. Kevin Courville - Region 4 – American College of Cardiology (appointed in error)

A motion was made by Peter Sullivan to approve the resignations of Dr. Connie Gistand from Region 3 and LaDonna Ford from Region 8. The motion was seconded by Dr. William Freeman. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Carl "Jack" Varnado to approve the rescission to the Region 4 Commission of Dr. Kevin Courville, which appointment was made in error. The motion was seconded by Dr. Patrick Breaux. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

*STEMI Update – Present Protocols/Discuss Registry*

Dr. Murtuza Ali presented the following documentation:



- STEMI Triage Protocol For Pre-hospital providers
- STEMI-Receiving Center Requirements
- LERN STEMI Care Process Flow Chart
- Thrombolysis Guidelines
- Clinical Registry Facts
- AHA ACTION Registry Lifeline System Report

Dr. Ali asked for permission to adopt the processes as “Best Practices” and send the information to Regional Commissions.

A recommendation was made to require the addition of a Cardiologist certified by the American College of Cardiology to each Commission.

A motion to adopt this requirement was made by Coletta Barrett. The motion was seconded by Dr. Patrick Breaux. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

#### *Stroke Update – Present Protocols/Discuss Registry*

Dr. Kenneth Gaines presented the following documentation:

- LERN Hospital Stroke Levels
- LERN Stroke Care Protocol

A recommendation was made to add language to the LERN Hospital Stroke Level document that indicates that the guidelines provided are the minimum acceptable. Also recommended was that the wording in the LERN Stroke Care Protocol document stating “the closest appropriate facility as per local transport protocol” be changed to “the closest appropriate facility as per LERN Level I, II, or III hospital.”

A motion to adopt the processes as best practices, with the suggested language and wording changes, was made by Dr. Patrick Breaux. The motion was seconded by Coletta Barrett. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

#### *Executive Budget: LERN/BEMS Integration*

Paige Hargrove presented information concerning the unification of LERN and BEMS. Discussion was held and a consensus was reached that the LERN Board should put out a statement to provide reassurance to the pre-hospital community of LERN’s commitment to working together for the betterment of both agencies. The following

statement was offered by John Dailey, “The members of the LERN Board recognize that the State of Louisiana is facing significant financial challenges. These pressures are affecting pre-hospital, hospital-based and post-acute care professionals alike. We share a commitment to improving the quality patient care for the families and communities that make up Louisiana. With that in mind, the LERN Board is committed to working more closely with our colleagues in the pre-hospital care community. With greater collaboration, we can realize gains in advocacy, education, and research which would benefit our shared patients and professions.”

A motion was made by Dr. Patrick Breaux to use the statement in correspondence to the pre-hospital community regarding the integration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kevin Sittig. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

#### *Budget Review*

Peter Sullivan gave a review of the budget. Coletta Barrett requested a statement concerning the funding of AMR through LINCCA. No formal action was taken.

#### *LERN Medical Director Report*

Dr. Robert Coscia reported his activities as LERN Medical Director since the last meeting. No formal action was taken by the Board.

#### *Contract – Dr. Robert Coscia*

Paige Hargrove asked that the contract with Dr. Robert Coscia be renewed for another 3 year period at the same terms and conditions of the current contract, based on continued appropriations.

A motion was made by Dr. Patrick Breaux to continue contracting with Dr. Robert Coscia. The motion was seconded by Fred Martinez. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

#### *Vice-Chairman’s Closing Remarks*

Dr. John Hunt briefly addressed the Board.

#### *Public Comments*

None.

*Adjournment*

Dr. John Hunt adjourned the meeting at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

John Hunt, MD, Vice-Chair