

## Louisiana Emergency Response Network Board

### **Vision**

*To build and maintain Louisiana's care coordination systems for trauma and time-sensitive illness (stroke & heart attack) and facilitate readiness of healthcare providers during all disaster response.*

### **Mission**

*The mission of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) is to defend the public health, safety, and welfare by protecting the people of the state of Louisiana from unnecessary deaths and morbidity due to trauma and time-sensitive illness.*

### **Philosophy/Values**

*The Louisiana Emergency Response Network, as a statewide comprehensive and integrated system for trauma, stroke, and STEMI is dedicated to providing access to high quality, definitive care for all in the state of Louisiana. LERN is committed to proactively building integrated systems that are responsive to the provider communities and citizens around the state. LERN is driven by the basic principle that any preventable death resulting from treatment delay is unacceptable.*

### **Executive Summary**

*The Louisiana Emergency Response Network is charged with developing a statewide comprehensive and integrated network that decreases deaths and incidents of morbidity and mortality due to trauma and time-sensitive illness in Louisiana. LERN continues the development and implementation of systems for trauma, stroke, STEMI and disaster response. In the vast majority of cases, the difference between life and death hinges on a well-coordinated team response and specialized medical training plus the public awareness and modern technology to tie it all together. It is vitally important going forward that LERN is funded to a level that facilitates our ability to quantify our return on investment for these systems we labored to build over the past ten years.*

*LERN continues to build upon lessons learned post-hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike, Gustav, Isaac, Harvey, Nate and the flood of 2016. Disaster planning and response are an integral part of LERN's day-to-day operations. LERN assists in everything from small scale Mass Casualty Events (MCI) via routing patients to definitive care, sending electronic notifications via collaboration with the Designated Regional Coordinator Network (DRC Network) to larger events by leading the Emergency Medical Services Tactical Operations Unit (EMS-TOC). LERN stands ready to serve when called upon. LERN participates in regional drills throughout the state with key stakeholders, and provides MCI education in an effort to ensure success and facilitate a coordinated, efficient response during disasters – be it large or small scale.*

*LERN was granted the necessary funding to begin the implementation of a system that coordinates the patient's day-to-day emergent care needs with the closest most appropriate facility and the resources to provide definitive trauma and time-sensitive care. Over the past 10 years we have increased the number of trauma centers in the state from two to seven, added the development and*

*implementation of stroke and STEMI systems to our responsibility and assumed an expanded role in Disaster Response. During this time frame our funding decreased thirty-six percent. It is vital for LERN to secure a dedicated revenue source outside of the state general fund to enable us to adequately plan and implement these systems at the level our citizens deserve. The LERN Board recognizes data should drive our decision making. LERN manages the State Trauma Registry, the State EMS Registry, the Level III Stroke Registry, and the LERN Call Center Registry. At a minimum, LERN needs an add FTE, a Health Data Analyst or Epidemiologist to help manage these registries and use them to inform our decision making. LERN has operated with the same seven FTEs initially allocated in 2006 when the agency started.*

*LERN's nine Regional Commissions continue to engage local pre-hospital providers, doctors and nurses, and homeland security professionals in the development and implementation of trauma, stroke, and STEMI systems in their region. Through these commissions, partnerships between public and private health care entities continue their collaboration to meet the mission of LERN. These committed individuals working together demonstrate Louisiana's commitment to implement best-in-class, evidence-based trauma, STEMI, and stroke care systems. There is no question that this work translates into saved lives. We must get to a point where we use our data to effectively demonstrate this.*

*LERN has participation agreements with EMS and hospital providers in all regions of the state. These agreements facilitate the use of LERN's pre-hospital destination protocol which is designed to deliver trauma patients to definitive care. LERN will continue to refine integration with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, specifically ESF-8, to ensure that the communication and information sharing systems between state emergency operations centers and regional response systems are comprehensive and effective.*

## **LERN Goals**

**Goal I** Decrease risk adjusted trauma-related deaths and incidents of morbidity and mortality due to trauma in Louisiana.

**Goal II** Maximize the return on investment (ROI) of state dollars and supplement of general fund dollars with alternative funding sources.

**Goal III** Ensure that all citizens gain access to the statewide networks for trauma and time sensitive related illnesses.

**Goal IV** Establish and codify protocols that specify the role of LERN in ESF-8 activities.

## **Louisiana Emergency Response Network**

### **LERN Mission**

To defend the public health, safety, and welfare by protecting the people of the state of Louisiana from unnecessary deaths and morbidity due to trauma and time-sensitive illness.

## **LERN Goals**

### **Goal I**

Decrease risk adjusted trauma-related deaths and incidents of morbidity and mortality due to trauma in Louisiana.

**Objective I: Decrease the age adjusted death rate due to trauma in Louisiana by 5% by 2025.**

#### **Strategies:**

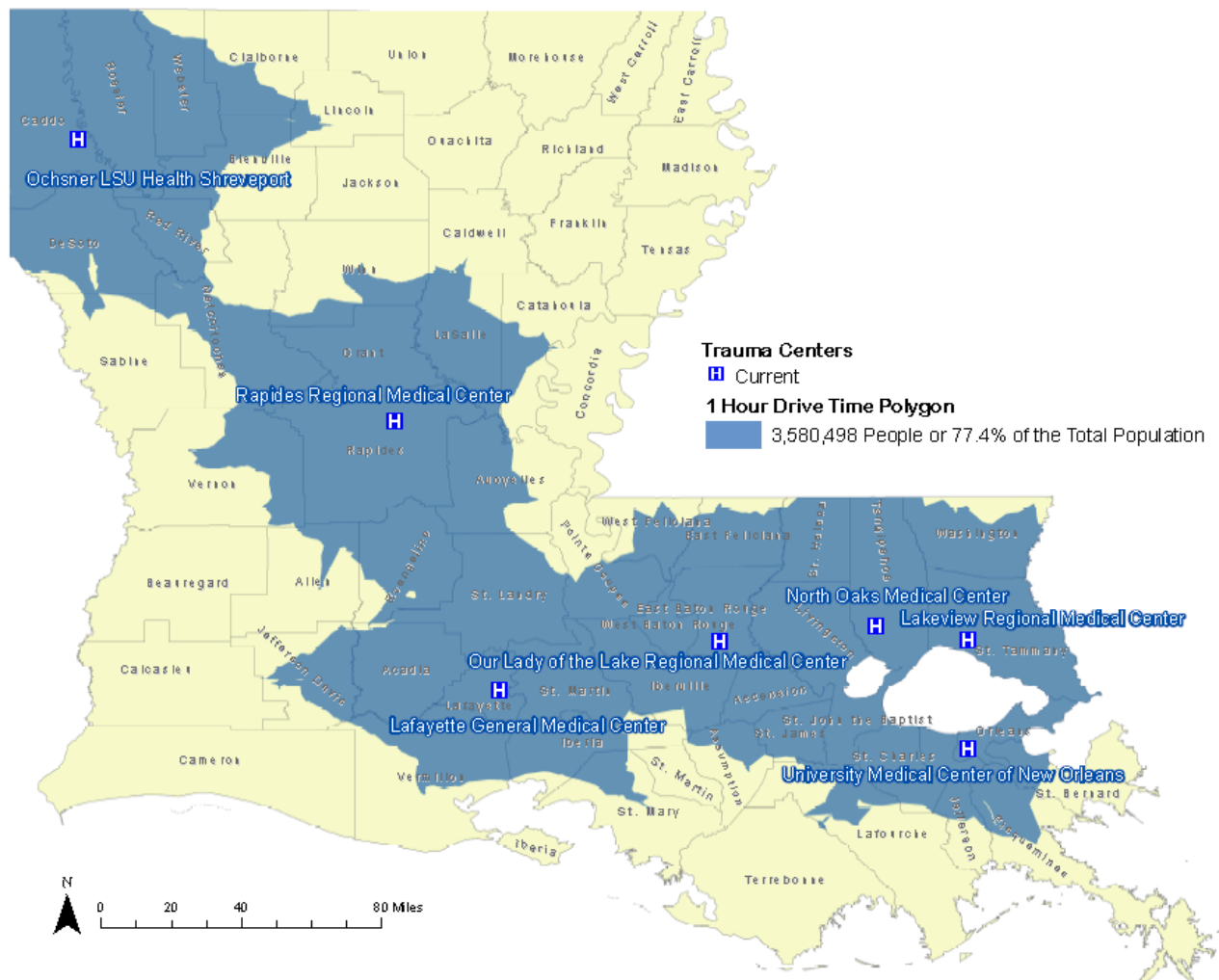
- 1.1 Utilize the expertise of the LERN Trauma Medical Director to facilitate the Establishment of a verified trauma center in each of the LDH regions by 2025.
- 1.2 Operate first class Communication Center to efficiently route injured patients definitive care hospitals.
- 1.3 Conduct annual strategic prioritization meetings to review the LERN strategic priorities and update action steps to achieve goals.
- 1.4 Further maturation of the Trauma Collaborative to define and implement new Statewide Clinical Care Guidelines or other protocols to improve timeliness and appropriateness of trauma care.
- 1.5 Provide Trauma nursing education in each LDH region.
- 1.6 Recruit and hire a data analyst to facilitate utilization and validation of data in the state trauma registry, state ems registry, level III stroke data set, and the call center data base.
- 1.7 Teach Stop the Bleed courses in every region.

#### **Performance Indicators:**

- Number of state designated trauma centers. (General Performance Indicator). Figure 1 indicates the current verified trauma centers in Louisiana.
- Percentage of time where traumatically injured patients that were directed to an emergency department for definitive care did not require transfer to another facility for higher level resources – goal is 95% annually. Figure 2 indicates CY 18 performance. (Key indicator)
- Percentage of Louisiana citizens with access to a Level I, II, or III trauma center within a 60 minute drive time. (General Performance Indicator)
- LERN directed/facilitated TNCC and ENPC in all 9 LDH regions by 2021. (General Performance Indicator)

- LERN directed Stop the Bleed classes in all 9 LDH regions annually. (General Performance Indicator)

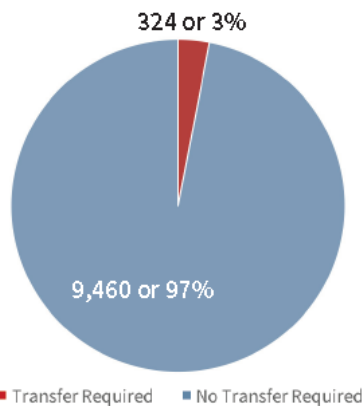
**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2:**

PATIENTS REQUIRING TRANSFER IN 2018

PATIENTS DIRECTED BY LERN - 2018



**Source for Figure 2 is LERN Call Center Data base.**

**Goal II:**

Maximize the return on investment (ROI) of state dollars and supplement of general fund dollars with alternative funding sources.

**Objective II.1: Identify and pursue potential dedicated funding options external to the State General Fund.**

**Strategies:**

- 2.1 Continue comparative state research on alternative funding for the trauma system.
- 2.2 Identify grant sources to secure federal and private foundation dollars to support LERN's mission.

**Performance Indicators:**

- Non-state dollars generated to support LERN activities. (GPI)
- Updated comparative research document by 2021 (recently completed 11/2018). GPI

**Goal III:**

Ensure that all citizens gain access to the statewide networks for trauma and time sensitive related illnesses.

**Objective III.1: Through the LERN Central Office, continue the operational activity of the LERN Call Center located in Baton Rouge to encompass 100% of the citizens of Louisiana in directing the transport of traumatically injured patients and stroke and STEMI patients to definitive by June 30, 2025.**

**Strategies:**

- 1.1 Continue operation of the LERN Communication Center with at least quarterly testing of redundancy plan.
- 1.2 Utilize LERN medical directors for trauma, stroke, and STEMI for annual review and updating of LERN Board approved destination protocols as indicated.
- 1.3 Bi-monthly performance improvement case review meetings with LERN staff, call center staff, and LERN Medical Directors to ensure proper over-sight and resolution to identified issues.

**Performance Indicators:**

- Percentage of time where traumatically injured patients that were directed to an emergency department for definitive care did not require transfer to another facility for higher level resources – goal is 95% annually. Figure 2 indicates CY 18 performance. (Key indicator)

- Percentage of hospitals having emergency room services that participate in the LERN Network as evidence by the % of Hospitals with signed LERN participation agreements. (Key Indicator)
- Percentage of EMS agencies that participate in the LERN Network as evidence by % of EMS agencies with signed LERN participation agreements. (Key Indicator).

**Objective III.2: Develop a statewide system of stroke care to improve outcomes for Louisiana citizens regardless of where they live in the state.**

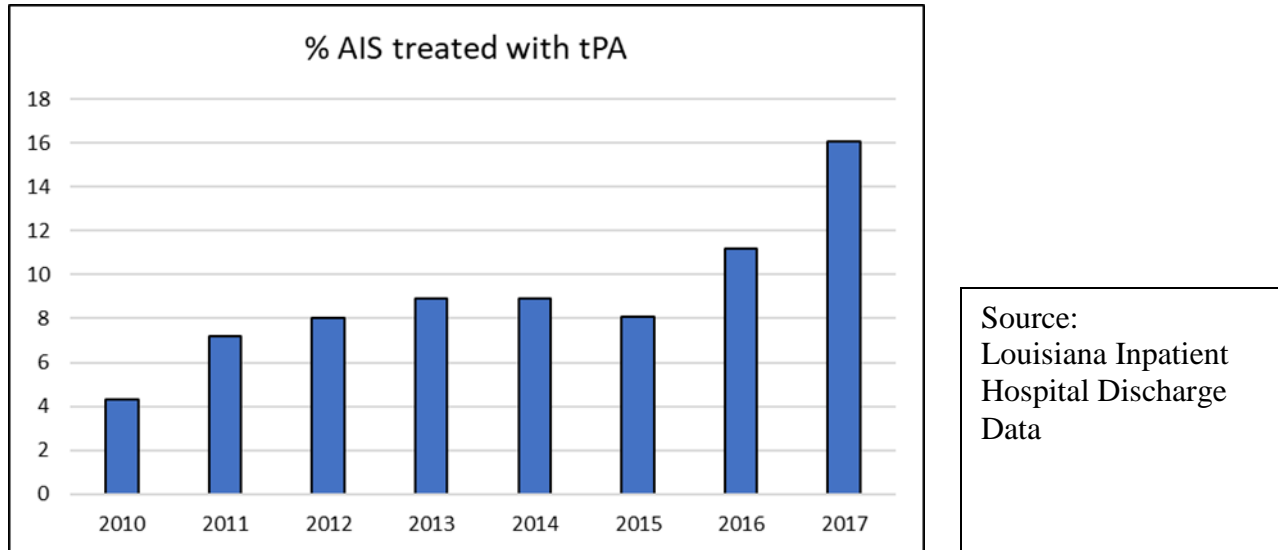
**Strategies:**

- 2.1 Work with Level III Stroke centers to achieve 100% participation with required data collection.
- 2.2 Provide support and remediation to help prevent demotion of Level III Stroke to level IV stroke centers.
- 2.3 Engage the State Stroke workgroup and EMS State Stroke workgroup to participate in updates to existing stroke protocols and guidelines.
- 2.4 Develop stroke education course and engage regional partners to help teach course. Teach course in every region by end of 2020.
- 2.5 Develop education module and update Emergency Department physicians on The changes in stroke standard of care – specifically for Large Vessel Occlusions.

**Performance Indicators:**

- % of Level 3 stroke centers submitting data to LERN. (General Performance Indicator)
- Increase the number # of Primary Stroke or Thrombectomy Certified Stroke Centers in Louisiana by 4 by 2025. Can be combination of the two. (General Performance Indicator)
- 3% increase in the percentage of patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke who are treated with tPA by 2025. (General Performance Indicator)

Figure 3:



**Objective III.3: Develop a statewide system of STEMI care to improve outcomes for Louisiana citizens regardless of where they live in the state.**

**Strategies:**

- 3.1. Re-engage STEMI Receiving centers in outreach and network building by meeting individually with each receiving center in CY 2019.
- 3.2 Facilitate data sharing between Receiving and Referral Centers and EMS.
- 3.4 Identify optimal STEMI registry for Louisiana and facilitate data collection and submission by at least 75% of Receiving centers by 2025.

**Performance Indicators:**

- # of STEMI Receiving Centers sharing data with STEMI Referral Centers on at least a quarterly basis.
- Increase number of participants in the STEMI Regional report by 4 by 2025 (General Performance Indicator)

**Goal IV:**

Establish and codify protocols that specify the role of LERN in ESF-8 activities.

**Objective IV.1: Adoption of LERN MCI procedures by each LDH region as indicated by inclusion in their regional disaster plans.**

**Strategies:**

- 4.1 Utilize the regional commission structure and regional partners to ensure involvement in one MCI/Disaster drill annually in each region of the state.
- 4.2 Continue EMS education on MCI procedures statewide.
- 4.3 Continue LERN's role in ESF-8 activities as manager of EMS Tactical Operations Center.
- 4.4. Conduct EMS TOC tabletop exercise prior to hurricane season.

**Performance Indicators:**

- Percentage of LDH regions participating with LERN in regional planning drills. (General Performance Indicator)
- Engagement of one new region to participate in MCI Boot camp. (General Performance Indicator).